

## ECLAC in the Caribbean

### Beijing Platform for Action at Twenty

THE year 2015 marks an important milestone in the international community's efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women globally. In the Caribbean, ECLAC is leading the way by preparing the Beijing +20 Caribbean Synthesis review and appraisal report.

Adopted unanimously in 1995 by 189 governments at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA) is considered a blueprint for women's empowerment. It provides the vision of a world where each woman and girl can exercise her freedoms and choices, and realize all her rights, including the right to live a life free from violence, to go to school, to participate in decisions and to earn equal pay for equal work.

Twenty years ago, governments recognized that the status of women had advanced in some important respects, but that progress was un-

even, inequalities between women and men persisted and major obstacles remained, with serious consequences for the well-being of all people. It was also acknowledged that this situation was exacerbated by the increasing poverty which affected the lives of the majority of the world's people, in particular women and children.

Today, ECLAC is mandated by the Economic and Social Council to provide support in the follow up process to the Fourth World Conference on Women, as well as to the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly.

In this context, the ECLAC Caribbean Subregional Headquarters in Port of Spain is preparing a Caribbean Synthesis review and appraisal report as part of the year-long global campaign to mark the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the BPFA. The report will focus on a number of key challenges facing the subregion, such as gender based

violence – where comparable data is actually available, it is reported that Caribbean countries have a higher than global average for rape. The report will also highlight opportunities – with a view to improving data on gender-based violence, ECLAC has developed a domestic violence protocol for a reliable data collection system – and achievements, including the establishment in 2009 of the ECLAC Gender Equality Observatory that assists member States and associate member States in the collection of gender equality data, and provides timely information to assist the formulation of evidence-based public policies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The report will reference the many efforts undertaken by many Caribbean governments to formulate gender policies, and implement gender mainstreaming strategies aimed at promoting the advancement of women's rights.

### Sneak preview

### Preliminary Overview of the Economies ... of Latin America and the Caribbean 2014

ON 2 December 2014, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) headquarters in Santiago, Chile, will launch of the 'Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean 2014' in Santiago, Chile. Prepared on an annual basis by ECLAC's Economic Development

Division, the flagship publication presents the main regional trends of the economies of Latin America and Caribbean countries, highlights macroeconomic policy reforms and domestic and external performance, and provides official data from countries in the region, as well as an analysis of 2014 and projections for

2015.

The launch of the Report will feature the ECLAC Executive Secretary Alicia Barcena, followed by a local presentation focusing on the Caribbean situation. The ECLAC subregional headquarters Port of Spain will link the local audience to the event by videoconference.

## REDATAM workshop update

THE REDATAM (REtrieval of DATA for small Areas by Microcomputer) workshop met its immediate objective of helping to strengthen national capacity in the use of the software and providing a positive learning environment for all in attendance. So say the Caribbean participants in the feedback survey following the training.

Overall, the workshop was highly valued. Participants expressed appreciation for the targeted sessions on the preparation and collection of census data, conversion of the census database to REDATAM format, and the development of applications for data dissemination via the internet.

REDATAM was first introduced to statistical offices in the Caribbean region in the 1980's. Since then, a number of countries have used the software for the storage, processing and dissemination of micro data from key national surveys including labour force surveys, population and housing census and surveys of living conditions.

However, because of significant staff turnover and continued innovations in

REDATAM, countries regularly request training courses to help build and further strengthen technical capacity in the use of the software.

Between March and July 2014, ECLAC received requests from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Grenada for assistance with the provision of technical training in REDATAM and support with the development of applications for the electronic dissemination of data from their national population and housing censuses. In response to these requests,



Participants at the recent REDATAM workshop in Grenada. (Back from right: ECLAC Port of Spain staff members, Sinovia Moonie and Francis Jones).

ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean convened the workshop for staff of the three requesting member states, with a view to training statisticians, IT specialists and web developers in the use of the software.

Following completion of the workshop - which took place between 29 September and 10 October -, it is expected that national census data sets for all three countries will be disseminated online through REDATAM WebServer applications by the end of the first quarter of 2015, at which time ECLAC will carry out a post-training evaluation.

The evaluation, which will be conducted through an electronic survey via the 'Vovici Survey Platform', will assess the impact of the workshop in terms of knowledge transfer; increased capacity of participants to use REDATAM for the storage, processing, analysis and dissemination of census and survey data; and development of prototype web-applications for dissemination of national census data sets.

## Alleyne sheds light on Caribbean Economy at COTE

DEPUTY Director ag. of ECLAC and Head of the Economic Development Unit, Dr. Dillon Alleyne represented the office as part of an expert panel invited to discuss the Caribbean region's current economic situation. The Conference on the Economy (COTE), an annual conference held by the Department of Economics of the University of the West Indies, St Augustine opened on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014. This year's conference was dedicated to the late Professor Dennis Pantin a former head of the Department of Economics and a pioneer in the study of Sustainable Economic Development in the Caribbean region.

Dr Alleyne participated in the session entitled 'A Review of the Regional Economy', which was chaired by Director of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies, Professor Watson. Among the other panellists were Chilean Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago Fernando Schmidt, and Senior Lecturer in UWI's

Department of Economics Dr Roger Hosein. Dr. Alleyne began his presentation by pointing out that the growth performance of the region differed between the goods and service-producing economies of the Caribbean, with the former group benefiting from elevated commodity prices, while the latter was challenged by the decline in tourism receipts and foreign direct investment inflows. He noted that unemployment was on the increase in the region, and was higher than the national average among such vulnerable groups as youth and women.

Strategies to address the large public debt of several Caribbean countries and the impact of fiscal consolidation programs on poverty, were also major themes of Dr. Alleyne's presentation. Special focus was given to the debt being accumulated under the Petro Caribe agreement concluded between Venezuela and several Caribbean states.

In addressing regional integration, he sug-

gested that "member states need to identify priorities and timelines" to address implementation deficits which constrained production, cooperation and integration. Among the deficits he alluded to was the lack of free movement of Caribbean people. He concluded that free movement would increase the demand for regional goods and services and create a community of interest in deepening the process.



ECLAC Economic Development Officer Dillon Alleyne was part of the COTE 2014 expert panel.

## Outreach Unit participates in UN Day activities

THE newly formed Strategic Planning and Outreach unit at ECLAC Port of Spain had a full schedule of activities during the month of October.

As part of the early observance of United Nations Day, which was celebrated this year on 24 October, the Unit participated in the 'United Nations For You' (UN4U) outreach programme for Trinidad and Tobago. The objective of the UN4U programme is to increase awareness of the work of the United Nations system in the country, with an effort to reach the youth. As part of these efforts, some UN agencies scheduled visits to primary schools in

areas including Port of Spain, Pointe-a-Pierre, San Fernando, Tobago, Point Fortin, Chaguanas, Arima, and Saint Augustine.

ECLAC's Outreach unit visited the Grant Memorial Presbyterian School in the city of San Fernando, on Thursday 6 October, and met with students of the Standard Five classes. Leda Peralta, our Sustainable Development Officer, accompanied the Outreach team, and delivered a youth-friendly PowerPoint presentation on The Effects of Climate Change.

The students and their teachers were enlightened, and interacted enthusiastically during the presentation, asking and answering questions, and sharing their personal stories. At the end, each student received tokens from the team, while their teachers received special packages with United Nations information and memorabilia.

The Unit also played an integral role in the UN Day booth activity, held on Wednesday 22 October at the Brian Lara Promenade, in Port of Spain. To mark the actual anniversary of the UN Day, this booth was set-up to reach the general public and bring continued awareness to the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. Most of the locally-based agencies had staff representatives at the booth on the Day,



Members of Strategic Outreach Unit assisted in the UN Day booth on Brian Lara Promenade.



Leda Peralta of ECLAC Port of Spain's Sustainable Development Unit, speaks to a student of Grant Memorial Presbyterian School in San Fernando.

interacting with members of the public who stopped by to visit the booth. There were many informational items available to the public at the booth, and the highlight of the day was a visit by the Resident Coordinator Richard Blewitt, who was interviewed by members of the media, on the UN Day observance.

Once again, the Outreach Unit had a pivotal part to play, not only in providing informational material on ECLAC's work, but also in arranging for the media to be present, in order to ensure wide coverage for the event.

## ECLAC provides support



THE 8th Americas Competitiveness Forum, themed "The Human Imagination at Work: Driving Competitiveness, Powering Innovation", was held recently in Trinidad and Tobago. Staff of ECLAC spent three days (8-10 October) at Hyatt Regency Hotel, Port of Spain providing Conference Services Support. They are (from left) Meeting Services Assistant Aurelie Quiatol, along with Staff Assistants Ana Fernandez and Lindy Ann Edwards-Alleyne.

## Former ECLAC consultant Pantin honoured at UWI

FORMER ECLAC consultant and Head of the UWI Saint Augustine Department of Economics. Dennis Pantin, father of Research Assistant Machel Pantin, was posthumously honoured at the 2014 Conference On The Economy (COTE). The Pantin family received a painting of the late economist at the Daaga Auditorium, UWI Saint Augustine, at the launch of this year's conference on 9 October.



Yolande Pantin, receives a painting of former ECLAC consultant Dennis Pantin, from Martin Franklin of UWI's Department of Economics.

## Focus on the ECLAC Family

# Sweet Lime UN Day 2014 at ECLAC Port of Spain

FOR United Nations Day 2014, the Social Events Committee of ECLAC Port of Spain, organised a specially catered breakfast for staff, on 22 October.

Since the event was held on the day before the Divali holiday, some members of staff took the opportunity to wear East Indian outfits to the celebration, and also contributed special sweets made for the occasion.

Here in photos are some of the highlights of the day, which started with an official UN Day message from Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon.

Congrats to the Social Events Committee for another successful event and we look forward to the Christmas lime 2014!



ECLAC OJTs donned East Indian outfits for their first UN Day experience.



Staff Association President Aurelie Quiatol welcomed staff to the breakfast.



Congrats to the Social Events Committee for another successful event!



Staff member Yjaraima Coggins-Green, prepared arepas on site.



## The Regional Roundup

### LIAT partners with OECS member states in campaign against Ebola threat

Regional air carrier LIAT has boosted the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission's campaign to reduce the threat and minimize the impact of Ebola on member states and the wider region. The Caribbean airline offered complimentary seats to core members of each national leadership team from each OECS member state to a central location for air transfer to Havana, Cuba, for a special technical preparatory meeting from October 29 to 30, 2014.

The OECS Commission's director general, Dr Didacus Jules, said the containment plan will provide the complete specifications of the material requirements to support and safeguard the efforts in each national space in dealing with issues associated with Ebola.

The OECS anti-Ebola campaign is based on four critical points of action: prevention, protecting the health of workers, managing Ebola cases and managing public perceptions of Ebola.

David Evans, LIAT chief executive officer, said that the airline is proud to be able to contribute in some way to the vitally important work being carried out by the OECS Commission.

The national OECS leadership teams which journeyed to Havana for the special technical preparatory meeting comprised four people from Antigua and Barbuda, three from Grenada, three from Saint Lucia, two from Anguilla, one from the British Virgin Islands, and two from the OECS Commission.

Martinique, whose accession to associate membership of the OECS is in progress, sent one representative, while one individual from Montserrat as well as three representatives each from St Kitts and Nevis and Dominica were on standby.

The St Vincent and the Grenadines team, while part of the mission, was not a part of this special complimentary LIAT trip as they had expedited travel plans to Cuba ahead of the finalised arrangement with the Caribbean airline.

Recently, the OECS Commission addressed a joint sitting of Saint Lucia's parliament, which reiterated the need for householders, business houses and other places of social activity to apply basic hygiene practices such as the washing of hands, in building early defence against disease.

(CARIBBEAN NEWS NOW)



Staff members partake of the delicious food!

## What's Up ... upcoming events in the Caribbean

| DATE           | EVENT  | LOCATION           |
|----------------|--|--------------------|
| 6-9 November   | Jazz Festival  | Dominican Republic |
| 6-16 November  | Pirate Week  | Cayman Islands     |
| 14-15 November | Caribbean technical meeting Beijing +20 review and appraisal | Santiago, Chile    |
| 30 November    | Run In The Sun (marathon)                                    | Curacao            |

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