



TRADE AGREEMENTS

ECLAC MEETING
DISCUSSES NEW TRADE
POLICY STRATEGIES

ARTS AND CRAFTS

ECLAC HOSTS MEMBERS OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S
CENTRAL HANDICRAFT
ASSOCIATION OF ARTISANS
AND TALENTED TRADERS

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF
INTEGRATIVE SCIENCES,
OPENS ITS DOORS IN
BARBADOS.



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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.

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Non-profit Organisation

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October Events

6-10

Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption
6 - 10 November 2017

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World Diabetes Day
14 November 2017

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Universal Children's Day
20 November 2017

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Meeting to Establish a task force to advance the ECLAC debt for climate adaptation swap initiative, Port of Spain.
23 November 2017

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International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
25 November 2017



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Oct 24

Happy United Nations Day 2017!
More here: <http://www.un.org/en/events/unday/messages.shtml>



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CARIBBEAN TO BENEFIT FROM ECLAC'S NEW DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

In an effort to improve disaster risk management (DRM) strategies on the heels of two major hurricanes, namely Irma and Maria, which devastated several Caribbean islands between October and November, ECLAC Caribbean's newest policy brief zeroes in on the need to mainstream DRM into development policy planning.

This policy brief, entitled 'Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management Strategies in Developing Instruments', presents an analysis of development issues and instruments, such as national development plans and climate change adaptation strategies. ECLAC's paper also includes policy recommendations to strengthen the role of DRM and to improve the use of resources through multisectoral projects that build resilience to disasters and climate change.

DRM is the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events.

It is understood that disasters set back accomplishments in social and economic gains, whilst highlighting existing vulnerabilities and disparities, and putting strain on national budgets.

Therefore, following a disaster, Caribbean countries face a potentially greater reversal in the economic and social improvements achieved in recent years. In addition, their portfolio of investments could be affected by spending shifts that force the diversion of resources

destined for productive sectors and to social spending.

The policy brief underscores that disasters have more significant effects and impacts in developing countries than in developed countries. On average, the cost of a disaster in low-income countries is equivalent to one percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), while in high-income countries it is reduced to 0.25%.

After a disaster, a society demands quick action, including timely, fast and efficient emergency response. Meanwhile, reconstruction should follow general guidelines for a local development vision. Since reconstruction is usually expensive, it should be subject to a social cost-benefit assessment. If a decision is made to undertake a reconstruction process,



Urgent action on climate change necessary for the Caribbean

it must contain both a master plan defining criteria for location and resilient reconstruction of the affected structures, as well as criteria of economic and social viability of the territory affected by the event. However, disaster risk reduction is not feasible unless it is accompanied by a considerable reduction of social vulnerabilities and a strategy to make a disaster-affected territory economically viable.

In this regard, it is expected that the Caribbean will benefit from ECLAC's policy brief, insofar as it may be used to identify the strengths and weaknesses of countries' DRM policies, and to analyse how these interact with other planning and development instruments. ■

"Climate change is expected to increase the intensity and frequency of droughts in the Caribbean, and there is a need to enhance the capacity to deal with the inevitable challenge," said ECLAC Caribbean Director, Diane Quarless, speaking at the opening ceremony of the International Climate Change Conference in the Caribbean, which took place in October 2017 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

Quarless underscored that climate change is real, and described a recent experience. "After recent visits to Anguilla, Barbuda, Dominica, and Sint Maarten, in preparation for ECLAC's damage and loss assessment missions, the devastation, dislocation and misery brought by Hurricanes Irma and Maria were simply mind-boggling and heart-wrenching for us. The people, their homes, lives and livelihoods were reduced to rubble. I still have in my mind's eye huge trees from Dominica's natural forests, stripped of their bark, branches and leaves being carried along in the fiercely rushing waters of rivers and creating an incredible log jam in the heart of the capital, Roseau. There were cars carried by wind and water over bridges

and roads, being reduced to scrap metal. It was hard to comprehend the force of nature that could create these phenomena."

In this context, she noted that the conference was timely and urgent. "This forum would raise the level of public awareness across the subregion and beyond, regarding the work currently being undertaken in the Caribbean to tackle climate change head on."

Quarless said ECLAC has undertaken substantive research and focused economic assessments of the challenge which climate change poses to the economies of the Caribbean, providing a framework completed with data, parameters and other measures that can be used to inform economic policy dialogue in responding to the challenge over the medium term.

"ECLAC is also working to address key related issues such as the impact of climate change on sustainable development, and the need to explore innovative sources of climate financing to meet the cost of adaptation across the subregion." ■



FEATURE ARTICLE

ECLAC MEETING DISCUSSES NEW TRADE POLICY STRATEGIES





On Wednesday 8 November 2017, ECLAC Caribbean convened an expert group meeting (EGM) to discuss an upcoming study entitled 'Monitoring trade agreements: improving export performance and promoting industrialization in the goods-producing economies of the Caribbean'.

READ ARTICLE 



ECLAC meeting discusses New Trade Policy Strategies

Following the meeting, The Hummingbird sat down for a one-on-one chat with the Coordinator of ECLAC Caribbean's Economic Development Unit, Sheldon McLean, to get his perspective.

Q: What motivated the need for this study?

All Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member States, with the exception of The Bahamas and Montserrat, are members of the World Trade Organization (WTO). However, more than 20 years after the establishment of the WTO, the Caribbean has seen very little trade expansion and, indeed, has witnessed the decline in exports for some of its key commodities such as sugar, rice and bananas. This is in spite of the fact that CARICOM has entered into a number of trade agreements which offer improved or preferential market access, including bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Partial Scope Agreements (PSAs).

Q: What did the study focus on?

The study examined the trade performance and challenges faced by the region's exporters in their attempt to capitalise on market opportunities provided by Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs). Three goods producing Caribbean economies (Belize, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago) were



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selected as case studies for an examination of their performance under two PTAs to which they are signatory.

Q: What was the rationale for Caribbean countries to enter these PTAs?

First of all, we need to understand that the trade agreements were regarded as necessary to generate additional demand to boost exports as well as to exploit opportunities for joint production. In relatively small, open economies such as those in the Caribbean, the export sector plays a strategic role in fostering the diversification of a country's economic base and improving growth rates on a sustainable basis. However, capitalizing on such opportunities requires focused policies and strategies, including those related to investments, as well as the provision of support services to enterprises in meeting the many challenges associated with international trade.

Q: What are some of the overall findings of the paper?

Study findings indicate that all three economies displayed a high degree of trade openness with exports concentrated in a few markets, particularly the United States (US) and the European Union (EU). Moreover, it was determined that a high degree of product concentration among exports existed such that a few products account for a substantial share of the total value of exports. More significantly, the study revealed that a large share of exports for all three countries can be categorized as either primary production (i.e. commodities) or production with little technological intensity. This in turn signals the need for producers to vertically diversify in order to capture more value added in their product's value chain. However, a number of limitations exist that impede their ability to diversify in this way.





Q: What are these limitations?

Challenges to increasing both production and exports include limited access to finance, limited market information, high costs of entering markets, quality related issues, logistic bottlenecks, and access to raw materials.

Q: What needs to be done in order to address these limitations?

Due to the changing global trading landscape, as well as the economic and fiscal circumstances of many Caribbean economies, it is necessary for the current regional model to be reshaped in order to optimize economic growth rates, and achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Q: In practical terms, how can this be achieved?

Private sector stakeholders must take full advantage of market access opportunities furnished by PTAs. In order for this to happen, the private sector must drive the types of

PTAs entered. In addition, it is also essential that trade-related and industrial policies designed to address bottlenecks, increase productivity and induce the requisite structural transformation are implemented so that each Caribbean economy can successfully integrate into the multilateral trading system.

Q: How does the Caribbean situation compare to that of other economies?

Caribbean countries are relatively open when compared to other economies, with many subregional economies having trade openness indices – which is the sum of exports and imports expressed as percentage of GDP - in excess of 100%. On average, Caribbean economies have been consistently more open than other small island developing States (SIDS) as well as other developing countries. Among the Caribbean goods producers, Belize’s trade openness index was over 120% in 2015, while Suriname’s trade openness has steadily declined over the last decade. Belize has even managed to maintain

trade openness indices above the Caribbean average. It must be noted that the small resource and production base of many Caribbean countries predispose them to be highly dependent on extra-regional imports, including strategic imports such as food, energy and inputs into production. This makes them particularly vulnerable to shocks in availability as well as cost of these imports.

Q: How can the three countries examined benefit from the study?

The study presents a framework that can be used to create a platform for economic diversification and export expansion. It explores the recent trade performance of the countries in question under selected trade agreements, and presents possible avenues to strengthen export expansion both at the intensive and extensive margins.

ECLAC’s study will be published by the end of 2017. ■

BELIZE – GARIFUNA SETTLEMENT DAY CELEBRATIONS



Garifuna Settlement Day - Ian Morton BY/CC

November 19 marks a special holiday in Belize — Garifuna Settlement Day. The Garifuna are mixed African, Carib Indian and Arawak Indian people who were deemed enemies of the British during a series of Carib Wars in the 1700's. They were exiled to Roatan from Saint Vincent, which they found uninhabitable at the time. They then made their way to the mainland, eventually settling along the Central American coast.

Belize is home to numerous Garifuna villages, including Hopkins, Dangriga and Punta Gorda. The Garifuna culture is such an important part of Belize's history that even UNESCO recognizes it. In 2001, UNESCO proclaimed the language, dance, and the music of the Garifuna as a 'Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity' in Nicaragua, Honduras, and Belize.

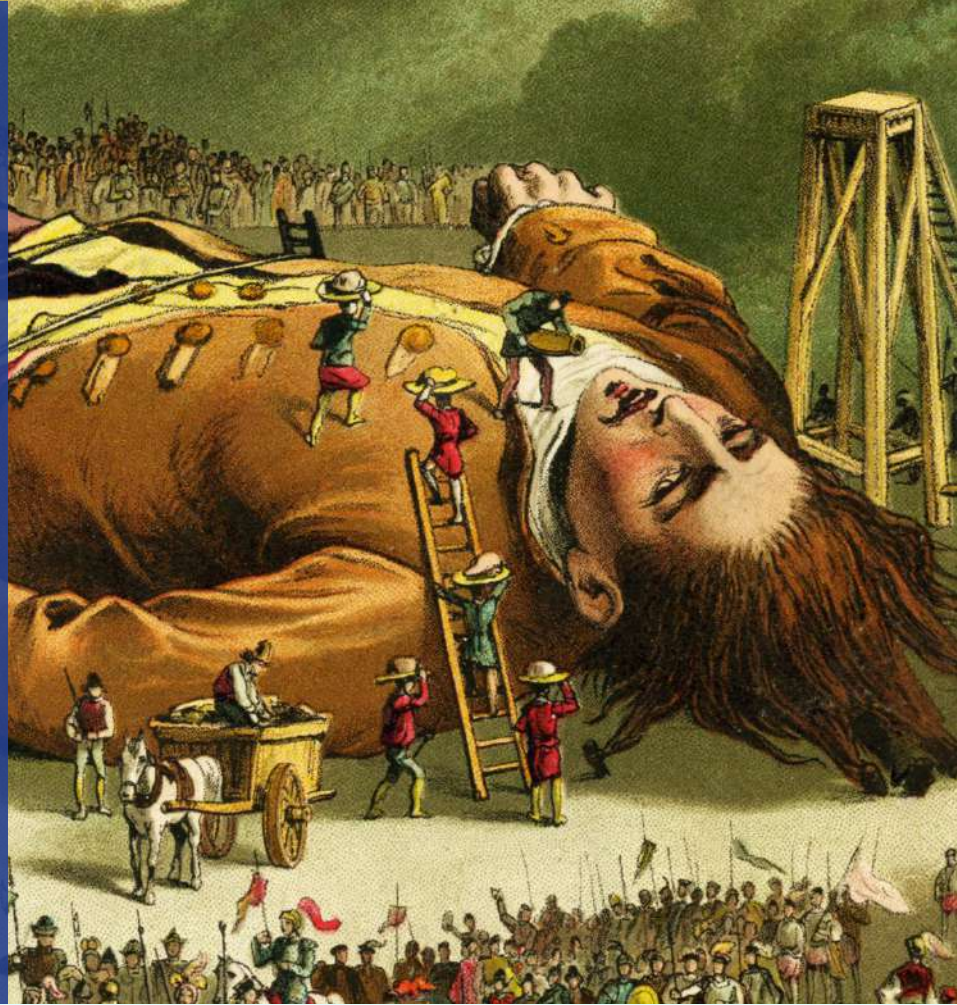
In the week leading up to November 19, celebrations and events are held all over the country to recognize and share the importance of the Garifuna culture in Belize.

On the eve of Garifuna Settlement Day, villages throw big parties and stay up all night before heading straight to reenactment ceremonies.

On November 19, the island of Ambergris Caye holds an annual reenactment ceremony, which is filled with drumming, singing, and the reenactment of the Garifuna landing in Belize for the first time. There is also an annual Battle of the Drums in Punta Gorda, where villages from all over Belize, and several international teams, meet to show off their skill and artistry in five different types of Garifuna drumming. ■

“LILLIPUTIANS CAN TIE UP GULLIVER”

THE CARIBBEAN AND THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION



Once upon a time, a discoverer by the name of Lemuel Gulliver was washed upon the shores of Lilliput, after being shipwrecked. He found himself held captive by the Lilliputians who were approximately 6 inches tall. It is interesting to note that despite their size, the Lilliputians were able to capitalize on their strengths in engineering to restrain any threat to the state's welfare. Likewise, the Caribbean subregion is able to capitalize on its strengths, regardless of the issue of 'smallness' within the international system.

Liina Areng (2014) indicates that the digital revolution has changed roles and responsibilities in cyberspace,

allowing small states to be smart in the cycle of foreign dependency and vulnerability. Cyberspace is borderless with unlimited capacity for information sharing and awareness. As such, it is in the best interest of 'Lilliputs' to utilize digital power for cyber crisis management, diplomatic advocacy, enhancement of clustering and economies of scale as well as national security awareness.

The power of Caribbean countries can be measured by digital capacity rather than population and geographical size. Moreover, smart choices allow small states to compete on the level of larger states. A specific niche is identified and

can thereafter be maximized. In complement, digital power gives a clear asymmetric advantage.

However, in order for this theory to be translated into practice, states need to be smart and innovative in governance, possess low levels of bureaucracy and easily accessible public services, and enforce quality education, good healthcare and a fair and inclusive society – which are all aspects that echo the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ■

WOMEN'S EQUALITY AND RIGHTS DISCUSSED IN HAVANA



Nearly one third of Latin American women do not manage to generate income, and nearly half have no ties to the labour market.

This was revealed recently when representatives from Latin America and Caribbean countries gathered in Havana, Cuba to discuss the issue of gender equality and women's rights over the last 40 years. The occasion was the 56th Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women, held in October 2017, which was supported by a significant ECLAC team led by Executive Secretary Alicia Bárcena, and which included ECLAC Caribbean Director, Diane Quarless.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Ms Bárcena expressed ECLAC's solidarity with the Cuban government and people over the devastating effects caused by Hurricane Irma on the island. Bárcena described the Conference – which in 2000 became known as the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean – “as a meeting place, for dialogue and agreement among different stakeholders,” characterized by “continuity” and “innovation.”

Concern for gender equality and women's rights has

remained constant throughout the processes of development, she said, but the approach to gender injustice has undergone innovation, giving shape to the three autonomies of women: economic, physical and in decision-making.

The meeting paid special attention to the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, approved at the XIII Conference in 2016 as a roadmap for advancement towards equality, sustainability and the full guarantee of rights.

“The Strategy is a tool for planning in complex and uncertain scenarios, to overcome obstacles that limit the scope of public policies,” Bárcena stated.

“Today, in the 21st century, poverty on our continent still has the face of a woman, given that for every 100 men in this condition, there are 118 women unable to rise above the poverty line. This is further compounded by challenges related to the wage gap, violence against women and respect for sexual and reproductive rights, among others,” she said.

The first Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America

was held almost 40 years ago in Havana 1977. It provided a regional forum for exchange after the World Conference of the International Women's Year in Mexico City in 1975, and supported the idea of social demands for women's rights and gender equality (which were starting to spread from country to country) being translated into government commitments.

On that occasion ECLAC member States adopted the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, the region's first road map for progress towards the recognition of women's contribution to society and to make visible the obstacles that they faced in improving their situation. At that same conference, the Governments gave ECLAC a mandate to convene periodically, at intervals of no more than three years, a Regional Conference on Women.

In addition to reflecting on the policies in favour of gender equality and women's rights implemented over the past 40 years in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean which make up the Regional Gender Agenda, the October 2017 meeting was also a forum for debating the main challenges that lie ahead. ■



ECLAC HOSTS ART AND CRAFT EXHIBITION

In keeping with ECLAC Caribbean's commitment to supporting the creative industries in the subregion, a group of artisans was recently invited to display the items they produce at the organization's Port of Spain headquarters.

From 25-27 October 2017, members of Trinidad and Tobago's Central Handicraft Association of Artisans and Talented Traders (CHATT) participated in a vibrant art and craft exhibition, showcasing their creative talent in areas including decorative and wearable crochet items, jewelry making, hand-painted and tie-



dyed clothing, hand-crafted lighting, glass and crystal works, and sewing.

The art and craft sector was described by ECLAC Caribbean's Director, Diane Quarless, as an important niche of the cultural and creative industry in T&T, one that should be further developed to enhance the diversity of the economy. Such diversification strengthens the resilience of small economies.

The six-year-old organization, CHATT, is based in Chaguanas, Trinidad and Tobago and was formed to provide support for artisans

in marketing their creations. The multi-crafted group of talented crafters, as they describe themselves, have been involved in several initiatives and have obtained various accolades since their inception.

These include a Craft Expo in 2013, the establishment of a Youth Arm for crafters under 18 years, a school project where CHATT tutors were able to interact with students of various schools in different areas of craft, the first and second prizes in a Horticultural Flower Show Competition in 2014, and finalist in the Best Village Competition in 2015 for the Best Display Booth.

The event hosted by ECLAC Caribbean brought life to the discussions and conclusions of a recent study on the art and craft sector completed by CLAC Caribbean.

Members of CHATT were present to share information on their work, and visitors including members of the diplomatic community and the United Nations system took the opportunity to get in some early Christmas shopping. ■





ECLAC DISCUSSES CARIBBEAN ECONOMIES AT BELIZE CONFERENCE

Economic and financial matters of interest and relevance to the Caribbean were the focus of discussions at the 49th Annual Monetary Conference, which took place in Belize City from 8-10 November 2017. ECLAC Caribbean's Deputy Director, Dr. Dillon Alleyne, attended and presented a paper on the relationship between debt accumulation, the external sector deficit and lack of robust growth in the Caribbean.

Dr. Alleyne outlined the structure of Caribbean economies. He said that, "The Caribbean's high debt burden has mostly

focused on raising taxes and curbing expenditure, despite sluggish domestic and external demand, in order to reduce government's borrowing requirements and stabilise the debt overhang."

Dr. Alleyne noted that since the global economic crisis, Caribbean economies - whether as goods producers or service producers - have been limping along with average growth of 1.8% in 2011, 0.4% in 2015 and less than 2% expected in 2017. Low growth has been accompanied by high unemployment, with rates varying between 12-15% from 2011 to 2015. In particular, Dr

Alleyne argued that this low growth challenge reflects falling import capacity, which is a major constraint facing the small open economies of the Caribbean.

Against this backdrop, Dr. Alleyne highlighted that the aim of this study was to determine how trade deficit drives debt accumulation, and how said deficit may also impact on growth and income distribution in the region. In order to do so, Dr. Alleyne explained that he utilized a modified Kaleck model (named after the famous Polish economist Michal Kalecki) to investigate whether debt accumulation is



ECLAC calls for collaboration among telecommunications agencies

due to excessive fiscal spending, or whether it is linked to deeper structural challenges, such as falling competitiveness, which generates pressures on governments as the employer of last resort to maintain spending.

Participants at the Conference included representatives from Central banks, the University of the West Indies, the University of Belize, Galen University, the International Monetary Fund, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre and other regional academic and financial institutions. ■

Agencies such as the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, International Telecommunications Union, CANTO and ECLAC Caribbean can work together to provide a framework for tangible solutions in the area of digital currency,”

This according to the Coordinator of ECLAC’s Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre, Peter Nicholls, who made this statement at the ‘Central Bank Meets Blockchain’ seminar, which was held in Barbados in September 2017.

Participating in a panel discussion on ‘Financial Inclusion, Telecomms, Mobile Operators, Digital Currency’, Nicholls also outlined some of the areas of ECLAC Caribbean’s engagement in the field of digital currency. These include a study on ‘Opportunities and Risks Associated with the advent of Digital Currency’, and a 2016 workshop in collaboration with FinnTech and the Regulatory Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, which provided

an opportunity for relevant stakeholders to share common concerns.

Nicholls also addressed the importance of legal identity as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), whereby approximately 1.6 billion people did not have a birth certificate and therefore had no identity. “This is one area where Blockchain can provide an opportunity,” Nicholls said.

“SDG 16.9 calls for legal identity for all by 2030, as the first step towards financial and social inclusion which is what we are all trying to achieve.”

In this regard, Nicholls noted that this work had already been started by the Commonwealth Law Ministers in their ‘Legal Identity for All’ document. “In this particular SDG,” he said, “there are opportunities for public private partnership where the private sector can play a major role in solving this problem. This is one that we are hoping can be resolved long before 2030.” ■



MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OPENS ITS DOORS IN BARBADOS

In early October, 17 student doctors donned their ceremonial white coats, in Bridgetown, Barbados. This marked not only their rite of passage into the profession of medicine, but also made them the first group of students to enter the American University of Integrative Sciences (AUIS), School of Medicine at the campus' new home in Barbados.

Founded in 1999, the AUIS was previously known as the University of St Eustatius School of Medicine, and was established on the island of St Eustatius by a group of medical school educators and administrators.

In 2013, the school came under the ownership of the International Educational Management Resources LLC, based in Atlanta, Georgia.

Speaking at the ceremony to mark the official opening of the university's Basic Sciences

Facility, Dr Edward Layne, a gastroenterologist and native of Barbados, provided the background of the AUIS' move to Barbados.

Layne, who served as the honorary consul for Barbados in Atlanta for the past 20 years before his retirement last December, was instrumental in paving the way for the institution's move to Barbados.

"Two years ago, a young visionary entered my office, his name was Mr Milo Pinckney (Managing Director of AUIS). He said to me, 'Dr. Layne, I am not a doctor but I am the son of a physician entrepreneur with Caribbean roots'. He said 'I am a businessman, who owns a medical school and have several patents in the field of medical technology', and that in my opinion may be able to revolutionise the training of young doctors and the practice of medicine."

Layne's curiosity was peaked

as Pinckney explained his interest in moving the university to Barbados and deploying a patented, medical information technology device called the Clinical Activity Rotation Log or CARL.

The device contains the templates for state-of-the-art training programmes that encompass traditional western medicine as well as the proven aspects of complementary and alternative medicine, now called CAM.

Admittedly impressed by what the young businessman had to say, Layne introduced him to the Barbados Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator Maxine McClean, while hosting the fourth biennial Barbados Comes to Atlanta event in May 2016. Thankfully, she saw the merit in what they presented when they proposed to move AUIS to Barbados. ■

STATE *of* AFFAIRS



Barbados

BRITISH FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE MINISTER VISITS

- Nov 9 -

On 8 November, Britain's Minister of State with responsibility for the Caribbean and the Commonwealth, Lord Ahmad, paid his first official visit to Barbados. Ahmad's engagements included meetings with members of the Government of Barbados, representatives from the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and members of the local business community. Discussions included the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting, post-Brexit trading arrangements with the region, and joint efforts to combat organised crime across the Eastern Caribbean.

REMOVAL OF PESTICIDE STOCK

- Nov 16 -

In a commitment to agricultural safety and human health, Barbados is among 10 Caribbean countries that are now free from significant quantities of hazardous pesticide waste. The collective efforts to achieve the disposal of hazardous pesticides was made possible by cooperation between the governments of the countries and the coordinating group of pesticide control boards of the Caribbean (CGPC) with the support of technical expertise from the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).



Belize

CARICOM-MEXICO SUMMIT

- Oct 25 -

The CARICOM-Mexico summit brought together CARICOM heads of government and their foreign ministers, and the President of Mexico and his foreign minister. Disaster management and recovery was a major focus of the summit's discussions. The summit, which was held in Belize, was co-chaired by CARICOM chairman, Prime Minister Dr Keith Mitchell of Grenada, and the President of Mexico Enrique Peña Nieto. Also present at the Summit's opening was CARICOM Secretary-General Irwin LaRocque, and the Prime Minister of Belize, Dean Barrow.

CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

- Nov 7 -

Belize's Social Investment Fund (SIF), a government agency, has set in motion plans to incorporate climate risk management (CRM) in its national project development process. In recognizing Belize's high vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, including natural disasters such as hurricanes, the Caribbean Development Bank funded a training workshop for SIF's stakeholders. By incorporating CRM in its project development, the SIF will be better able to make climate considerations in its interventions.



Jamaica

UNDP LAUDS CLIMATE CHANGE EFFORTS

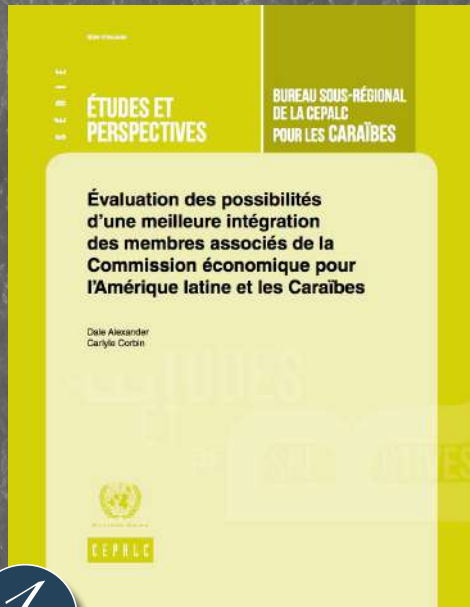
- Oct 28 -

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) lauded the Government for its significant work in creating an enabling environment for climate change adaptation and mitigation in Jamaica. Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP, Dr. Elsie Laurence-Chounoune, said the organisation recognizes "the impressive leadership of the Government in pushing forward the national agenda on both development and climate change". She noted that Jamaica is strongly positioned to advocate for an effective COP 23 outcome that can support the achievement of national targets.

US\$40 MILLION FOR ENERGY MANAGEMENT AND EFFICIENCY

- Nov 13 -

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the government of Jamaica recently signed a US\$40 million loan agreement to finance an energy management and efficiency program (EMEP). The energy efficiency program will be undertaken in schools, hospitals and public agencies, and will help cut the government's electricity bill by US\$7 million annually. Another important objective of the energy efficiency program is to make transportation more efficient as Jamaica's transportation sector consumes 30 per cent of all oil imports.



1.

Évaluation des possibilités d'une meilleure intégration des membres associés de la Commission économique pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes



3.

Report of the Leaders Activating Research Networks workshop - Caribbean

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Caribbean seminar
on women's empowerment and
migration in the Caribbean

2.



Report of the eighteenth meeting
of the Monitoring Committee of
the Caribbean Development and
Cooperation Committee

4.

Haiti Included for the First Time at the Oscars



The incipient Haitian film industry has finally begun to emerge, after the announcement on 1 November 2017 of the first entry of this Caribbean nation to the Oscars (Academy Awards), with the film, 'Ayiti Mon Amour', by director Guetty Felin.

The production exposes the portrait of a post-earthquake nation that cries for its more than 220,000 dead residents, but rises from the rubble. It is nominated in the category of Best Foreign Film.

Felin, is a filmmaker born in Haiti, and raised between the Caribbean nation and New York. She traveled to Port-au-Prince on an emergency plane 10 days after the disaster of 2010, and tried to remember in the film each of the scenes encountered when disembarking, "Images that will stay with me throughout the practice of my film career," she stated.

Seven years later, 'Ayiti Mon Amour' marks not only the emergence of a new distinctive voice in Haitian cinema, but also a milestone in the country's cultural recovery, as the first narrative production filmed locally and directed by a woman.

Taking advantage of her previous work, Felin infuses the realities of today's Haiti, the shortage of power and water, the threats of climate change, with a lyricism that plays its mystical side. ■

Rihanna Gets Her Own Road in her hometown



Rihanna Drive

The street on which Pop music songstress, Rihanna, whose real name is Robyn Fenty, grew up on in Barbados will soon bear her name.

This as the government of Barbados recently announced that on the island's next Independence Day – November 30 – it will officially change the name of Westbury New Road to Rihanna Drive in honour of the superstar.

Rihanna, who was named

an ambassador for youth and culture in 2008, will unveil the new signage along with Prime Minister Freundel Stuart at a two-hour ceremony on the afternoon of the island's 51st Anniversary of Independence.

Westbury New Road is already a tourist attraction, with many people visiting the area to see the house where the pop sensation spent her childhood.

In 2012, talk show mogul, Oprah Winfrey,

accompanied by Rihanna and a camera crew, visited the area and the home the songstress shared with her parents and two brothers until she left for the United States at the age of 16.

Scenes from the visit were aired in a one-hour interview on Oprah's Next Chapter which was aired on Winfrey's channel, OWN.

Rihanna has proudly spoken about where she's from, and even named her record label Westbury Road Entertainment. ■

Grenada, the Caribbean Capital of Chocolate



It is said that cocoa absorbs the flavour of anything around it. That's the thing about cocoa, the fruit whose fermented seeds are the basis for chocolate.

Whether it's mango or papaya or nutmeg, everything in a cocoa tree's environment will end up, in some manifestation, in the bean — and, eventually, in the bar.

It's no surprise, then, that a place called the Spice Isle (Grenada) would produce some of the globe's most exciting cocoa — and some of its best chocolate.

The story of Grenadian chocolate goes back to 1714, when cocoa trees were first introduced to the island. The industry grew to the point that, by the 1760s, Grenada was the largest producer and exporter of cocoa, responsible for about 50 percent of British West Indian cocoa exports. In 1772, Grenada

exported 343,400 pounds of cocoa.

But while Grenada's colonial history was filled with cocoa growing, for centuries, little of it actually found its way into chocolate.

Things changed, however, in 1999, when Mott Green, Doug Browne and Edmond Brown joined forces to create a cooperative for cocoa farmers around the island, and established Grenada's first modern "tree to bar" integration in a factory in St Patricks.

What became the Grenada Chocolate Company put Grenadian chocolate on the map, and paved the way for what has become a major industry on the island.

Today, there are four major chocolate companies on the island: the Grenada Chocolate Company, Jouvay, Crayfish

Bay and, notably, Belmont Estate, which recently officially launching its production.

The Belmont Estate is a full-fledged destination in its own right, home to a 17th-century plantation with an organic farm, a garden, a terrific restaurant and cocoa processing facilities.

It's a way to experience authentic cocoa production and see the process unfold from harvesting to fermentation to air-drying and polishing and, more importantly, to see how the beans turn into chocolate, both dark and milk chocolate — the latter the only of its kind produced in Grenada.

It should be noted that the fruit is normally called cacao. In Grenada, though, they call it cocoa. But when you make stuff that tastes this good, you can call it whatever you want! ■

United Nations Day

Two major activities were held this year, to commemorate the United Nations Day on 24 October 2017.

First, the Social Events Committee at ECLAC Caribbean organized a boat ride on the northwest coast of Trinidad and Tobago, with a tour of the tiny islands close to Chaguaramas. There was lots of food, fun and

festivity – a definite ‘fun and sun’ event, as the staff and family who attended described it as the best “Trini UN lime” ever!

Two days later, a more sober event was held to officially mark UN Day. This was a regional townhall meeting at the United Nations Information Centre in Port of Spain.

Staff members from several agencies in Trinidad and Tobago joined colleagues to celebrate the organization’s 72nd anniversary, and to highlight some of the achievements made in the Caribbean.

Here are some photo memories of those two events. ■

UN Day Photos courtesy Gennike Mayers of the ILO Decent Work Team



Brown Bag: Migration and refugees

The issue of Migration took centre stage at the most recent Brown Bag lunch session organized by ECLAC Caribbean.

Providing insight into the plight of refugees and the migration patterns of asylum seekers to Trinidad and Tobago was Ruben Barbado, Protection Officer at UNHCR in Port of Spain.

Barbado outlined the differences between refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, and explained the mandate of UNHCR in Trinidad and Tobago as being to “protect refugees around the world – to ensure that everyone has the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to eventually return home, migrate or resettle.”

Here are some photographic highlights from this session. ■





Leftover Turkey Casserole

What you will need:

3 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 (12 fluid ounce) can evaporated milk
1 cup water
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/4 teaspoon onion powder
2 tablespoons butter
1 cup finely crushed herb-seasoned dry bread stuffing mix
1 cup cooked, diced turkey meat
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
2 cups leftover mashed potatoes

What you need to do:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease a 9x13 inch baking dish
2. Melt 3 tablespoons butter in a saucepan over low heat. Blend in the flour. Slowly stir in evaporated milk and water, then season with salt, pepper, and onion powder. Stir sauce over low heat for 5 minutes.
3. In a separate saucepan over low heat, melt 2 tablespoons butter. Blend in the dry stuffing mix. Place the turkey in the prepared baking dish. Pour the sauce over turkey, then sprinkle with Cheddar cheese. Spread mashed potatoes over cheese. Top mashed potatoes with the stuffing mixture.
4. Bake 45 minutes in the preheated oven.



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