



Unpaid Work

THE SITUATION OF
WOMEN IN THE
CARIBBEAN

5 things to know

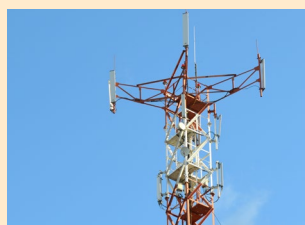
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
AND DISASTER RISK
MANAGEMENT

Sneak Preview

CARIBBEAN
DEVELOPMENT
AND COOPERATION
COMMITTEE



CONTENTS



- 4** **Things to Know**
Telecommunications and disaster risk management
- 7** **Feature Article**
Situation of unpaid work and gender in the Caribbean
- 11** **Article**
ECLAC trainee presents research paper
- 12** **Recent Publications**
Regional Disaster Assessment Trainings
- 14** **State of Affairs**
Recent activity by Caribbean governments
- 15** **Around the Caribbean**
Morgan Heritage Wins Grammy Award
Trinidad Hosts Major Tech Conference
- 18** **ECLAC Caribbean Family**
Animals are special to us

EDITORIAL TEAM

Director: Diane Quarless, ECLAC
Editor: Alexander Voccia, ECLAC
Copy Editor: Denise Balgobin, ECLAC
Publication Design: Blaine Marcano, ECLAC

ECLAC CARIBBEAN



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC



ECLAC Caribbean
Non-profit Organisation

Liked

Following

Message



Timeline

About

Events

Photos

More



Like us on Facebook

Upcoming Events

8-11 47th Session of the UN Statistical Commission
United Nations Headquarters, New York.
8-11 March 2016

16-17 XXVIII Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy
Santiago, Chile.
16-17 March 2016

20 International Day of Happiness
20 March 2016

21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial
Discrimination
21 March 2016

21 World Poetry Day
21 March 2016



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Feb 19

ECLAC Caribbean's publication on the opportunities and risks associated with digital currency: <http://vrb.al/digi-currency>



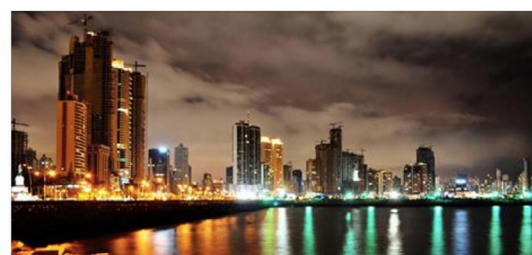
Like · Comment · Share



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Feb 17

ECLAC and UNISDR join forces to bolster disaster assessment capacity: <http://vrb.al/eclac-unisdr>



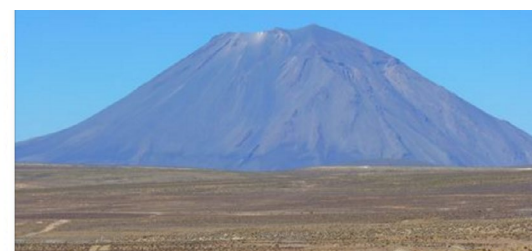
Like · Comment · Share



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Feb 6

ECLAC wraps up 9-month training series in Peru: <http://vrb.al/ica-training>



Like · Comment · Share



4 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT...

Telecommunications and disaster risk management

Recent discussions between ECLAC Caribbean and CANTO gave birth to a new joint initiative which seeks to evaluate disaster planning and response processes, as well as to develop methodologies for assessing damage and loss assessment for the telecommunications sector in the Caribbean region. CANTO (formerly the Caribbean Association of National Telecommunications Organizations - <http://www.canto.org>) seeks to play a lead role in shaping Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in the Caribbean, by influencing the development of ICT solutions for its members, promoting policies and legislation to enhance the delivery of services across the subregion, and by encouraging productive partnerships among stakeholders.

At CANTO's 32nd annual general meeting in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in early February, Associate Information Management Officer, Robert Williams, highlighted some of the areas of the joint initiative on Disaster Risk Management in the Caribbean Telecoms Sector.



ECLAC Caribbean Associate Information Management Officer Robert Crane Williams Speaking at CANTO's 32nd annual general meeting in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti.

1. To strengthen the relationship between telecommunications companies and National Disaster Offices (NDOs).
2. To provide support in the areas of disaster planning, public early warning systems, improved disaster response, outreach to disaster-affected communities, and post disaster damage and loss assessment.
3. To encourage formal agreements between telecommunications operators and National Disaster Offices, with regard to supporting disaster response and recovery operations.
4. To create data collection instruments that will improve post-disaster coordination and assist in damage and loss assessments.





FEATURE ARTICLE

Situation of unpaid work and gender in the Caribbean

Unpaid work describes caregiving and domestic activities undertaken in the household for the care and well-being of family and household members, and is undertaken by many more women than men. Despite its important contribution to economic and social development, unpaid work is not reflected in the economic statistics used for policy making in the Caribbean —namely the national accounts and the official labour market statistics. While many countries in other regions, including across Latin America, have undertaken national time use surveys, the Caribbean remains the only subregion yet to carry out a full scale survey. This reflects major data gaps that exist in statistical information in the Caribbean. As a result, the valuation of unpaid work is statistically invisible.



The situation of unpaid work in the Caribbean

ECLAC Social Affairs Officer Sheila Stuart recently chatted with The Hummingbird on the published report, “Situation of Unpaid Work and Gender in the Caribbean”.

Q: What is the significance of the report?

A: This report provides information on time use studies and how they can contribute to the measurement of unpaid work as an avenue towards the development of policies to support and promote women’s economic empowerment.

Q: How can this study benefit the Caribbean region?

A: Advancing women’s economic empowerment should be a national priority for all Caribbean countries. ECLAC has noted the need for States to end discrimination based on sex, firstly by addressing the disproportionate workload that women undertake in carrying out the duties of unpaid care work in the household, and secondly by introducing policies and programmes to measure time use. From this study, countries can identify and seize available opportunities to reduce inequality and poverty through the empowerment of women.

Q: What do you think contributes to this inequality between women and men?

A: Economic empowerment is a factor. Empowerment itself is a process of change that gives individuals greater freedom of choice and action. However, the empowerment of women requires

that they have access to available resources, skills and opportunities. In this regard, women face many obstacles that hinder their attainment of economic empowerment.

Q: How is the effort to overcome these obstacles impacting women’s lives?

A: Despite these obstacles, and more often because of their overall responsibility for the family, women are entering the paid work force in greater numbers, which has reduced the time that they can devote to the care of family members and the community on an unpaid basis.

Q: What do you see as the way forward?

A: The United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides the ideal opportunity to focus attention on the critical need to track progress in a way that measures the impact of development goals on women and the results women achieve. Further, there must be a new framework for the inclusion of indicators that measure the impact of goals on women’s economic empowerment. A main goal also, should be to ensure that Caribbean specific priorities for the achievement of gender equality

and women’s empowerment are advanced.

Q: For those wishing to learn more about unpaid work, what information is contained in the report?

A: The first sections provide definitions of unpaid work and time use studies, while the latter sections provide information on time use methodologies that have been used to collect statistical data on unpaid work. Information is provided on how the measurement of unpaid productive work can be used to recognise and give visibility to the important contribution that this work makes to national economic development. The final section begins a discussion on the importance of unpaid work to development policy in a number of critical areas including national policies for the promotion of gender equality, employment policies, social protection, and statistical systems. ■



Photograph of woman and man sharing in childcare.



Photo of woman cleaning dishes by
Steve Evans / CC BY



FAST FACTS

Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee

What:

Twenty-sixth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

When:

Friday 22nd April, 2016.

Where:

Basseterre, Saint Kitts.

Why:

The CDCC was created as a permanent subsidiary body of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean to promote development cooperation among Caribbean countries. CDCC objectives are: (1) To promote and strengthen economic and social cooperation and integration among the countries of the Caribbean and with Latin America; (2) To promote the sharing of information and experiences among its membership; and (3) To promote common positions and strategies on economic and social issues among Caribbean nations.

This year's CDCC will focus attention on the debt challenge facing Caribbean member states, will reflect on the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recently adopted by the United Nations and will consider the impact of population ageing in the Caribbean.

ECLAC trainee presents research paper

ECLAC Caribbean's work in the area of Ageing has inspired one of our On-the-Job Trainees (OJT) – an apprenticeship programme undertaken in collaboration with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago – to further her research and career aspirations in this field.

Statistical Assistant, Tanisha Ash, a member of the Statistics and Social Development Unit, recently presented a paper on “The Ageing Populations and the Labour Market” at the University of the West Indies (UWI) Saint Augustine campus in Trinidad.

The occasion was a conference hosted by the Faculty of Social Sciences under the banner “Population Issues and Dynamics in T&T”, which took place on 7 – 9 January 2016.

In an interview with *The Hummingbird*, Ash explained that her study was “an assessment of Trinidad and Tobago’s ageing dynamics and of the potential impact on employment. In particular, the study investigates the ageing population’s possible impact on the rate of unemployment and the distribution of employment across sectors.”

The information Ash used was sourced from various organizations, including the United Nations Population Division,

CEPALSTAT, ILO and the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago over the period 1991-2014.

In her presentation, Ash showcased a few outcomes that she also shared with us. “First I explained how the ageing population has a significant impact on employment, in that, as the population ages, the unemployment rate decreases. Secondly, it also has a significant influence on the sectoral contribution to employment.

“Also, I explained that as the age group with the largest working age population gets older, this increases the employment in construction up to a point and eventually declines thereafter. However, there is no evidence to suggest that population ageing has a negative impact on employment for younger workers. And while population ageing may put youth at a disadvantage, it creates many opportunities for the older worker.”

Following the presentation, Ash said she was encouraged by the support received from colleagues at ECLAC Caribbean. This being her first official research paper, she hopes to have the document published. Other presenters at the conference included lecturers, ministry representatives, statisticians and policy makers. ■



Tanisha Ash

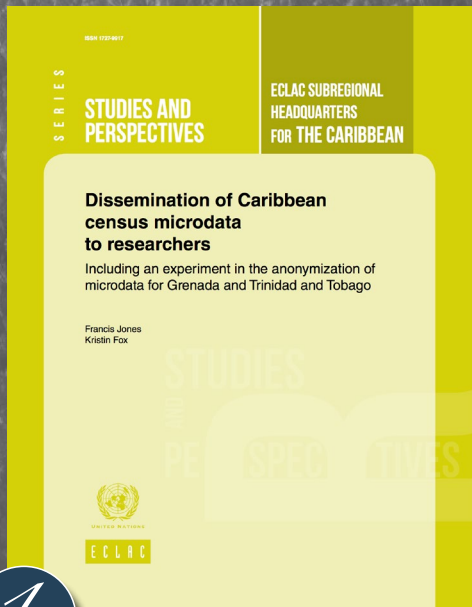


UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

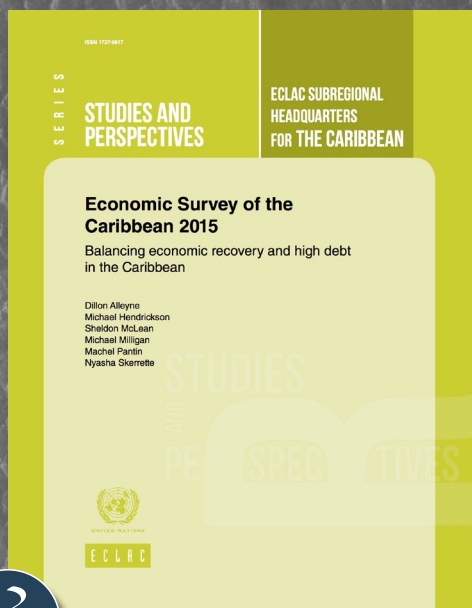
ECLAC CARIBBEAN'S

Recent Publications



1.

Caribbean census microdata are not easily accessible to researchers. Although there are well-established and commonly used procedures technical, administrative and legal which are used to disseminate anonymized census microdata to researchers, they have not been widely used in the Caribbean.



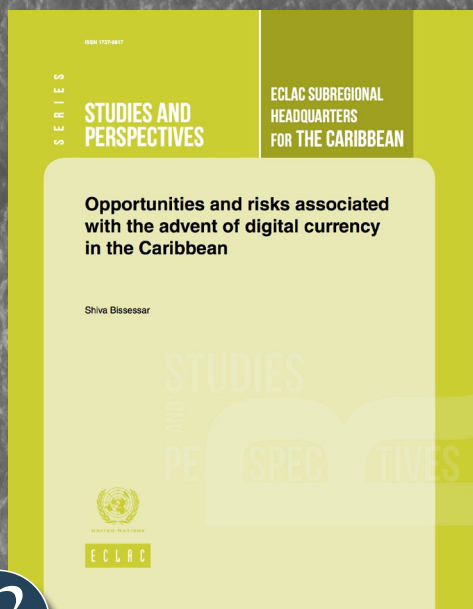
3.

The survey provides an overview of the economic performance for 2014 of the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago plus the eight member states of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) and the outlook for 2015.

AVAILABLE NOW!

CLICK ON COVER TO DOWNLOAD.

HARDCOPIES AVAILABLE AT ECLAC CARIBBEAN WHILE STOCKS LAST.



This report examines the usage of digital currency technology in the Caribbean subregion with a view to drawing attention to the opportunities and risks associated with this new phenomenon. It discusses the broader context of an emerging activity at the global level and considers how this technology could address subregional deficiencies in the electronic payment infrastructure.

2.

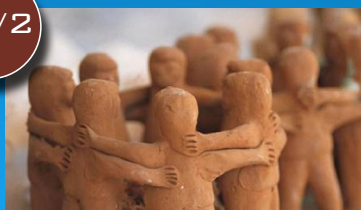
DIANE'S CORNER

The Director's views and thoughts on the occasion of international observances:



DIANE QUARLESS
Director of ECLAC Caribbean

20/2



World Day of Social Justice

"We in the Caribbean should recommit to embrace the concepts of community, inclusiveness, of welfare and equity that 'social justice' connotes."

8/3



International Women's Day

"Growing up in a household of four girls and one boy, there was never a question that our horizons were in any way limited by gender. We were encouraged – no, expected to achieve our fullest potential."

#DirectorsTake

<http://vrb.al/directors-take>





Represent Saint Kitts and Nevis
by Nandy King

STATE *of* AFFAIRS

Cuba



CUBAN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER VISITS WASHINGTON

Feb 16th - Cuban Foreign Trade and Investment Minister, Rodrigo Malmierca, went on a four-day working visit to the United States. Malmierca met with the U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and discussed the scope of executive measures adopted by the Obama administration to modify aspects of the over-50-year economic, commercial and financial embargo of Cuba.



US PRESIDENT TO VISIT CUBA

Feb 18th - President Barack Obama will become the first sitting U.S. President to visit Cuba in 88 years, when he visits Havana from 21 - 22 March. The visit is another big step by the administration to normalize diplomatic relations with Cuba. The President will meet with Cuban President Raul Castro, as well as entrepreneurs and different members of Cuban society. The last sitting U.S. President to visit Cuba was Calvin Coolidge in 1928.

Haiti



OAS ELECTORAL MISSION CONCERNED OVER POLITICAL IMPASSE IN HAITI

Feb 16th - The Haitian National Assembly elected Senate President, Jocelerme Privert, as the nation's interim president, one week after the departure of former president Michel Martelly. There was need to elect an interim president as the official term of President Martelly had ended without the election of a successor. Presidential elections are carded to take place on April 24 with the election winner scheduled to take office in May 2016.



HAITI'S PRESIDENT APPOINTS PRIME MINISTER

Feb 26th - Haiti's provisional president, Jocelerme Privert, has appointed economist Fritz Jean as the new Prime Minister. Mr. Jean, a former central bank governor, has not actively been involved with party politics and has support from a wide range of civil society groups. The new Prime Minister will play an important role in creating a balanced election council that is key to holding the election set for April.

Jamaica



GENERAL ELECTIONS IN JAMAICA

Mar 3rd - General elections were held on 25 February 2016. Voter turnout was a low 47.7 per cent: the lowest since universal adult suffrage in 1944. The Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) emerged victorious gaining 32 seats to the People's National Party's (PNP) 31 seats in the 63-seat House of Representatives. JLP leader Mr. Andrew Holness is to be sworn-in as Prime Minister.



CARICOM SENDS ELECTION OBSERVER MISSION

Feb 28th - The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) sent an electoral observer mission (EOM) to monitor the Jamaican electoral process headed by Josephine Tamai, the Chief Elections Officer of the Elections and Boundaries Department in Belize. The EOM reported that the general election results reflect the will of Jamaicans and reinforced their commitment to the democratic process. A more comprehensive report is to be provided to CARICOM Secretary General Irwin LaRocque in the coming weeks.



Morgan Heritage Wins Grammy Award for Best Reggae Album

Reggae legends Morgan Heritage won this year's Grammy Award for Best Reggae Album. The group won for its album, "Strictly Roots," on the CTBC Music Group label.

They beat out a strong collection of reggae stars, including Rocky Dawuni, nominated for "Branches of the Same Tree"; Jah Cure, for "The Cure"; Barrington Levy, for "Acoustical Levy" and Luciano for "Zion Awake."

To show their gratitude, they posted the following message on social media: "Thank you to all of our fans and team that played a part of Strictly Roots Album. WE WON...YES RASTA." ■

HOW A VOLCANO CREATED A CARIBBEAN UNDERWATER PARADISE

The devastating volcanic eruption that occurred 20 years ago in Montserrat had an unexpected effect: it dramatically altered the underwater landscape of the island, resulting in the creation of an inadvertent nature park.

Visitors to the island can spend an afternoon discovering its 13 miles of Montserrat's coastline, underwater scenery and sea life, which has had the chance to recover from the stresses of human interference.

Divers can venture to witness everything from colourful reef fish and sea plumes, to stony ledges, spiny lobsters and copper sweepers.

The waters surrounding Montserrat are also home to dolphins, pipefish, eagle rays, green turtles and nurse sharks, among others. ■

Photo of green turtle by Curtis and
Renee / CC BY

TRINIDAD HOSTS MAJOR TECH CONFERENCE

Senior Caribbean government technocrats recently met in Trinidad to explore new mechanisms for using technology to foster development.

The first Caribbean ICT Collaboration Forum, which was convened by the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago from 18 - 19 February.

"Countries have been working in silos in their pursuit of development, seeking assistance from funding agencies without reference to similar activities being undertaken in other countries," Bernadette Lewis, Secretary General of the CTU, noted.

"This uncoordinated approach results in fragmentation and wasteful duplication of effort, which does not adequately

advance progress as evidenced in a 2013 International Monetary Fund report which states that Caribbean small states are facing low growth, high debt, significant vulnerabilities, and limited resilience to shocks", she added.

Many Caribbean countries registered significant declines in the International Telecommunication Union's global ICT Development Index rankings for the period 2010 to 2015, she also noted.

"These archaic approaches are ineffective and it is time for us to adopt new, collaborative methodologies that are appropriate for the 21st century. Given the dire economic prospects for the Caribbean, we have to work differently in order to secure our future."

This Caribbean ICT Collaboration Forum, through workshop

activities, encouraged the development of collaborative mechanisms to promote comprehensive planning and execution of ICT projects with the potential for regional impact.

This approach, it is hoped, will better position the region to overcome the organisational and national resource constraints that it currently faces, while promoting the orderly, comprehensive development of Caribbean ICT and ICT-enabled sectors.

The CTU is an inter-governmental organisation, established by Caribbean Community Heads, with a mandate to develop the region's information and communication technologies sector. ■

ECLAC CARIBBEAN *Family*

Animals are special to us

Several staff members at ECLAC Caribbean love animals, especially dogs, with some colleagues having more than just one or two dogs.

For Associate Environment Affairs Officer, Leda Peralta, the plight of dogs is a matter of great importance, and not just in her temporary home Trinidad and Tobago, but across the world.

Coming from an animal-sensitive culture in her home country, the Costa Rican national happily cares for her four dogs, three of which she brought to the country, and one which she adopted in T&T.

She told *The Hummingbird* that like herself, she would love to see other pet owners take their responsibility very seriously.

“In Costa Rica, there was a strong campaign to adopt stray dogs and sensitize the population. Many homes leave bowls of food out for any stray animals, people carry dog food with them, and more and more families are now adopting pets rather than buying. I was surprised to see so many abandoned animals on the streets here. While I wish I could adopt all of the strays, it is just not possible,” she revealed.

Peralta walks her pets at least three times a day with her husband, and she is appalled and saddened by the indifference to animals (especially dogs) that she has noticed throughout the country.

She noted: “Some people treat their dogs as guards, and often have them tied up in enclosed premises. Dogs need to be walked and socialized so they will know how to interact with people and other animals. Every dog’s behaviour (whether aggressive or friendly) is a reflection of their owner’s treatment. We have to recognize that animals can’t tell us how they feel through words, so we have to be sensitive to how they communicate. Dogs are loving creatures, so we should love them back.”

Despite not being able to adopt more than her four precious pets, Peralta still finds time in her busy schedule to volunteer with the Trinidad and Tobago Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (TTSPCA), which she is hoping will eventually launch a strong campaign to create awareness about animals, and stray ones in particular. ■



Leda Peralta - ECLAC Caribbean Associate Environmental Affairs Officer with her four dogs.



Aurélie Quiatol - ECLAC Caribbean Meeting Services Assistant with dogs Diva (left) and Macky (right).



Joanne d'Abadie - ECLAC Caribbean Human Resources Assistant with her husband and their two pet dogs.

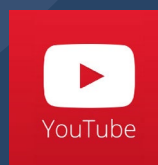
CONTACT US

ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean,
1 Chancery Lane, P.O. Box 1113,
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago,
West Indies.

Telephone: 1 868 224 8000
Facsimile: 1 868 623 8485
E-mail: registry@eclacpos.org

MEDIA CONTACT
Tel.: 1 868 224 8075
E-mail: media-pos@eclac.org

SOCIAL MEDIA



www.eclacpos.org

