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Upcoming Events

Caribbean Conference on Ageing, Elder abuse and the Rights of Older Persons Roseau. Dominica 30 November - 1 December 2015



International Day for the Abolition of Slavery 2 December 2015





Launch of Publication: Preliminary overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean Live videofeed from Santiago, Chile. 15 December 2015



Find out more about #ECLACCaribbean's latest school visit: http://vrb.al/humming-nov15



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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Nov 6

Find out how the Caribbean experience in dealing with natural disasters has helped strengthen Peru: http://vrb.al/eclac-peru



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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Nov 4

#ECLACCaribbean joined forces with Trinidad and Tobago's Office for Disaster Preparedness and Management. Find out more at: http://vrb.al/training-odpm



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THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT...

The disaster assessment training for Trinidad and Tobago agencies

In an effort to increase technical cooperation with its host country, ECLAC Caribbean recently co-organized with the Trinidad and Tobago Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM), a multi-sectoral disaster assessment training session for agencies, which was held at ECLAC Caribbean headquarters in Port of Spain from 5-7 October.

Here are 5 interesting things to note about the sessions:



The training was part of the continuing series of ECLAC training sessions aimed at strengthening the ability of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to assess damage and loss caused by disasters.



Participants who benefitted were not only from disaster preparedness agencies, but also from the health, agriculture, public utilities, telecommunications, education, planning and tourism sectors.



An important aspect of this disaster assessment package for Trinidad was to impart information on the different types of disasters, as ECLAC sought to encourage the participants to develop a broad approach on how to understand a disaster.



During the training, it was acknowledged that all sectors have a role to play when it comes to carrying out disaster assessment, since there are more issues to consider beyond just the immediate physical damage.



The facilitators of this training were ECLAC's Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit Coordinator Omar Bello, Associate Environmental Affairs Officer Leda Peralta, and Population Affairs Officer Francis Jones.







SHOP











Microdata Expert Group Meeting

ver the last 25 years, statistical offices worldwide have increasingly sought to meet the demand from researchers for greater access to statistical microdata. Census microdata are among the most useful to social researchers because of the range of social and demographic information collected in censuses.

Caribbean countries and territories generally publish traditional census reports, and some have developed interactive tabulation tools using REDATAM as generally there is agreement on the value and the need to make microdata available to researchers.

For Caribbean countries, disclosure control is especially challenging because of their small population size. Nevertheless, considering that censuses are one of the few available sources of statistics for most Caribbean countries, it is doubly important that every effort be made to maximize the use of this data source.

To this end, ECLAC Caribbean convened an expert group meeting (EGM) on Dissemination of Caribbean Census Microdata to Researchers in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on November 23, 2015.

The purpose of this EGM was to examine how Caribbean census microdata can be made more widely available to researchers. The meeting considered options for storage and dissemination, methods of statistical disclosure control, and administrative arrangements for protecting the confidentiality of individual census records.

Read more in the January 2016 issue of Hummingbird.

Deputy Director participates in SELA seminar

The Hummingbird spoke to Dr. Alleyne.



ECLAC Caribbean's Deputy Director a.i., Dr. Dillon Alleyne, recently represented Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena, at the "Seminar on Financing and Guarantees to support Caribbean SMEs", which was held in Kingston, Jamaica, from 15-16 October.

The event was organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), with the purpose of advancing the creation of a regional credit guarantee system to facilitate access to credits for small and mediumsized enterprises (SMEs). Lack of access to credit has been identified as a challenge to SME business development in both Latin America and the Caribbean.

What were the main objectives of this seminar?

There а number objectives. These included: analysing the feasibility for the creation of a guarantee mechanism Caribbean SMEs; promoting inclusion of national and sub-regional financial institutions supporting SMEs in the creation of a regional guarantee system; and receiving contributions, suggestions, possible adjustments and comments from the participants, in order to enrich the contents of a prefeasibility study conducted by SELA implementation of aforementioned regional financial instrument.

Who were some of the persons targeted for attendance?

Participants were mainly government focal points for SMEs of the Member States of SELA, officials from Caribbean organizations, representatives of business including SMEs and financial institutions, and experts in the subject from the Caribbean Member States.

What was the substance of your presentation?

My contribution focused on the following: (1) identifying the overarching business environment which should shape a regional guarantee system; (2) identifying challenges to the micro small and medium-sized enterprise sector in the Caribbean and Latin America; (3) pointing to the significant role of SME in other jurisdictions, such as for example in the OECD; and (4) identifying instruments of progressive structural transformation for which credit to SME must play a key role.

In what way do you think this seminar can or will benefit the subregion?

The Permanent Secretariat of SELA has been actively involved in the regional efforts to establish a guarantee system for the Caribbean and to promote the training of public and private officials in subjects related to financing small and medium-sized enterprises. With these activities, SELA - through the Regional American and Caribbean Programme for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SELA-SME programme) contributes to enriching the debates on ideas, suggestions and comments to promote the creation of a financial mechanism for Latin American and Caribbean SMEs.





ECLAC
Caribbean's
Disaster Unit
brings the
sub-region's
experience to
Latin America





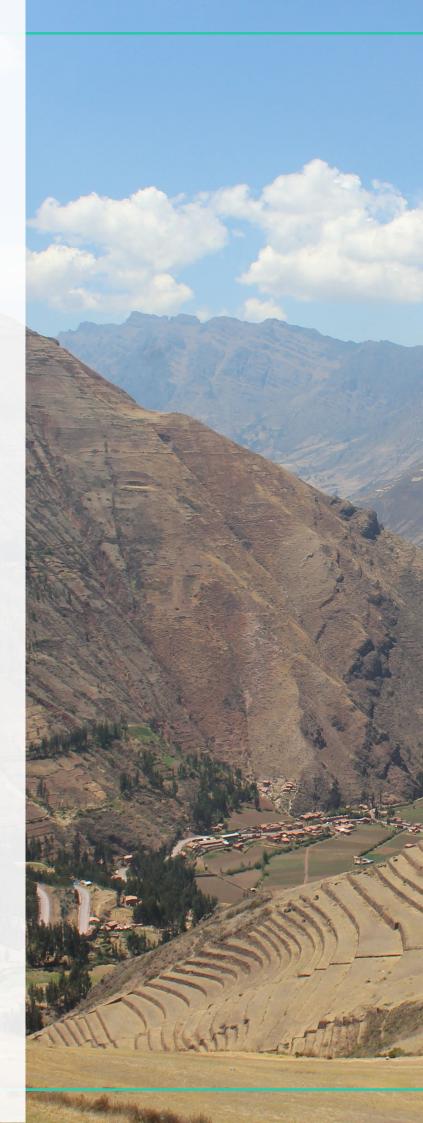
atin America and the Caribbean ranks as one of the most affected regions in the world by disasters – a trend which is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future. For these countries, understanding how to minimize the worst impacts caused by a natural phenomenon and how to assess its effects is essential. Rising to the challenge, ECLAC Caribbean has steppedup its efforts to provide countries with the knowledge and the tools to determine their own recovery and reconstruction path, to incorporate future measures to reduce vulnerabilities and to increase their resilience.

With its well-established experience in dealing with disasters, SDDU has conducted a series of training courses throughout the year, in order to promote wider understanding that assessing the effects and impacts of disasters is critical to all countries in the region.

During the course of 2015, these efforts have directly benefitted four countries, namely Costa Rica, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and The Bahamas, the latter having received a visit from the SDDU team in November at the country's invitation, to conduct a technical post-disaster needs assessment following the category 4 Hurricane Joaquin, which had caused severe damage to the multi-island nation just a few weeks earlier.

Earlier in the year, the team led by SDDU chief Omar Bello, delivered training to government officials and students in Costa Rica. The training was aimed at benefitting the new environment sector initiative established by the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy (MIDEPLAN), which promotes positive actions against global climate change, through citizen participation, technological change, risk management and research.

During the same trip, an awareness raising session was delivered to over 60 fourth grade students at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt School in Costa Rica, as part of ECLAC's aim to reach out to a diverse demographic in promoting disaster assessment awareness from an early age.



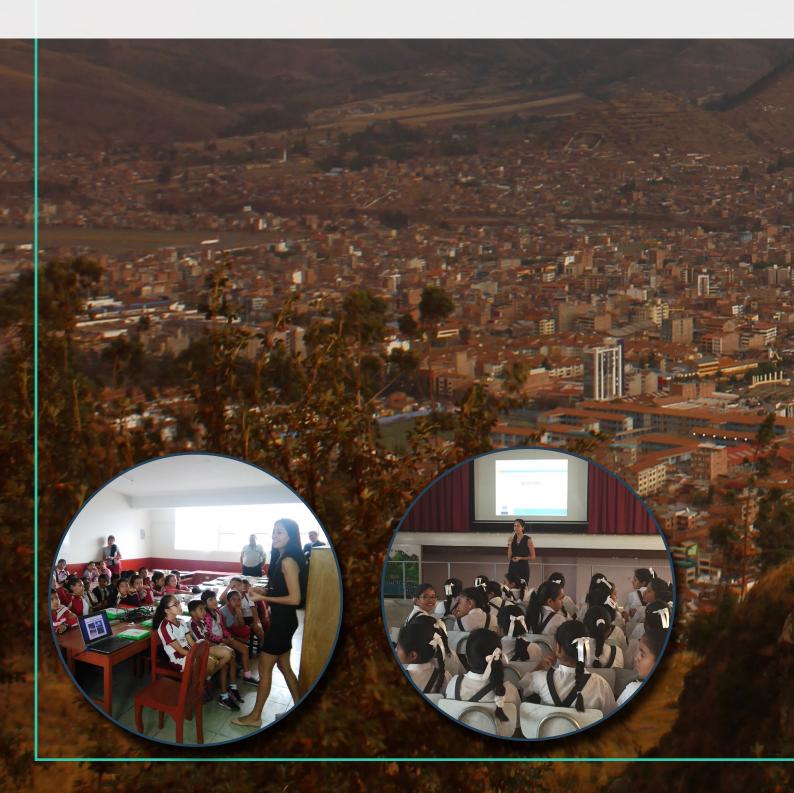


Looking further South, Peru stands out as being one of the most vulnerable countries of Latin America to disasters. The establishment of the National Center for Estimation, Prevention and Disaster Risk Reduction (CENEPRED) is among the most significant efforts undertaken in recent times by the Peruvian government to comprehensively address the vulnerability of its population. With a view to complementing this effort, SDDU brought the Caribbean experience in dealing with disasters to Peru.

Over the course of the past six months, the SDDU team has delivered five training sessions in Peru in different regions and cities, including Lima, Cusco, San Martin and Piura. Convened at

CENEPRED's request, these sessions targeted sectoral specialists, and experts from institutions involved with disaster management and disaster risk reduction.

Participants were informed of the complexities of a disaster, the characteristics of each sector and how to properly apply the Disaster Assessment methodology, as well as the necessary information to do this in a time-effective manner. For the Lima and Cusco sessions, the focus was on the application of the methodology in specific sectors: agriculture; transportation; water and sanitation; commerce; education; health; housing; and macroeconomic impacts.





In October, the SDDU team travelled to the San Martin and Piura regions to provide training, aimed at strengthening the capacity of CENEPRED and regional government officials to assess damages and losses caused by disasters. Over 150 officers from the various regional governments, along with some 120 students participated in the sessions.

SDDU Coordinator Bello, described these sessions as a successful conclusion to a series of training courses held in Latin America and the Caribbean this

year. He also highlighted the organization's ongoing commitment to raise the awareness of students in every city where disaster training is conducted.

Through its disaster assessments, ECLAC creates a point of departure for national dialogue around disaster risk reduction, vulnerability reduction, sustainable development and adaptation to climate change. The methodology also provides a basis for defining the post-disaster needs for recovery and reconstruction.



ECLAC visits school in Trinidad

For the first time, students from Trinidad have received first-hand information on disaster assessment from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) subregional office in Port of Spain.

Where:

A team from the ECLAC Port of Spain office visited the Tranquility Government Primary School in Port of Spain and the Diamond Vale Government Primary School in Diego Martin on 30 September – 01 October, 2015.

What:

To share information on how the students can better prepare themselves and their families to prevent, recognize the signs, and deal with disasters.

Who:

The team delivered two awareness raising sessions to almost 200 fourth and fifth standard students from the two schools, as part of the organisation's aim to promote disaster assessment awareness from an early age across the region.

Why:

The sessions are part of the ongoing disaster assessment capacity building effort by ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain, which the organization is undertaking to deliver in countries that make requests for training.



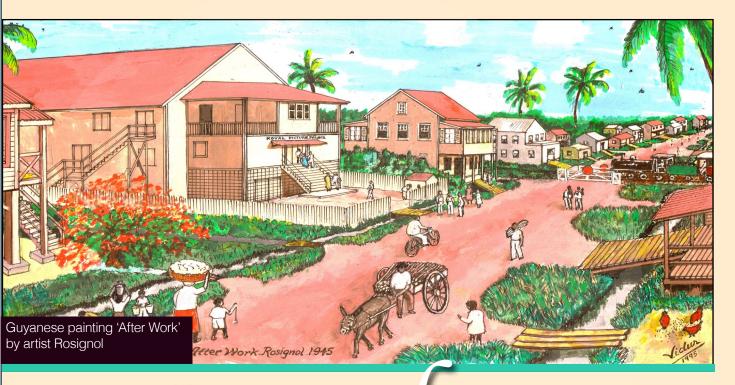
Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean

Launch of the annual flagship report titled Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean.

ECLAC Executive Secretary Alicia Bárcena will host a press conference to present the report.

Tuesday 15th December 2015.

ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile. Videoconference to subregional offices subregional offices.



STATE OF AFFAIRS

Belize



OAS MISSION HIGHLIGHTS CIVIC SPIRIT

Nov 6th - The electoral mission of the Organization of American States (EOM/OAS) that observed the general elections in Belize congratulated the country on the election process, in which 71 per cent of registered voters cast their ballots. The EOM/OAS made recommendations for a reregistration of voters, and adjustments to electoral boundaries among other concerns.



PM WINS RECORD THIRD CONSECUTIVE TERM

Nov 6th - Dean Barrow was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Belize by the Governor-General Sir Colville Young at a brief ceremony held at Belize House in Belmopan. This is Barrow's third consecutive term in office, after leading his United Democratic Party (UDP) to a 19-12 victory over the Peoples United Party (PUP) in the country's elections on 4 November.

Guyana



PRESIDENT VISITS SAUDI ARABIA

Nov 9th - President of Guyana, David Granger, led a delegation to the Arab-South American Summit (ASPA) in Saudi Arabia. The Vice-President and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Carl Greenidge, was also a part of the presidential delegation to Riyadh. President Granger is the first Guyanese head of state to have visited Saudi Arabia.



GUYANA AND SAUDI ARABIA TO ESTABLISH JOINT COMMISSION

Nov 21st - Following the recent visit of President David Granger to Saudi Arabia, Guyana will initiate cooperation with several Arab nations, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar, through the establishment of a joint commission to foster closer ties. The new government of Guyana said that it "welcomes the Arabs' positive role in ensuring a stable, peaceful, and prosperous Guyana."

Haiti



PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS

Nov 6th - Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) recently announced the results of the country's presidential elections held on 25 October. The results have revealed that Jovenel Moïse, the candidate backed by incumbent President, Michel Martelly, has won 32.81 per cent of the vote, while Jude Célestin, the candidate for former President René Préval's Unity Party, won 25.27 per cent. A runoff will be held on 27 December.



PROTESTS AFTER ELECTION RESULTS

Nov 21st - After the results of the first round of presidential elections were announced, presidential candidate Maryse Narcisse was among hundreds of people who marched in protest. Protesters demanded a recall of election results as they believed the results did not accurately represent the choice of the people. Opposition politicians have even gone as far as demanding the resignation of the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP).

ECLAC Caribbean officer discusses structural debt burden

he Coordinator of ECLAC Caribbean's Economic Development Unit (EDU), Mr. Sheldon McLean, recently visited several Caribbean countries to meet with stakeholders and gather information on the subregion's economic performance and traderelated matters.

Those countries included Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, and Saint Kitts and Nevis. McLean's activities included examining several of the bothersome problems underpinning the structural debt burden in Caribbean.

This information gathering effort will contribute to building the Caribbean perspective in the *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*, one of ECLAC's major annual publications.

Through an invitation from Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce, the Honourable E.P. Chet Greene, ECLAC Caribbean is now partnering with the country to examine also the condition of high consumer prices.

Part of the focus of this engagement will be to find ways in which the determinants for competitive pricing can be ascertained with a view to improving consumer welfare in Antigua and Barbuda.

One of the key deliverables will be the development of a framework for consumer protection, as well as the identification of strategies to improve competitiveness in areas such as tourism, since many of the related activities surrounding the tourism product are affected by perceptions of high consumer prices.

In a media interview in Antigua and Barbuda, McClean noted that "the high level of indebtedness is not primarily because of policies, nor is it because of policy mis-steps, but more so, because of vulnerabilities and external shocks, and natural disasters."

Against this background, ECLAC explores strategies on how best it "can assist the vulnerable Caribbean states in diversifying their economics, improving their economic resilience," in light of the structural constraints that hinder economic growth and sustainable development.

McLean is of the view that attention has to be directed at areas such as "the performance of CARICOM's extra-regional trade arrangements," in conjunction with "regional integration, and the role of trade arrangements and structural transformation".



World Food Day Farmers Market and Exhibition

In commemoration of
World Food Day 2015, the National
Agricultural Marketing and Development
Corporation (NAMDEVCO), in collaboration with the
World Food Day National Committee, hosted a "Farmers Market
and Exhibition" in Trinidad and Tobago.

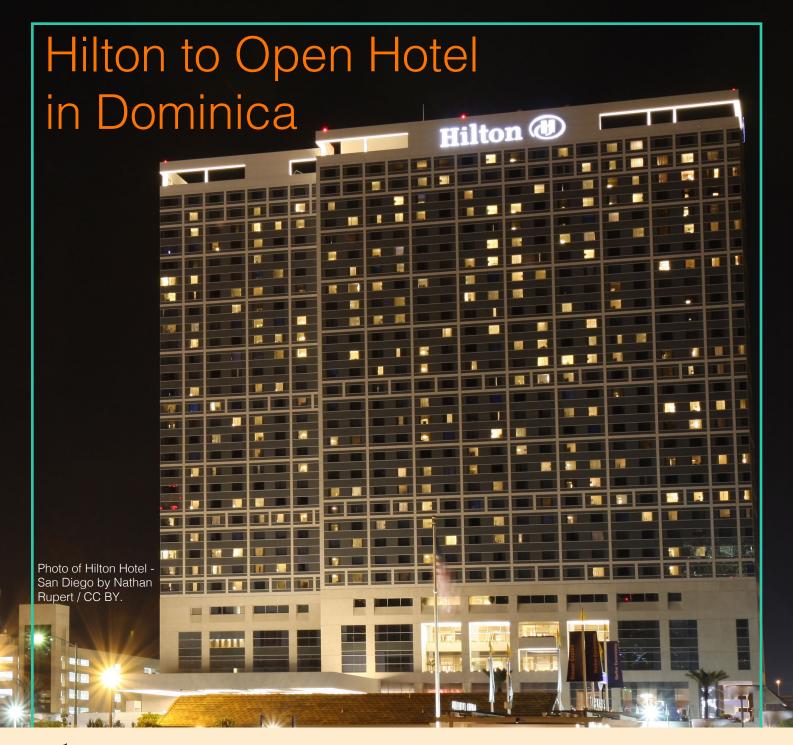
This took place on Sunday 18th October at the Norris Deonarine Northern Wholesale Market, and was attended by several representatives from United Nations agencies in Trinidad and Tobago. The theme was "Social Protection and Agriculture - Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty", and the exhibition promoted local agriculture, food safety and healthy eating habits, along with a showcase of the products and services of groups, such as local farmers, agro-processors and state agencies.

It was a very informal event with camaraderie and shared enthusiasm among the various groups with their display of plants, fruits, vegetables and even the East Indian food, "roti" on sale.

A variety of homemade wines were available for tasting, with the possibility of giving feedback to the winery owners of Baw Chateau, *Life is Sparkling*.

Also on display were beautifully hand-crafted woodwork novelties done by Phillip Arthur of Arthur's Novelties.

A highlight of the event for some was having the rare opportunity to look at the process by which juice is extracted from the sugarcane (via a motorised apparatus which could have been just over 30 years old). The best part however, was enjoying the cane juice.



few months after the island suffered severe damage from Tropical Storm Erika, it has been announced that Dominica will soon get its first branded hotel.

Hilton Worldwide announced early in November that it would be adding the island's Tranquility Beach Resort development to its Curio hotel collection. The new hotel, which will be called Tranquility Beach Resort Dominica, Curio Collection by Hilton, is slated to open in 2018.

The property will include 60 one or two-bedroom suites across

15 new buildings on the island's coastline. It will include a pool, two 1,200-square-foot meeting spaces, a wellness centre and a gym.

"We want to create a hotel destination that highlights Dominica's breathtaking scenery and dedication to preserving the immensely rich landscape," said lan Edwards, Sunstone Inc., a Corporation of the Commonwealth of Dominica.

"The new-build will echo the region's natural setting and provide guests with unmatched views of the Caribbean Sea," said

Neil Freeman, partner, Sunstone Inc.

The property will be located on the beach in Salisbury on the island's west coast. "When considering properties for the Curio brand, we consider the interesting places travelers want to visit and how they want to experience them," said Dianna Vaughan, global head, Curio – A Collection by Hilton.

"In that regard, the Tranquility Beach Resort Dominica will be a perfect marriage of a remarkable location with a connection to the identity, people, culture and energy of the area."



Saint Kitts is looking to strengthen its yachting sector, a government official said in November, with the push for this being driven by the country's luxury Christophe Harbour Marina.

"We are a well-established tourism destination—our location of Saint Kitts and Nevis makes it an easy stop and a natural extension of the itineraries of the yachters," stated Tourism Minister Lindsey Grant.

"We have strong private sector investment in the construction and provision of mariners, slips and berths as evidenced by the Christophe Harbour Marina. The Urban Development Cooperation operates a small marina with 32 berths for which there is high demand by the visiting yachters."

But it is only through "creativity and innovation that the industry will be propelled into the lucrative sector that it has the potential to be," he said.



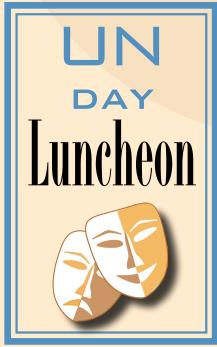




To Observance of the United Nations Day 2015, the Social Events Committee of ECLAC Port of Spain, organised an informal lunch for staff members on Friday 23rd October.

Staff were invited to bring a dish that they made, with two well-supplied menus of curry and creole-styled flavours. Not to mention the delicious desserts and fancy drinks to round off the meal. The resident DJ Runako Henry delved into some old-school 80s Rap to the delight of many, as staff sat relaxing and enjoying each other's company.

Here we share some photos of our lunch:













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