



ECONOMIC GROWTH

ECLAC CARIBBEAN
LAUNCH OF THE
ECONOMIC SURVEY REPORT

DISASTER TRAINING

FOLLOWING VOLCANIC ERUPTION
ECLAC PROVIDES TRAINING FOR
GUATEMALA'S OFFICIALS

CARIBBEAN YOUTH

FOLLOWING UP ON THE
CARIBBEAN FORUM ON
POPULATION, YOUTH AND
DEVELOPMENT



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ECLAC Caribbean Family

Lindy Ann joins UNIC

Issued on a monthly basis, The Hummingbird offers strategic insights into the latest projects, publications, technical assistance missions and research carried out by ECLAC Caribbean. In addition to these, sneak previews are provided of the most salient upcoming events, alongside enriching follow-ups to previously covered issues. With a view to featuring a variety of facets of Caribbean life and lifestyle, The Hummingbird also zooms in on cultural activities and landmark occurrences through an eye-opening regional round-up.

EDITORIAL TEAM

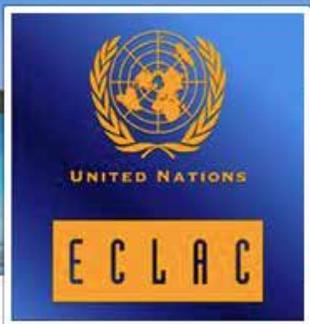
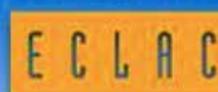
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UNITED NATIONS



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October Events

1

International Day of Older Persons
1 October 2018

2

International Day of Non-Violence
2 October 2018

10

World Mental Health Day
10 October 2018

17

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
17 October 2018

24

United Nations Day
24 October 2018



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Oct 15

Barbuda established five marine sanctuaries, collectively protecting 33% of the coastal area, to enable fish populations to rebuild and habitats to recover.



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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Sep 10

Catch up on what the United Nations is doing to limit climate change: <http://bit.ly/climateUN> #GlobalGoals



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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Sep 5

In 2015, 193 United Nations member countries adopted a new sustainable development agenda and global agreement on climate change. More here: <https://vimeo.com/151435077>



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THE ROLE OF ICTS AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT IN MULTI-ISLAND STATES AND TERRITORIES

The Caribbean subregion is comprised mainly of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Territories. At least 38% of these can be described as multi-island jurisdictions, where the population of a single country is divided across several separate land masses, each with unique on-island governance structures and institutions, and empowered with varying degrees of autonomy in decision-making.

The strategic application of knowledge management, particularly information and communications technologies (ICTs), offers immense opportunities in ensuring the delivery of services to all citizens, especially those in less developed, remote island areas. Access to ICTs can enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, and objectivity of service delivery across multi-island jurisdictions.

ECLAC has initiated a study to evaluate the challenges and opportunities for successfully pursuing sustainable development in such countries, with a focus on how knowledge management and ICTs support their respective governance systems in advancing their development aspirations.

The study, which will be available later this year, will focus on the experiences of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Among the challenges assessed are service availability, access to physical and administrative infrastructure, and the inter-island transportation of people and products. ■



CCMI OFFERS ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TEENAGERS INTERESTED IN OCEAN SCIENCE

The Central Caribbean Marine Institute (CCMI), located in the Cayman Islands, is investing in the future. For the first time, the organization has developed and funded academic scholarships to youths as young as 14, giving them the opportunity to gain experience in ocean science with CCMI until they graduate from university.

The Ocean Science Scholars programme offers two internship awards per year for students about to embark on their degree studies in a related ocean science field. Five more annual scholarships are offered to the Marine Ecology Camp for 14 to 18-year-olds, held each summer.

The internships are being funded via a three-year grant that the CCMI secured from the Edmund F. and Virginia B. Ball Foundation, which was set up to support young scientists,

the CCMI reported in a press release.

Kate Holden, the CCMI advancement director, said the new funding is crucial for identifying local students with a talent and passion for ocean science at the beginning of their academic careers, offering them a path for study right through to graduation.

"Most importantly, these courses are free, and the internship award includes a stipend and room and board, so the financial aspect of studying with us in Little Cayman isn't a barrier," she said.

"What is different is we are putting a stronger focus on academic achievement and we have the awards funded by one amazing foundation, so we can provide sustainability across the programme, as well as providing a mentorship framework for students who need our support

in the early stages of their science careers," stated Holden. CCMI has run marine ecology courses in local schools for grades 5-7 as part of their commitment to ocean literacy. The organization also runs the Marine Ecology Camp and internships.

Its first multi-year grant from the Foundation came in 2007 to support the camp, which has engaged hundreds of students during their summer break.

Local scientist Kelly Forsythe has been working with CCMI for the last four months. She said the Ocean Science Scholars programme fosters an interest in marine science in youth. "Working for CCMI here in Little Cayman has been transformative for my career as a marine scientist but also as a local of the Cayman Islands," she said. ■



FEATURE ARTICLE

ECLAC CARIBBEAN LAUNCH OF THE ECONOMIC SURVEY REPORT



E CLAC recently released its 2018 edition of the 'Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean', an annual flagship report which presents an assessment of the economic performance of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

READ MORE



ECONOMIC SURVEY REPORT

launched at ECLAC, Port of Spain

ECLAC recently released its 2018 edition of the 'Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean', an annual flagship report which presents an assessment of the economic performance of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The report was released on 23 August 2018 by Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena.

ECLAC Caribbean supplemented her presentation with an overview of the specific economic situation in the subregion, delivered to representatives of the diplomatic corps, government and academia at its subregional headquarters in Port of Spain. Following the launch, The Hummingbird sat down for a one-on-one chat with Sheldon McLean, Coordinator of ECLAC Caribbean's Economic Development Unit, who delivered the Caribbean overview to get his perspective.

What are the most notable trends recently observed in the performance of the Caribbean economies?

McLean: Average growth in the subregion was 0.0% in 2017, up from -1.9% in 2016, despite the effects of Hurricanes Irma and Maria on several Caribbean economies. Service producers were resilient in 2017, with growth estimated at 1.1%. Growth among the goods producers was negative (-1.2%) in 2017, though still an improvement over the 4.7% decline in 2016. This performance should be viewed in the context of several ongoing challenges, including increasing commodity prices (which benefit some but not others), de-risking and relatively high public debt in some member states.

Are there significant differences in performance among countries? What steps are being taken to improve performance?

McLean: Certainly, some countries are better off than others. For example, Antigua and Barbuda (4.2%) and Grenada (3.5%) are forecasted to be the two fastest growing Caribbean economies in 2018 as their fiscal consolidation, economic reform and debt reduction efforts begin to show results. This projected growth rate positions Antigua and Barbuda as the country with the fourth highest growth rate in Latin America and the Caribbean. Some of the countries have implemented citizen by investment (CBI) programmes. However, while these programmes are great sources of revenue and capital spending, it must be noted that



they can lead to greater scrutiny by the international community which can lead to de-risking.

How have countries been affected by the 2017 hurricanes?

McLean: There is ongoing concern regarding the continued vulnerability of some of the affected countries. In reviewing the major effects of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, the Damage and Loss Assessments (DaLAs) conducted by ECLAC determined that total damages and losses for five economies (Anguilla, the Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Sint Maarten and Turks and Caicos Islands) amounted to approximately \$US5.4 billion. The most affected sectors were tourism and housing in that order. Given the small size of these economies, this cost is monumental. We estimate that the consequences of these events in Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Sint Maarten will last several years. It is also important to note that the Bahamas has been hit by hurricanes the past three years in a row. The estimated numbers present but a cursory analysis of the consequences of disasters to our regional economies. Furthermore, not fully measurable in this analysis, is the emotional and psychological impact of these disasters, the natural resource costs as well as the

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In 2018, Caribbean economies are expected to improve further, with growth forecasted at 1.7%.

Sheldon McLean - Coordinator of ECLAC Caribbean's Economic Development Unit

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Photo: Participants at the ECLAC launch of Economic Survey

sunken opportunity costs to the region's development.

What is the situation regarding the ongoing debt burden faced by some countries in the Caribbean?

McLean: With regard to the debt challenge in the subregion, we see that Barbados and Jamaica have the two highest debt to gross domestic product (GDP) ratios in the Caribbean. However, Jamaica has made impressive steps to reduce their debt burden. Jamaica has been posting fiscal surpluses and reducing its debt. Barbados, on the other hand, has experienced persistent fiscal deficits and increasing debt and is likely to broker an IMF deal to address falling reserves. Overall, the declining fiscal performance and high debt servicing costs of many Caribbean economies continue to constrain the ability of governments to meaningfully confront the issues of structural gaps and export expansion. Amidst these challenges, the heavily indebted economies of the Caribbean are attempting to achieve their development goals. However, to date, no study has been undertaken to assess and deepen the analysis on how the debt-burden has affected safety nets, education and health programs in the Caribbean and its potential for derailing the achievement of its SDGs by 2030. Against this backdrop,

ECLAC Caribbean has embarked on a new study – which will be available later this year – on 'Debt Sustainability, its impact on economic growth and the ability of the Caribbean to achieve the SDGs'.

What is the situation with Trinidad and Tobago, given the recent measures undertaken by the government?

McLean: Trinidad and Tobago is expected to return to positive growth (1.5%) in 2018, following contractions in 2016 and 2017. The recovery is supported by the stronger upstream gas production and improved energy prices but tempered by lagging activity in the non-energy sector. In order for the country to achieve more broad-based growth, Trinidad and Tobago needs to accelerate its economic diversification efforts.

Looking ahead, what is the growth outlook in the Caribbean?

McLean: In 2018, Caribbean economies are expected to improve further, with growth forecasted at 1.7%. The goods producers are forecasted to grow by 1.9% while the service producers will grow by 1.6%.

What are some of ECLAC's key recommendations to improve the performances of Caribbean economies?

McLean: There has been some talk about devaluation in countries that have experienced foreign exchange shortages. ECLAC has suggested that devaluation may not be a good option, given the structure of Caribbean economies. More importantly, recent empirical work suggests that the conditions for successful devaluation do not exist. Instead, there are alternative approaches. First, consideration should be given to gradually reducing the large fiscal and current account deficits and secondly, to diversifying the economy by investing in productive capacity to facilitate exports. The Economic Survey identified three key areas of focus that will promote the economic development of the Caribbean. These are incentivizing diversification, reducing energy costs through the use of alternative energy sources and improving energy efficiency and removing barriers to domestic and regional production integration. ■



ANTIGUA'S NEW HISTORIC RESTORATION PUSH

While Antigua and Barbuda has long been home to one of the Caribbean's most magnificent historical sites, the UNESCO World Heritage site of Nelson's Dockyard, it isn't resting on its laurels.

The country's Ministry of Tourism is now planning a major push to restore, clean and beautify a host of other historic properties across the island. Work has already begun at Fort Barrington, also known as Goat Hill, found on the western end of Antigua in the Deep Bay Area.

According to Jesse Thomas, acting director of the Agri-Tourism and Beautification Unit, the new project will be done in three phases.

The first phase, which will focus on clearing debris, including Manchaneel and Acacia trees that make the hiking trail inaccessible, has already begun.

The second phase will establish a stone garden along the peninsula and incorporate more species of plants, such as the Frangipani that is already growing in the environment and is drought tolerant.

Thomas noted that because the area is mostly rocky, there is not much soil for plants to naturally establish themselves.

However, measures will be put in place to have plant boxes built to accommodate other species of plants that are drought tolerant for the garden. Additionally, as part of phase two, the unit is hoping to restore the cistern at the back of the fort using the original setup which was once used as part of the water catchment system.

Phase three of the restoration effort will be to reestablish the use of the original entrance to Fort Barrington which will make accessing the fort easier for tourists, as well as for locals visiting the attraction.

The fort, which was once used as a protection point for the St. John's Harbor also served historically as an important signal station to alert forces throughout the island of impending attacks during the colonial era. ■



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROJECTS IN THE CARIBBEAN REPORTED AT ACS MEETING

For the past 45 years, ECLAC has applied its Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) methodology in many Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Recently, ECLAC Caribbean was invited to share some of the findings of its long-standing DaLA methodology at the “26th Meeting of the Special Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)”, which was recently convened at the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) headquarters in Trinidad and Tobago.

Many ACS members attended the meeting – which was chaired by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chair of the Special Committee for the period 2018-2019 – along with other regional and international organizations involved in disaster risk reduction activities in the Caribbean.

Representing ECLAC Caribbean was Economic Affairs Officer, Willard Phillips, who gave an overview of the 2017 hurricane season in the English-speaking Caribbean, as well as ECLAC’s disaster efforts and the status of DaLA projects in the subregion. For the period 1973 to 2016, Phillips shared data on the number of events, the number of affected countries, and the value of economic losses.

Phillips also reported on the environmental, infrastructural, productive and social impacts of Hurricane Irma of 2017 for countries in which ECLAC carried out DaLA assessments. These included Anguilla, the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, Sint Maarten and Turks and Caicos Islands. ■

CARIBBEAN SAMOA PATHWAY MIDTERM REVIEW MEETING IN BELIZE

Vulnerabilities and challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) derive from their small size, narrow resource base, limited technical capacity and their exposure to environmental stressors, mainly from the impact of climate change and natural disasters. The SAMOA Pathway, the inter-governmental framework that reflects that outcome of the Third International Conference on SIDS held in Samoa in 2014, describes measures to address these challenges. The SAMOA Pathway builds on previous SIDS agendas, beginning with the Barbados Programme for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (BPOA, 1994) and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the BPOA (MSI, 2005), each of these adopted at 10-year intervals.

Next year will mark 5 years since the adoption of the SAMOA Pathway. United Nations General Assembly resolutions A/RES/71/225 and A/RES/72/307 therefore mandated the convening of SIDS regional meetings to assess progress in implementation of the platform. The Caribbean SIDS midterm review meeting was accordingly

held in San Pedro Town, Belize, during August 2018. This meeting provided an opportunity for member states, territories and development partners to reaffirm their priorities for development, to assess progress made and identify challenges which persist in implementing the SAMOA Pathway since its adoption in 2014.

Attending the meeting in Belize were ECLAC Caribbean's Deputy Director, Dr. Dillon Alleyne, and Sustainable Development Officer, Artie Dubrie.

Dr. Alleyne participated in the discussion on the question of appropriate partnerships for the development of SIDS. He pointed out that there was a need to properly define a set of norms for SIDS partnerships. He argued that good partnerships should be inclusive of all stake holders and should have spillover effects in other areas. Good partnerships, he suggested, should include the most vulnerable and not entrench the well off. More importantly he noted that monitoring and evaluation should be built into the architecture of SIDS partnerships so that they could be carefully evaluated and best practices identified.

He was critical of the report entitled, 'A Review of Partnerships for Small Island Developing States, based on data gathered through the SIDS Partnership Framework', that is designed to provide a data base to review and monitor existing partnerships. He suggested that the platform was inadequate to properly monitor and make inferences about the performance of partnerships

and that there was the need to generate appropriate baseline data to support policies aimed at improving SIDS partnerships.

Dr. Alleyne also took part in a panel on the theme, 'Achieving financial and economic sustainability in the face of graduation, adverse debt dynamics, de-risking, and adverse impacts of climate change'. He highlighted a number of challenges facing the subregion as member states seek to implement the SAMOA pathway. In particular, he pointed to slow economic growth and suggested that robust growth was necessary for raising financial resources as this adds to revenue, stimulates investment, and attracts foreign direct investment (FDI).

Among the other challenges he highlighted were the high debt burden being carried by many Caribbean SIDS, climate change impacts and threats to correspondent banking relationships (de-risking) which could undermine the financial sector of the Caribbean. He advised participants that these issues were developed more fully in a recent ECLAC publication called the "Caribbean Outlook".

Dr. Alleyne made a number of recommendations regarding strategies for countries to pursue sustainable economic development in the medium term. These include pursuing industrial restructuring to increase the range of economic activities; creating a space for sub-regional and regional value chains; creating conditions for a more inclusive private sector; addressing issues of social protection to secure the most



vulnerable based on means testing; focusing on prudent fiscal policies to build fiscal buffers; and building human capital in keeping with national and regional priorities.

Ms. Dubrie facilitated two presentations: the Caribbean SAMOA Pathway Mid-term Review Report and discussion on Synergies Across Agendas and Strategies for Leveraging them. Among the recommendations which emerged was the need for countries to pursue a cohesive and sustained approach towards implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

Ms. Dubrie suggested that there is need for analysis of the respective roles and mandates of existing national and regional institutions and mechanisms, with a view to identifying areas of overlap, duplication, gaps or conflicts. Member countries pointed to the need for efforts to enhance existing mechanisms and institutions rather than creating new ones. In line with this call, there was a mandate for the revitalisation of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM). It was highlighted, however, that financial support would be needed to give muscle to the RCM.

A regional outcome document, the 'San Pedro Declaration' was adopted by this Caribbean SIDS meeting. The Declaration will serve as one of the meeting documents to be submitted to the Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting For the Mid Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway, to be held in Apia, Samoa from 30 October to 1 November 2018. ■



BIRD FEARED EXTINCT, REDISCOVERED IN THE BAHAMAS

One of the rarest birds in the western hemisphere, the Bahama Nuthatch, has been rediscovered by two researchers combing the island of Grand Bahama.

The finding is particularly significant because the species had been feared extinct following the catastrophic damage caused by Hurricane Matthew in 2016, and had not been found in subsequent searches.

It is now feared that there could only be two left – placing the species on the verge of extinction and certainly among the world's most critically endangered birds. The Bahama Nuthatch is known to be found only in a small area of native pine forest on Grand Bahama Island, which lies approximately 100 miles off Palm Beach, Florida.

University of East Anglia masters students, Matthew Gardner and David Pereira, set out on a three-month expedition to find this and other endemic Caribbean pine forest bird species.

The Bahama Nuthatch has a long bill, a distinctive high-pitched squeaky call, and nests only in mature pine trees. There had been a sharp decline in its population, which fell precipitously from an estimated 1,800 in 2004 to just 23 observed in a survey in 2007. The decline likely began in the 1950s due to habitat loss because of timber removal, and more recently

because of hurricane damage, storm surges having destroyed large areas of native forest. Gardner said, "We were the first to undertake such an exhaustive search through 700km of forest on foot. We had been scouring the forest for about six weeks and had almost lost hope. At that point we'd walked about 400km. Then, I suddenly heard its distinctive call and saw the unmistakable shape of a Nuthatch descending towards me. I shouted with joy, I was ecstatic!" ■





WORLD'S LARGEST ORCHID IN BLOOM

Grammatophyllum speciosum, believed to be the largest species of orchid in the world, is flowering at the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, in the Cayman Islands.

Also known as the "Queen of Orchids" or "Sugar-Cane Orchid," the flower blooms for about a month and could reach heights of up to 8 feet tall.

"If you have ever wanted to see the world's largest orchid in bloom in the Cayman Islands, now is your time to view it," said Park Manager John Lawrus.

"The first flowers are opening now, and the scent of the orchid is just starting to float on the breeze. It's the third time the orchid is coming into flower and it has produced more flower spikes than ever this year," he said. Lawrus said the species of orchid lives among the branches of tall trees in the rainforests of its native habitats in Southeast Asia,

with some specimens reaching 33 feet in diameter.

The genus name Grammatophyllum, he explained, comes from the Greek "gramma" (letter) and "phyllon" (petal or leaf) and refers to the dark markings that look like writing etched onto the bright yellow petals of the flower.

In the wild, this orchid is pollinated by bees. The flowers at the base of the stem are simple and infertile, but produce copious amounts of scent, which attract the bees to the more complex, fertile flowers at the top of the spike. ■

VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN GUATEMALA: ECLAC PROVIDES DISASTER TRAINING FOR OFFICIALS

Volcan de Fuego (Fire Volcano) erupted in Guatemala in early June 2018, in what was described as the most serious volcanic eruption in the country in the last 45 years.

Within weeks of this eruption, and at the invitation of Guatemala's Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency (SEGEPLAN), an ECLAC team led by Coordinator of the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, Dr. Omar Bello, carried out a damage and loss assessment exercise (DaLA) in the affected region.

As part of its continued support to the Government post disaster event, ECLAC Caribbean's damage and loss assessment experts, Bello and Luciana



Meira, Associate Environment Officer, have since flown back to Guatemala to conduct two disaster assessment training workshops. “The idea is that we build their capacity to understand the importance of collecting data, which may be used to regularly evaluate the impacts of disasters in their country” Bello highlighted.

Held in Guatemala City, these trainings were jointly organized with the World Bank, whose representative, Osmar Velasquez, made presentations on issues pertaining to housing, transport, water and sanitation. The mission was financially supported by the Global Fund for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).

The first training session targeted representatives from SEGEPLAN, who had assisted ECLAC in collecting the necessary data for the Volcan de Fuego assessment. The second training activity targeted sector specialists and Departments in Guatemala, including the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Finance and the National Coordination for Disaster Risk Reduction (CONRED).

Bello noted, in relation to teaching methods, “Using actual examples from the country and engaging in a dialogue with the people who assisted us in collecting the data allows us to have a more didactic approach to our teaching. Moreover, it is a good opportunity to provide the staff in the Ministries with the tools and knowledge necessary to be able to carry out similar assessments on their own,”.

ECLAC’s report on the Volcan de Fuego eruption highlights the social, infrastructural, productive and macroeconomic impacts of the event and the recommended actions for a resilient reconstruction of the affected areas. The two workshops provided clarity with respect to the methodology used in the report.

“It is very important to have the chance to present the results of the report and introduce the methodology after a disaster assessment has been carried out in a country,” Bello noted. The workshops also complemented Guatemala’s efforts to incorporate prevention, estimation, and risk reduction in its public investment plans

and development programmes. The participants expressed their appreciation for the practical application of the methodology and the use of examples from Guatemala and countries in the region. Participants were made aware of the importance of regular sectoral data collection in order to have reliable baseline information in the event of a disaster. ■

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STATE *of* AFFAIRS



Dominica

FOREIGN MINISTER ADDRESSES UN ASSEMBLY

- Sept -

Foreign Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica, Francine Baron, addressed the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly. In her address, she noted that poverty, inequality and violence are shared responsibilities, maintaining that, "their modern-day manifestations are wrapped up in climate change." Baron further explained that climate change results from "an economic calculus" that pushes global destruction, and must be accepted as the responsibility of our time."

FINANCING FOR DISASTER PREVENTION

- Oct -

The World Bank's board of executive directors approved US\$31 million worth of additional financing to an ongoing project from the International Development Association (IDA) for building resilient infrastructure and strengthening the capacity of the government of Dominica to manage disaster risks. The devastating losses and damages in infrastructure caused by Tropical Storm Erika in 2015 and Hurricane Maria in 2017 highlighted the need to strengthen the climate resilience of the East Coast road, and enhance the water distribution system and access roads for the Western Coast Water Tanks.



Grenada

FINANCE MINISTER OF THE YEAR

- Oct -

Grenada's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Dr. Keith Mitchell, has received international recognition as Finance Minister of the Year for the Caribbean. The award, from Global Markets, was presented as part of activities during the recently concluded annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in Bali, Indonesia. Prime Minister Mitchell said he was elated and humbled to receive this award and dedicated it to all of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

NEW DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

- Oct -

The government of Grenada has appointed several new diplomats. New appointments include: Kisha Alexander-Grant, to serve as the island's non-resident High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Yolande Smith, as Ambassador to the United States of America, and Permanent Representative to the Organisation of American States (OAS). Further, the attaché at the Grenada Mission in Washington, Dianne Perrotte, has been appointed the Deputy Consul-General in Miami and Dr. Abbie David as Ambassador to the People's Republic of China.



Jamaica

PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES UN ASSEMBLY

- Sept -

Prime Minister Andrew Holness addressed the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly. In his speech, Holness expressed concerns over his country's vulnerability to a raft of social, economic, environmental, financial and trade-related hazards. As a small island developing state, Jamaica is pursuing policies to secure its economic independence, Holness said, also stressing the importance for his country to foster traditional partnerships and build new ones.

SOLAR PLANT ANNIVERSARY

- Oct -

Jamaica's first utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant, Content Solar Ltd, has celebrated two-years of commercial operation in Content Village, Clarendon, Jamaica. The 28.5-megawatt peak (MWp) Content Solar plant, developed by WRB Energy and owned by WRB Serra, is one of the largest solar projects of its kind in the Caribbean, delivering reliable renewable energy to help reduce Jamaica's dependence on imported fuel for electricity generation. Annually, the solar plant displaces three million gallons of imported fuel and offsets 34,000 tons of carbon dioxide.



NOURISHTT FIGHTS BACK AGAINST FOOD WASTE

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that currently one third of the food produced in the world for human consumption every year — approximately 1.3 billion tonnes — gets lost or wasted. To put things into perspective, FAO underscores that every year consumers in rich countries waste almost as much food (222 million tonnes) as the entire net food production of sub-Saharan Africa (230 million tonnes). Without doubt, this is a disturbing fact.

Unwilling to accept the status quo, Nourish TT is spearheading a drive in Trinidad and Tobago to promote a healthier lifestyle, including healthy changes in eating habits, and to look at what happens to the food we do not consume.

Nourish TT is a local non-governmental organisation formed in 2015. One of its main goals is to reduce the amount of food being wasted in the country.

“We believe that there are a number of people that are food insecure in T&T, but no one really talks about it. When we say food insecure, it means that there are some people who do not know where their next meal is coming from. A large number of those people are children and women,” Karissa Koping, general manager of Nourish TT, noted.

In an effort to raise awareness about the cause, NourishTT recently held its first Harvest for Hunger initiative food drive, with support from NCB Global Finance recently.

Four non-governmental organisations: Living Water Community; Christ Child Convalescent Home; Couva Children’s Home and Crisis Centre; and Society of St. Vincent de Paul, received fresh produce.

The event started early, with the corporate volunteers visiting the farms in Cunupia, to harvest surplus crops that included okras, peppers, melongene, pumpkin, corn and tomatoes. The produce was weighed, sorted and delivered to the various charities and homes.

Koping said, “During the year people struggle to find food for their families. A large portion of the food that we collect comes from food producers and distributors, but those items are non-perishable. Harvest for Hunger is really about tapping into the surplus food that is naturally available in the ground that farmers do not harvest.”

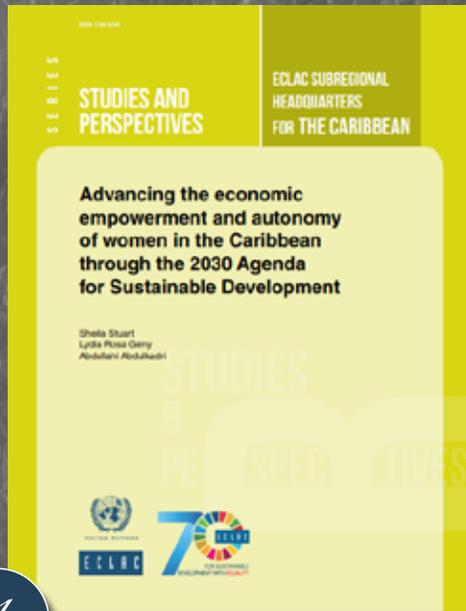
The reasons that some farmers may opt not to harvest some crops, may depend on supply and demand, and the opportunity to make a profit, she said.

“If a farmer finds it too expensive to

take a crop out of the ground or the price of the product is down because there is an excess on the market, he/she might abandon the crop because he/she does not think he will make a return on his investment,” she said.

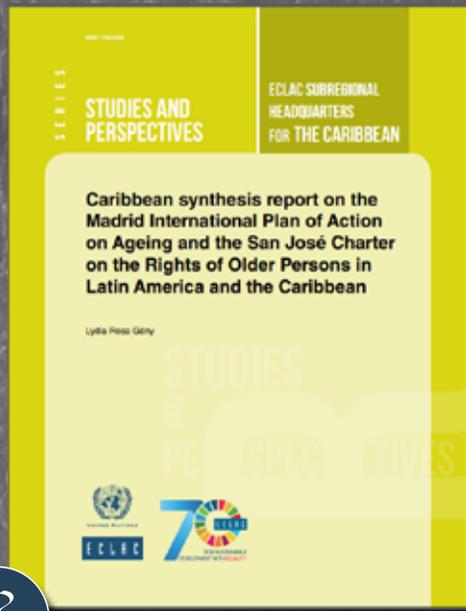
“A big part of what we do is connect those who are willing to help with those who need help. In some instances, we work with the food distributors, such as major supermarkets who have to manage their inventory and can provide us with non-perishable food. In this instance we were delighted to connect farmers with volunteers to supply these charitable organizations with harvested, fresh produce,” Koping said.

The waste of food is not something that should be taken lightly. We want to encourage everyone to do their part to reduce food waste. At the end of the week, you could look in your refrigerator and see all of the items you did not use. You purchased it, but life got in the way and you did not use it — then you end up throwing it out. This could occur every week or ever month. We should not only look at wasting food but also water, money and other resources,” Koping said. ■



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Advancing the economic empowerment and autonomy of women in the Caribbean through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



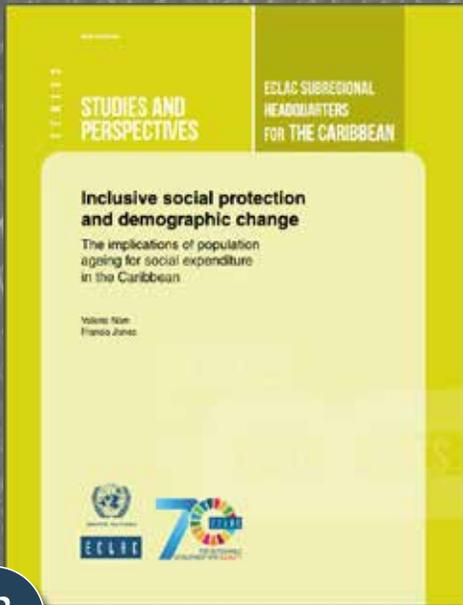
3.

Caribbean synthesis report on the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean

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Inclusive social protection and demographic change: The implications of population ageing for social expenditure in the Caribbean

2.

DIANE'S CORNER

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



DIANE QUARLESS
Director of ECLAC Caribbean

8/10



In Memory of Kofi Annan

He will always remain vivid in my memory for as long as I live. But not essentially because of the fact he was an extraordinary statesman, a remarkable diplomat, an inspiring leader but above all because of his gentleness, of his warmth, of his friendship.

13/10



International Day for Disaster Reduction

Resilience building requires the engagement of every citizen and every community. It cannot be left for government policy and planning alone. On this day for Disaster Reduction let us commit to play our part in promoting sustained development in our subregion.

#DirectorsTake

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



A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR CARIBBEAN YOUTH

FOLLOWING UP ON THE CARIBBEAN FORUM ON POPULATION, YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Last month, The Hummingbird featured the Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development (CFPYD) held in Georgetown, Guyana, which focused on the participation, engagement and collaboration of youth in development frameworks for the Caribbean. This month, we are pleased to follow-up on this important event by offering our readers insights into the initial steps being taken to carry forward the outcomes of the Forum. This includes the perspective of one of the key partners of the event: the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

The youth of the Caribbean have the potential to drive transformational change in the Region. There is no doubt that young people have an important role to play in the development of the Caribbean, however, significant hurdles stand in their way. Young people 15-24 years old represent close to 20% percent of the Region's population and they face high levels of unemployment; inadequate access to decent work; lack of access to high quality education; and are neglected in political and social decision making. The level of poverty and vulnerability young people experience is linked to factors such as gender, ethnicity, disability and the types of communities in which they live.

Our young people have proven that they can excel with the right support in whatever fields they choose, be it as artists and entrepreneurs, or in sports and science. Caribbean young people are also agents of change being innovative, and using their creativity to tackle environmental challenges, promote human rights and social justice, and contribute to job creation.

For three days in Guyana, young people added their voice to the CFPYD - a process that will have an impact on their future. Over 100 stakeholders participated, including senior government officials, youth experts and youth representing vulnerable groups. The Forum provided an interactive platform aimed at responding to pressing questions, such as: what opportunities are available for scaling up successful youth-focused interventions? How can policy-makers innovatively advance the Region's youth development agenda? What role do young people want to play in building Caribbean societies? The critical question is, what will it take to create a sustainable future for young people in the Caribbean? Despite positive results from youth-focused projects to date, there is room for strengthened partnerships, to promote better outcomes for youth.



In response to the issues identified above, The CDB is creating a Youth Policy and Operational Strategy to enhance its youth-focused interventions to address some of the challenges. This approach is socially inclusive and gender responsive in its architecture. "At CDB, our strategies to support youth development are focused on tackling these issues head on," says Monica La Bennett, Vice-President (Operations) of the Caribbean Development Bank. "The Bank's youth programmes are rooted in building productive citizens, through education and training, job creation, employment and entrepreneurship skills, and increasing citizen security."

Following the completion of the CFPYD, discussions are continuing to ensure that CDB's Youth Policy and Operational Strategy reflects the perspectives of the Region's young people. "Partnership must be at the core of achieving real progress for our youth. Together, we must tackle the issues that are critical for the inclusive, sustainable development of the Region," said La Bennett at the start of the CFPYD.

Strong partnerships, combined with the participation and guidance of young men and women supported by the right enabling environment, will be central to delivering better results for youth in our sub-region. As Belizean youth advocate, Dominique Noralez, puts it: the key to unlocking youth potential is to ensure that "young people are adequately engaged in decision-making processes and attention is given to sustainable financing for youth development." In this regard, the Bank has

prioritized consultation with young people in the development of its policy. Feedback from young people like Tijani Christian, Chair of the Commonwealth Youth Council, reinforce the perspective that youth consultation is critical. "I particularly appreciated the fact that the perspectives from the youth delegates were so heavily considered. The meeting gave an opportunity to discuss the issues that may not have been taken into consideration," he said after attending a youth consultation around CDB's policy and strategy, which was held in Barbados.

When the CDB's Youth Policy and Operational Strategy is completed in 2019, it is expected to build on the institution's ongoing youth development work, bridge gaps in the youth development process and scale up youth engagement efforts in the Region. Furthermore, when the document is finalised, the Bank will support ongoing youth-focused projects and programmes in education, micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (MSME) development and entrepreneurship, and citizen security.

ECLAC and the CDB are committed to helping to create a better future for young people of the sub-region. ■

ECLAC CARIBBEAN *Family*

LINDY JOINS UNIC

The ECLAC Caribbean family recently bid 'Adieu' to one of its staff members, Lindy Ann Edwards-Alleyne, who served as a Program Management Assistant in the Economic Development Unit and who was a credit to our office.

Lindy Ann spent over six years working at ECLAC and wore many hats over the years including serving in many roles on the Staff Association, her last as Chairperson which she relinquished on her departure.

She was actively involved in ECLAC's charity activities and was also the main organizer of the regular Brown Bag lunch time discussion sessions.

As Lindy Ann moves on her career journey at another UN agency, ECLAC wishes her all the best for the future.

The Hummingbird shares some photos of her last working day 'lime' with us. ■





Quick and Easy Vegetable Soup

What you will need:

1 (14 ounce) can chicken broth
1 (11.5 ounce) can tomato-vegetable juice cocktail
1 cup water
1 large potato, diced
2 carrots, sliced
2 stalks celery, diced
1 (14.5 ounce) can diced tomatoes
1 cup chopped fresh green beans
1 cup fresh corn kernels
Salt and pepper to taste
Seasoning to taste

What you need to do:

1. In a large stock pot, combine broth, tomato juice, water, potatoes, carrots, celery, undrained chopped tomatoes, green beans, and corn.
2. Season with salt, pepper and seasoning.
3. Bring to a boil and simmer for 30 minutes or until all vegetables are tender.

Serve hot.



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