



Public Expenditure Reviews

BUDGETING PROCESS
IMPROVED FOLLOWING
PERS TRAINING

Regional Gender Agenda

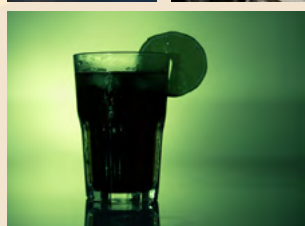
HIGH-LEVEL WOMEN'S
CONFERENCE APPROVES
REGIONAL GENDER
STRATEGY

5 things to know

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
AND MIGRATION IN THE
CARIBBEAN



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Quarterly birthday celebration

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"Breaking the silence on violence against rural women and girls"
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25 November, 2016

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International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
25 November, 2016



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Sep 13

#ECLACCaribbean and others hosted a seminar entitled, "Breaking the silence on violence against rural women and girls", in Trinidad and Tobago. <http://vrb.al/gender-violence>



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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Sep 8

#ECLACCaribbean is providing a unique opportunity for the identification of Research Data Management (RDM) issues: <http://vrb.al/ecdac-rdm>



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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Sep 5

ECLAC and UNICEF will join forces to help institutionalize child sensitive national development through evidenced based policy processes. Find out more: <http://vrb.al/child-poverty>



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High-level women's Conference approves regional gender strategy



A landmark document approved recently seeks to place gender equality and women's autonomy at the heart of sustainable development strategy in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, secured the political commitment of regional Governments to pursue gender equality as an integral part of the countries' respective national development plans.

ECLAC Member States will now use this regional agreement as a guideline for establishing their priorities regarding gender equality and rights.

The Strategy was given the green light by delegates from ECLAC's 38 Member States and associate members, at the XIII Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, organised by ECLAC and held in Uruguay from 25-28 October 2016. It was indeed an historic occasion, occurring almost 40 years after the First Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in Havana, Cuba in 1977. The Caribbean was represented in unprecedentedly high levels, ensuring very strong participation of the subregion in the discussions and outcome of this conference. In attendance

were the President of the Senate of Barbados; Ministers from the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Turks and Caicos Islands; Permanent Secretaries of Belize and Jamaica; and Directors of gender bureaus from Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Cuba, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Puerto Rico.

The Strategy recognizes the region's heterogeneity, the special needs and particular challenges facing landlocked developing countries, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), middle-income countries,



highly indebted and vulnerable Caribbean countries, among others. In fact, it makes clear reference to the need to increase resources and technical support to build resilience in the Caribbean, and to explore debt relief options for highly indebted and vulnerable countries of this subregion in order to guarantee the necessary resources for the implementation of the regional gender agenda.

Speaking at the Conference, Ms. Diane Quarless, Director of ECLAC Caribbean, underscored that: “We will need to see comprehensive legislative change to ensure women’s rights, and to redress entrenched gender discrimination, which undermines the achievement of gender equality. Greater attention will also have to be given at the national level to the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.”

During a side event, entitled “New evidence on the eradication of violence against women: 7 years of the UNETE Campaign in Latin America and the Caribbean”, the Minister of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development from Saint Lucia, Ms. Gale Rigobert, highlighted the fact that “Silence is also a form of violence” and urged all stakeholders to speak up about violence against women and let their voices be heard.

According to the Montevideo Strategy, Governments may voluntarily report on their progress in the

adaptation and application of the Strategy at one of the two meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women held each year, and at the regional conferences to come until 2030. The regional reporting process will inform the global process in the framework of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development follow-up.

The meeting in Uruguay underscored that in order to achieve gender equality, the countries of the region will have to overcome the structural challenges entrenched in the current unequal power relations in Latin America and the Caribbean. These include socioeconomic inequality and the persistence of poverty; discriminatory, violent and patriarchal cultural patterns and the predominance of a culture of privilege; sexual division of labour and the unfair social organization of care; and the concentration of power and hierarchical relations in the public arena. The Montevideo Strategy seeks to dismantle these structural challenges in order to make progress toward gender equality and to ensure that all women and girls are able to enjoy the full spectrum of human rights and to live with dignity in the region. ■



FEATURE ARTICLE

Budgeting process
improved following
PERs training



Over the past year, ECLAC Caribbean has enhanced the expertise of policy-makers and finance managers in the application of methods and procedures for better management and forecasting of public expenditure and revenue. Through the project entitled “Strengthening the technical capacity of public finance officials in select Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS)”, ECLAC has improved the budgeting process in four Caribbean countries, including through the conducting of a series of national training sessions on Public Expenditure Reviews (PERs).

This project complements ECLAC’s recently launched debt for climate adaptation swap, which is intended to promote fiscal responsibility, while affording Caribbean economies much-needed fiscal space to invest in climate adaptation and mitigation projects and green industries that build the environmental resilience of the Caribbean while reigniting growth in the countries of the subregion.

[READ MORE](#)





Budgeting process improved following PERs training

Following the successful completion of the project's national trainings, ECLAC hosted a regional training module in forecasting and fiscal transparency – at which point The Hummingbird sat down with Sheldon McLean, Coordinator of the Economic Development Unit, to get some insight on the project.



with Mr. Sheldon McLean

Q What inspired the design of this project?

A The recent global economic crisis was particularly severe on economies in the Caribbean, especially on those that depend heavily on services for their economic growth. Against this backdrop, it is very important that public sector officials have strong capability to plan and forecast revenue and expenditure, and to monitor fiscal imbalances by assessing the effect and efficiency of public spending through Public Expenditure Reviews (PERs).

Q What are the benefits of PERs?

A PERs are intended to align expenditures with government's priorities. They are also intended to provide savings, either from expenditure reallocation or by reducing unproductive expenditures. In addition, they improve fiscal management and can provide fiscal space especially when a country is experiencing high debt levels.

Q How did you go about addressing these important needs?

A In 2015 we initiated a Development Account project. Development Account projects are capacity development initiatives administered by the United Nations Secretariat. Entitled "Strengthening the technical capacity of public finance officials in select Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS)", our purpose-built Development Account project focuses on three principal areas of capacity building: first, the conduct of expenditure reviews in country-specific priority areas such as education, health, and public infrastructure; second, forecasting and planning revenue expenditure; and third, improved fiscal transparency. The three-year regional project began with scoping studies to determine the needs and priorities of each participating country, namely Antigua and Barbuda (A&B), Barbados, Belize and Saint Kitts and Nevis (SKN). Based on the findings of these studies, a training manual and accompanying reference material was developed. The manual served as the basis for the conduct of training workshops in the four countries. The workshops were facilitated by eminent regional economist Professor Vanus James, and were followed by a regional training exercise.



Q What were some of the highlights of the national workshops?

A Each of the workshops was carried out over the course of one week, and culminated in a high-level briefing on the final day. ECLAC Caribbean's Deputy Director, Dr. Dillon Alleyne, led the team to A&B and Belize. In Belize, participants were drawn from the Ministries of Finance, Health, Education, Agriculture and Public Works. I can tell you that the comments of the participants at the end of the workshop gave us strong indication of the value of this training to the Member States. For example, the Financial Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Joseph Waight, lauded the timing of the workshop, and noted that "there is pressure to use public resources efficiently" since taxpayers were demanding "value for money". This perspective was echoed in A&B by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Mr. Walter Christopher, who emphasized the value of the techniques imparted in bolstering the efficiency of the budgeting exercise.

I led the team to Barbados and SKN, where we also received enthusiastic feedback. According to Mr. Seibert Frederick, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the budgeting process in Barbados will likely improve as a result of our training. In SKN, the training was described as "eye-opening" by Mr. Calvin Edwards, Deputy Financial Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, while Ms. Beverly Harris, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Sustainable Development commended us for promoting a "consensus-building and evidence-based" approach to fiscal management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Q What was the outcome of the regional workshop that was held following the national trainings?

A The regional workshop highlighted the need for greater synergy between governments and policy makers in the management and forecasting of public expenditure revenues. The training also emphasized that, on one hand, it is necessary to efficiently allocate limited government resources in order to ensure that national priorities are adequately and appropriately resourced, while on the other hand there is need for better consultation and collaboration within and across ministries, if the PER methodology is to be successful. The workshop also highlighted that buy-in of both the public and private sectors, the active engagement of civil society, and the existence of an enabling environment focused on improved efficiency and effectiveness of government operations are critical pre-requisites for PER success. That being said, I believe that through the workshop, ECLAC Caribbean provided a strong answer to what senior public officials across the Caribbean have been searching for in order to improve the budgeting process of public administrations.

Q What would you say is the way forward now?

A We have shared our knowledge, methodologies and techniques with senior government officials, who now have the tools necessary to improve their budgeting process. However, for these tools to produce the desired outcomes, the public and private sector need to work more closely with civil society to build an enabling environment in which government operations may become more efficient and effective. This is an important pre-requisite for PERs' success.

Q Will ECLAC provide further support in this regard?

A Yes. The final phase of the project will include follow-up technical assistance for the participating countries to support their implementation of the PER techniques. ■



Antigua and Barbuda celebrates 35th Independence

In addition to working towards enhancing the efficiency of its budgeting process, Antigua and Barbuda also celebrated the 35th anniversary of its Independence on 01 November. The country gained total independence in 1981, when for the first time the Union Jack (common name for British flag) was lowered and replaced with the Antiguan flag, following which the Antiguan National Anthem was sung, also for the first time.

Independence day on the twin island consists of a week of celebration, competitions, parades, expos and food fairs – for all Antiguan living both home and abroad.

About two weeks before Independence Day local businesses, schools and government buildings adorn their exteriors in the traditional and distinctive yellow and red chequered clothing pattern of the National Dress and Heritage National Dress Day, as excitement and national pride builds for their most important public holiday. ■

Other Caribbean countries celebrating their Independence this month:

Barbados -- 30 November 1966
Dominica -- 3 November 1978
Suriname -- 25 November 1975

5

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT...

Women's Empowerment and Migration in the Caribbean

On the eve of the XIII Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, regional stakeholders gathered to discuss the links and interrelations between migration, women's empowerment and development.

The Caribbean seminar on Women's Empowerment and Migration in the subregion addressed the implications of female migration, whether independent or with their families. In this context, the seminar analysed the role of gender inequalities in defining the nature and the results of individual migration pathways, and the impact that migration may have on the empowerment of women and girls.

The event gave birth to a rich discussion, from which The Hummingbird has distilled the following five important issues that it is pleased to share with its readers.

1.

The Caribbean region is behind in conducting systematic and regular collection and analysis of data, the availability of which could enhance gender equality solutions in the subregion. This includes data disaggregated by age, gender, migratory status, geographic location, disability and ethnicity, in compliance with international standards on data protection.

2.

The right to a nationality is of paramount importance to the realization of other human rights and needs to be addressed in the context of female deportation and statelessness of women and girls.

3.

Additional research is needed to better understand the impact of migration on areas such as the sustainability of social protection schemes in countries of origin; the implications of migrants returning to their countries of origin, including the social, economic and family dynamics of reunification; and the role being played by new social media platforms on women and girls on the move.

4.

It is important to adopt a human rights-based approach when discussing migration. Migrant women and girls are rights-holders and should be able to exercise their human rights in any circumstances. Therefore, migration laws and policies have to include a gender and rights based approach that consider the specific needs of women migrants and girls at all stages of the migration process.

5.

Banking systems in the Caribbean need to be strengthened in order to make better use of remittances in the region.

Increased partnerships needed to take full advantage of Big Data

A call for increased partnerships among Information and Communications Technology (ICT) stakeholders in order to reap the benefits of Big Data in the Caribbean was made recently at a high-level meeting in Barbados, as experts discussed strategies to improve the data deficiency that exists in the subregion.

It is now widely acknowledged that as the Caribbean takes on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there is an even greater demand for quality disaggregated data in a timely manner and rapid developments in the ICT sector could play a critical role in bringing about the desired change.

One of the many ICT-driven opportunities is the recent surge of Big Data. Big Data is the term used to describe large amounts of digital information generated during everyday activities, such as through internet transactions, mobile phone use, and global positioning system tracking. Big Data exists in various forms, and can be drawn from different sources, according to Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Coordinator Statistics and Social Development Unit at ECLAC Caribbean.

The international community, including the United Nations, has been promoting Big Data as an emerging source of official statistics. According to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, by incorporating big data sources into their production of official statistics, national, regional and international

statistical organizations would be better positioned to obtain official statistics on the economy, society and the environment in terms of improved timeliness and cost efficiency.

Speaking at the 14th Caribbean Ministerial Strategic ICT Seminar on 21 September 2016, Abdullahi Abdulkadri outlined the importance of Big Data, noting that the occasion provided an avenue for institutions to showcase their collaborative efforts and to explore opportunities for new partnerships.

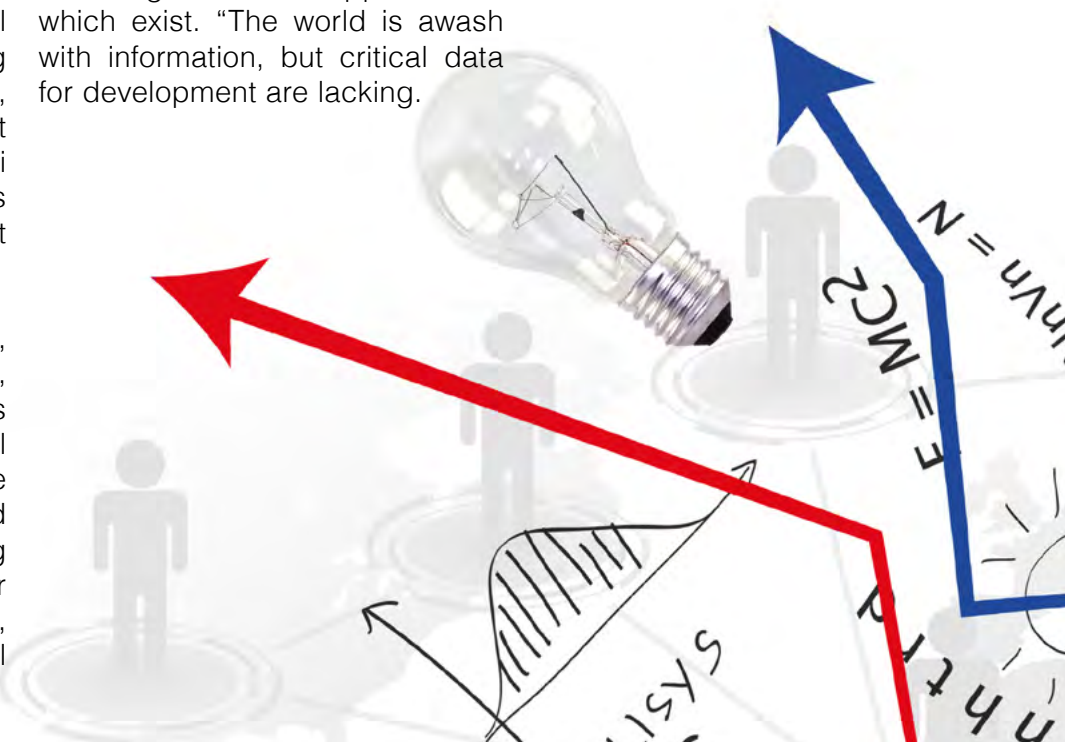
"Wider collaboration is a must," he emphasized. "Public-private; government-business; data producers-data users partnerships are essential to address access and legislation."

The private sector has already capitalized on Big Data to drive business value, he added. As a result, it is now up to governments and the public sector to take advantage of the opportunities which exist. "The world is awash with information, but critical data for development are lacking.

It is important for partnerships to be formed not just among the regional data producers, but also among international stakeholders in order to bridge this data gap," he stated.

He also noted that while Big Data did present important opportunities for the Caribbean, "there were also challenges which would have to be addressed in the areas of privacy, technology, ease of access, expertise, and technical capacity."

The imperative for the Caribbean to embrace the practice of collaboration among all stakeholders was underscored at the ministerial dialogue – as it is only through collaboration that the region may ensure the most effective use of its resources for fostering ICT-enabled development. ■



Barbados Food and Rum Festival

2016

Beyond serving the location of the recently concluded 14th Caribbean Ministerial Strategic ICT Seminar, Barbados is celebrated as one of the top tourist destinations in the Caribbean.

Barbados claims status as the culinary capital and the birthplace of rum in the Caribbean – as do several other islands including (but not limited to) Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, all of whom boast their own special blends of the liquor!

The annual Barbados Food and Rum Festival, held from 17-20 November 2016, draws to the island rum experts and mixologists, alongside with local world class chefs. This is the 7th year of the Festival and the chefs have promised a sophisticated experience for food lovers. The Festival opens with the Oistins Bay Gardens Cook Off and continues with The Signature Rum Event with food and rum pairings on Friday 18 November, followed by Saturday afternoon's Polo Rum Spirits and canapés. The Sunday evening grand finale at the Hilton Resort features a beach party cook-off and food sampling.

As this year's event falls in the same month as Barbados' 50th year as an independent nation, the event is slated to be the best one yet. It is planned that the Food and Rum Festival will anchor a full month of culinary celebration.

Rum is Barbados' oldest and greatest export. The Mount Gay (a brand with which many in the Caribbean are familiar) distillery - founded in 1703 - is believed to possibly produce the oldest rum found anywhere in the world. With over 300 years of knowledge, experience and refinement applied to the process of making rum, each of the brand's complex flavours have been coaxed from natural Barbadian ingredients and the input of many generations of master blenders, distillers and the evolving palates of rum shop patrons.

Rum, originally called "Kill-Devil" by those who first distilled it, is truly a Caribbean product – over which many countries around the region hold claim. The spirited competition that exists between several islands regarding the excellence of their rum is arguably outmatched only by the quality of the rum itself. While the exact origins of this fine liquor will likely remain subject of lively and exuberant contention, one thing is certain: the abundance of molasses combined with the culinary ingenuity of early Caribbean settlers and, of course, their legendary thirst for alcohol led to this unique discovery in the production of spirits! ■





FAST FACTS

Transformation of Caribbean statistical systems

A team lead by ECLAC Caribbean undertook a mission to hurricane-struck Belize. Here is a quick re-cap of what the team reported upon its return.

Event: Caribbean Conference on a Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics

Venue & Date: Barbados, 7-9 September 2016

Participants: Directors and Chief Statisticians of National Statistical Offices of the Caribbean, representatives of the UN System including ECLAC, and representatives of Development Partner organizations.

Purpose: The meeting was convened to discuss initiatives aimed at transforming national statistical systems in the Caribbean to respond to the demand for quality, disaggregated and timely data as a necessity in the modern world and particularly in furtherance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this context, the meeting sought to develop and share a common vision for the modernization of National Statistical Systems in the Caribbean.

Outcomes: Towards this common vision, the meeting identified key actions to achieve or improve the following:

- Coordination of global, regional and national statistical systems.
- Communication and advocacy.
- Integrated statistical systems for data collection, processing and dissemination.
- Innovation and modernization through standard-based statistical business architecture.
- Capacity building and resource mobilization.

Access to census data gets boost via REDATAM

Public access to data from the 2010 round of population and housing censuses is set to be expanded as ECLAC equips representatives from three national statistical offices with the skills necessary to develop web applications for the dissemination of national census data sets.

In addition to expanding access to data from the 2010 round of censuses, these efforts will provide a sound basis for a more rapid dissemination of data from the upcoming 2020 round. In the long term, improved online access to these data sources will encourage their use in research, development planning and evidence-based policymaking.

Online access to census data sets is provided through the REDATAM (REtrieval of DATA for small Areas by Microcomputer) software. Users can analyse micro datasets online by submitting queries which are processed and returned in real time. The individual census records themselves, which are confidential, are protected on a secure server. In addition to census data, REDATAM can also be used to provide online access to survey data sets such as living conditions surveys.

At a workshop in Suriname from 11 to 21 October 2016, statisticians and information technology professionals from the Bureau of Statistics of Guyana, the Statistical Office of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the General Bureau of Statistics of Suriname, received training from software developers from CELADE, ECLAC's Population Division, and ECLAC Caribbean. They developed prototype applications for the dissemination of census and survey data which, when reviewed and finalised, will be published online.

Since REDATAM was first introduced to statistical offices in the Caribbean in the 1990s, several countries have used the software for online dissemination including Aruba, Belize, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. It is anticipated that several more countries will release their census data through REDATAM in the near future. ■





Ecuador receives funding for earthquake recovery efforts

Following a joint assessment carried out by ECLAC and the Government of Ecuador in the aftermath of the earthquake that struck the country on 16 April 2016 (7.8 magnitude), Ecuador is set to receive loan funding for recovery and reconstruction efforts, in the amount of US \$364 million.

In addition to the event on 16 April, Ecuador suffered two further earthquakes, on 9 August and 4 September 2016. The cumulative damage of the three earthquakes to the local infrastructure amounted to an estimate US \$4 billion. The April earthquake struck along the coastal provinces of Manabi and Esmeraldas, while the other two had epicentres closer to Quito.

The Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA), carried out over the course of six weeks, confirmed the death of at least 675 people, the injury of more than 4,600 others, while 33,000 were left in temporary shelters.

Agencies involved in the assessment included Ecuador's National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC), ECLAC, FAO, PAHO, UNEP, UNESCO, and UN Habitat.

Following the 16 April event, more than 1,500 emergency personnel were dispatched to the affected areas, restoring water and electricity in most of the regions, and providing medical care to over 31,000 people within the first two weeks. Since then, the Government has also set up a number of shelters, where some of the displaced population is being housed while repair and reconstruction of housing continues.

It is estimated that the reconstruction will likely take up to three years. While the Government has temporarily restored most basic services, permanent solutions will take time since the earthquake significantly changed the composition of the soil. The assessment concluded that in some cases the relocation of entire communities will be required. ■

Suriname Holidays and Festivals

As Suriname prepares to publish its census data online, the Hummingbird explores interesting events held in this Caribbean nation on the South American continent which borders Guyana, Brazil and French Guiana.

Suriname has many holidays and festivals which can be enjoyed by those lucky enough to be in the country at the right time. Here are a few for you to consider:

Brazilian Carnival. Yes, that's right. Starting off the festival year in February is the Brazilian Carnival. While the tradition of Carnival did not originate from the people of Suriname, it has become an annual event. This is due in large part to the growing Brazilian population living in Suriname and determined to keep their culture alive in their adopted country. The festival is similar to the one held in Brazil around the same time, only smaller in scale. There are colourful street parades, featuring Brazilian music and dance, and endless stalls boasting Brazilian foods and flavours.

International Film Festival. Held annually in April in the capital city, the International Film Festival has been one of the most highly anticipated events on the Surinamese calendar. Organized by the Back Lot Foundation, the festival brings together film makers from around the world, showcasing over 40 films from more than 12 different countries. While the screenings are the main event, there are also several workshops and even competitions for children to keep everyone entertained.

Fete de la Musique. Celebrated by French-speaking countries around the globe, Fête de la Musique or World Music Day, is held every year in June. It started in France in 1982, and celebrates what organizers call 'the magical gift of music'. Free concerts are organized around the capital city, boasting music of different genres. The festival is also characterized by impromptu street performances by both professional and amateur artists. Performers at this year's concert in Fort Zeelandia included Ray Neiman, Alakondre Dron, Nisha Madaran, and Naomi Faerber, along with several other artistes.

Pagara Estafette. Rounding off the festival calendar each year is perhaps the most popular festival of all. Held on December 31, Pagara Estafette is basically a massive street party to end the calendar year. This is no ordinary New Year's Eve bash, however, as festivities generally start at 10:00 a.m. and last until the first day of the new year has dawned. The festival features amazing firework displays and live concerts. ■



Deputy Director gives overview of ECLAC's role in the Caribbean

Dr. Dillon Alleyne, Deputy Director of ECLAC Caribbean, recently had the opportunity to share some highlights of the work undertaken by ECLAC in the Caribbean subregion.

At a conference organized by the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), Dr. Alleyne, as a former fellow of the institution, explained that the mission of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean is to deepen the understanding of the development challenges facing the Caribbean, and to contribute to

solutions by conducting research and analysis and providing sound policy advice and technical assistance to Caribbean governments, focused on growth with equity and recognition of the subregion's vulnerability.

Specific areas of work include economic development and trade, statistics and social development, sustainable development, disaster assessment, knowledge management, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for development.

Dr. Alleyne also shared some of the regional initiatives carried out in 2014-2015, which included a debt for climate adaptation swaps proposal, resilience building and disaster assessment exercises, and efforts towards informing and improving the rights of persons with disabilities.

In addition, regional trainings were conducted on the measurement of paid and unpaid work and on the Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) methodology.

In the areas of research and analysis, ECLAC Caribbean has carried out a five-year review of the European Union -CARIFORUM EPA, a study on digital and mobile currency in the Caribbean, a study on population ageing in the Caribbean, a study on energy efficiency in the transport sector, and studies on the economies of the Caribbean.

Looking forward, Dr. Alleyne outlined some of ECLAC Caribbean's plans to promote financing for sustainable development; to examine trade policy reform; to facilitate wider application of Information and Communications Technologies and Knowledge Management; to address some of the more pressing social challenges that are confronting the subregion, such as disabilities and ageing; and to strengthen statistical capacity, especially in planning for the 2020 round of censuses. ■



UN4U campaign 2016 – ECLAC team visits Trinidad and Tobago primary school

A team from ECLAC Caribbean was privileged to visit the Brazil Roman Catholic School in Trinidad and Tobago in October 2016, as part of the UN4U school tour. The students participated in an interactive session which focussed on the topic of sustainable energy. They listened intently as Research Assistant, Elizabeth Thorne, described why and how the world needs to more actively engage in using renewable energy sources and in promoting energy efficiency in order to preserve our environment. The student participation was enthusiastic.

The UN4U outreach programme is uniquely intended to facilitate UN staff interaction with students in a youth-friendly manner, using appropriate presentation tools. It is an annual public initiative carried out by the United Nations to raise awareness of the organization.

Here are some memories of ECLAC's visit to the Brazil RC School, which proved to be an invaluable opportunity to reach out to students and to share information on our work. ■





Painting - Grenada by Sebastian Pierre

STATE *of* AFFAIRS

Grenada



FORMER PM PASSES AWAY

Nov 1st- Former Prime Minister, Nicholas Brathwaite, has died; he was 91. Brathwaite served as Prime Minister from 1990 - 1995 when the National Democratic Congress (NDC) won the polls and resigned shortly before the 1995 elections. He was made an Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1975 and was knighted in 1995.



REFERENDUM VOTE IN GRENADA

Nov 25th - According to preliminary results published by the Parliamentary Elections Office (PEO), with 99 per cent of polling stations reporting, Grenadians appear to have decisively rejected seven proposed constitutional amendments in a referendum held on 24 November. About 30 per cent of the 71,241 registered voters cast a ballot in the referendum, which included proposals to: change the country's name; establish a fixed date for general elections; amend the constitution to bar anyone from serving more than three consecutive terms as Prime Minister among other changes.

Jamaica



NEW THREE-YEAR IMF PROGRAMME

Oct 15th - The government of Jamaica recently made a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a US\$1.7 billion three-year successor standby programme. The programme will replace the existing extended fund facility (EFF) that ends in March 2017, once approved by the IMF's executive board during its meeting, scheduled for November. Prime Minister Holness described the US\$1.7 billion provision as an "insurance policy" against unforeseen economic shocks that are beyond Jamaica's control.



JAMAICAN-GERMAN SHIP REPAIR COMPANY

Nov 5th - Prime Minister, Andrew Holness, joined with German and local investors to launch German Ship Repair Jamaica (GSRJ) Limited. The new industry aligns with the government's vision of making Jamaica a logistics-centre economy. Prime Minister Holness pledged support for the entity, which has established a relationship with the Caribbean Maritime Institute (CMI), to provide personnel trained in ship-repair services.

Trinidad and Tobago



TRINIDADIAN PRISONERS SET FREE

Oct 17th - Five Trinidad and Tobago men who were detained in Venezuela since 2014 on terrorism charges were released and sent home on the basis of time served in custody. In May 2016, at a meeting in Port-of-Spain between Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley and Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, the Trinidad and Tobago government had taken the opportunity to ask for the matter regarding the men to be expedited. The men will be deported to Trinidad at the earliest opportunity.



CABINET RESHUFFLE

Nov 1st - Prime Minister Keith Rowley recommended that President Anthony Carmona revoke the appointments of two Government Ministers and appoint two new Ministers to his Cabinet. Energy Minister, Nicole Olivierre, was replaced by former Local Government Minister, Franklin Khan and Public Utilities Minister, Ancil Antoine, was replaced by former Works and Infrastructure Minister, Fitzgerald Hinds. The deputy political leader of the People's National Movement (PNM), Rohan Sinanan, was appointed Minister of Works and Transport, whilst Kazim Hosein was made the new Minister of Rural Development and Local Government.

5 Caribbean Foods

that are not what they sound like

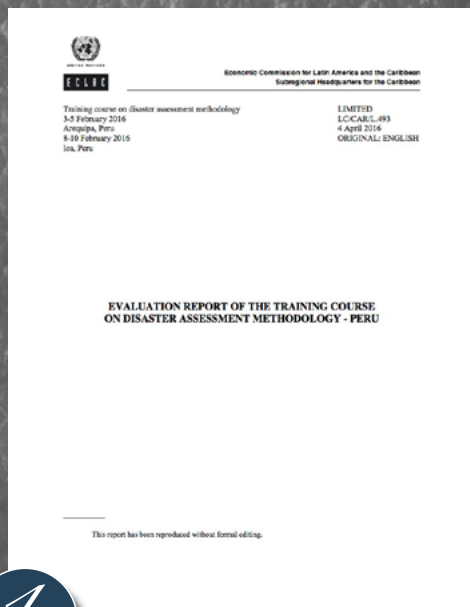


The vibrant culture in the Caribbean includes among its trademarks culinary delights of the member states. Though the food is undeniably delicious, the names of certain dishes can be tricky, and may leave you often wondering what exactly it is you're eating!

Here are five dishes that you may or may not be familiar with.

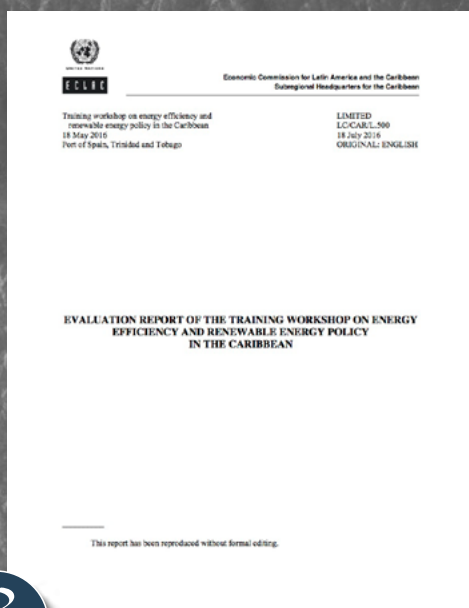
1. Cutters: A cutter is a Bajan sandwich. It is basically a fluffy saltbread bun (not actually salty!), a thick wedge of cheddar cheese or a choice of fish or ham, and served with a liberal serving of fiery pepper sauce to complete the package.
2. Jerk: This word in the Caribbean is not an insult; rather it's the traditional highly spiced and smoked meats that are signature Jamaican. The process is typically used to prepare pork and even fish, but Jerk chicken is by far the most popular of jerk dishes.
3. Mountain Chicken: Otherwise known as the Giant Ditch Frog, Mountain Chicken is a specialty in the Nature Isle of the Caribbean, Dominica. Although somewhat endangered following exposure to a life-threatening fungus, it is still being served, usually fried and with plantain. One for the bucket list of the not-so-squeamish.
4. Gizzada: The word "gizzard", followed by "yuck" may come to mind here. But gizzada has nothing to do with gizzards and is anything but yucky. It is actually a sweet tart filled with sugared coconut and cream.
5. Sugar Cakes: Not actually a cake at all, these sweet desserts are made of flaked coconut, sugar and spices like bay leaf and ginger. These days they come in a rainbow of colours but the sugar cake die-hards insist on granny's original ole-time recipe made with fresh coconut "out-de-nut", bay leaf off the tree outside and proper chunks of ginger inside.

ECLAC CARIBBEAN'S *Recent Publications*



Evaluation report of the training course on disaster assessment methodology (Arequipa and Ica, Peru).

1.



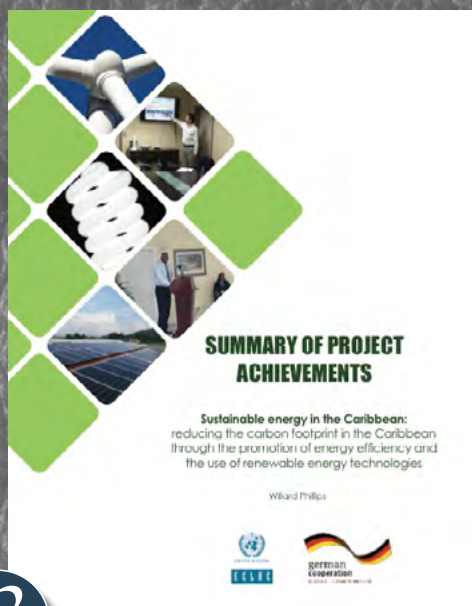
Evaluation report of the training workshop on energy efficiency and renewable energy policy in the Caribbean

3.

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DIANE'S CORNER

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



DIANE QUARLESS
Director of ECLAC Caribbean

1/10



Ageing in the Caribbean

"We need to better appreciate the invaluable contribution that senior citizens can continue to make towards productive, community and family life. We must also begin in earnest to prepare to meet the special needs of older persons, if they are to enjoy safe, healthy, abundant life in their golden years."

13/10



Hurricane Matthew

"We have recently witnessed the formidable force of Matthew that marched through the Caribbean leaving death and destruction in its wake. Our hearts bleed for Haiti, for the misery yet to come; the Bahamas took another hit having hardly recovered from Joaquin last year."

#DirectorsTake

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



ECLAC CARIBBEAN

Family

Quarterly birthday celebration

It was time for birthday celebrations at ECLAC Caribbean in early October, as staff who marked their birthdays in the third quarter of the year were treated to some light refreshments, cake and fresh fruit!

Thanks to the Social Events Committee for this event, and for sharing these photos with The Hummingbird.





HAPPY
Birthday



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