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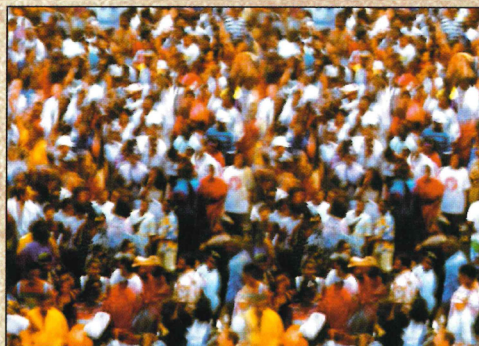
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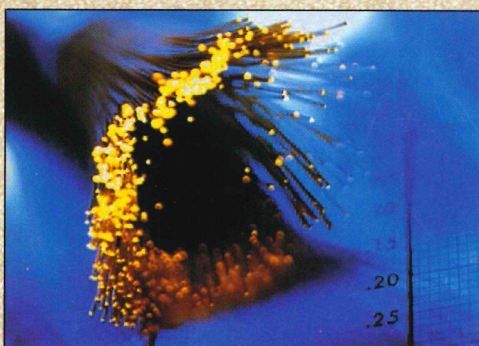
Newsletter of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)



PRELIMINARY ECONOMIC OVERVIEW OF
CARIBBEAN ECONOMIES



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1994
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
(ICPD) PROGRAMME OF ACTION IN
THE CARIBBEAN



UPDATE ON THE SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY INDICATORS PROGRAMME IN
THE SUBREGION

October –December 2003

CDCC

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

In 1975, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) – then known as ECLA – established the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) as a permanent subsidiary body at the governmental level. The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean provides secretariat services to the CDCC.

The CDCC functions as an intergovernmental organization that meets annually at the technical level and every other year at the ministerial level. Its operational activities are carried out under the regular ECLAC work programme in the Caribbean, which includes economic and development planning, demography, economic surveys, the environment, international trade and trade-in-service, information for development, statistics, small island developing States, science and technology, women in development, tourism, training, and assistance with the management of national economies.

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PRELIMINARY ECONOMIC OVERVIEW OF CARIBBEAN ECONOMIES



STATES MEMBERS OF THE ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES (OECS)¹

In 2003, the States members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) noted a gradual process of economic recovery following two years of negative growth (-2.1%, -0.3% and 1% in 2001, 2002 and 2003 respectively). The recovery was led by the tourism sector. The performance of agriculture reflected the sector's long standing technical and financial difficulties as well as unfavorable external conditions. The agricultural sector faces additional pressures as, within the foreseeable future, it will have to confront the economic and social effects resulting from the progressive dismantling of preferential market access provisions. Manufacturing stagnated due to the high production costs and low productivity levels that hampered the development of its competitiveness.

The fiscal accounts deteriorated as rising current expenditure was not matched by greater revenue despite the fact that a number of OECS countries implemented tax measures to strengthen their financial position. The expansion of current expenditure responded to greater wages and salaries, and interest payments on the OECS member States' debt, which in some cases has reached significant levels. Capital expenditures were meant to enhance the physical infrastructure as a basis for sectoral growth and development.

The fiscal disequilibrium was accompanied by a rising current account deficit, which was not fully financed by foreign exchange earnings. The current account result responded to a weak merchandise export performance accompanied by a modest rise in the non-factor services account surplus. The capital and financial account outturn reflected foreign direct inflows received by the tourism sector and through official grants.

The consequent decline in reserves did not affect the currency backing position of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, which remained, as in other years, high above the statutory 60% level. The commercial banks' balance sheets registered an increase in foreign assets which is the main determinant of money supply growth.

Aside from the rising debt levels, the main current concerns of the OECS member States are related to trade

negotiations, including the impact that the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) may have on the OECS economies (which are service-based economies) and the formulation of a negotiating position that articulates the needs and specificities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Member States are also paying close attention to the ACP-EU (African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries-European Union) negotiations. The focus is on the implementation of the Cotonou Agreement, which is based on the principle of reciprocity between trading partners.

For 2004, OECS economies are likely to remain on a growth plateau as the positive effects of the recovery in tourism may be partly offset by the stagnation in agriculture and manufacturing and by impending macroeconomic imbalances.

THE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF THE LARGER CARIBBEAN ECONOMIES

The economic performance of the rest of the Caribbean countries was marked by a three-tiered growth. Trinidad and Tobago registered the highest growth rate (5.5%) and looks poised to maintain a robust growth path as the energy sector continues to benefit from capital inflows.

¹ The States members of the OECS include Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent, and the Grenadines. The analysis here presented covers all member States with the exception of the British Virgin Islands. These States form a currency union and fall under the monetary authority of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB). These economies have three different fiscal years. Dominica's fiscal year starts in July and ends in June. The fiscal year in Anguilla, St. Kitts and Nevis and Montserrat coincides with the calendar year. The rest of the economies have a fiscal year spanning from April to March. ECCB reports the fiscal accounts on a calendar-year basis to make them comparable.

Following Trinidad and Tobago, Belize (3%), Suriname (2.7%), The Bahamas (2%) and Barbados (2%) exhibited moderate growth. Their performance is explained mainly, as in the OECS economies, by the recovery of the tourism sector following the events of 11 September 2001. In both economies, visitor arrivals and tourist expenditures increased. Belize's growth was driven by public expenditure and is likely to decline as the deterioration of the fiscal accounts will force the authorities to adopt a contractive policy stance. In the case of Suriname, growth resulted from foreign direct investment in the mining sector and from a disciplined economic policy aimed at correcting short-term macroeconomic disequilibria.

Finally, Jamaica and Guyana recorded the lowest growth rates (1.5% and 1%, respectively). Jamaica was affected by high government deficits and an unstable currency position. Guyana's growth was hampered by the sluggishness of most economic sectors and the burden of its external debt.

The rate of inflation increased in Guyana and Jamaica due mainly to internal conditions as external prices remained stable throughout the year. Guyana's expanded rate of inflation was propelled by higher fuel costs. In the case of Jamaica, the behavior of the rate of inflation is explained by the depreciation of the domestic currency, which occurred following the announcement at the end of 2002 that the actual budget deficit would double its estimated level. The operations of the Central Government over the fiscal year yielded a deficit twice above the established target (7.7% and 4.4% of GDP actual and estimated) (See Box).

All economies (with the exception of The Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago) witnessed an increase in their fiscal deficit. Guyana registered the biggest fiscal deficit (13% of GDP) followed by Jamaica (8% of GDP). In the case of Guyana the increase in the fiscal deficit is explained by the expansion in capital expenditures. For Jamaica, the result responded to a rise in the recurrent expenditure of the

government and, more specifically, in public programmes and personal emoluments.

The fiscal situation shaped, and to some extent, determined the monetary policy course of the authorities. Listless or moderate growth in most of these economies allowed the commercial banking system to accumulate liquidity which was used to purchase government debt issued in some cases by the monetary authorities. The increased demand for government paper led to a decline in the benchmark rates of interest which was transmitted to the lending and loan interest rates.

As with the OECS, the current account deficit rose (again with the exception of Trinidad and Tobago) reflecting a poor performance of merchandise exports and in some cases of non-factor export services. The capital and financial account surplus benefited from foreign direct investment flows, government divestment proceeds, official aid and grants. Guyana recorded the largest current account disequilibrium.

At the subregional level, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) economies have continued to perfect the Common Market and Single Economy initiative due to come on stream by the year 2005 by allowing the free movement of labor for certain job categories and creating the Caribbean Court of Justice. In addition, CARICOM economies have agreed to put in place a Regional Stabilisation Fund facility to provide short-term credit to confront macroeconomic imbalances and a Trade Support Fund aimed at fostering economic and commercial stability of the subregion.

For 2004 the picture for most non-OECS economies is bleak. Trinidad and Tobago will continue to register high rates of growth, and Barbados and The Bahamas moderate rates of economic expansion. The growth prospects for the rest of the economies are overshadowed by currency concerns (Jamaica and Suriname), macroeconomic disequilibria (Belize and Guyana) and sectoral stagnation (Guyana). ■

The currency depreciation in Jamaica in its interpretation

The official interpretation of the foreign exchange rate behavior in Jamaica is rooted in the disequilibrium in the fiscal accounts. Starting from an investment-savings balance macroeconomic accounting framework, an increase in the fiscal deficit implies that foreign savings must rise or that in its absence the current account must be in deficit.

In the absence of any fiscal counteracting measures on the expenditure or revenue side the financing of the deficit increases the government debt. In the financial systems' balances, the government debt (which is an asset) can be matched by greater money creation (a liability). In the absence of restrictions on foreign exchange transactions and a favorable interest rate spread (enhanced by the fact that the exchange rate depreciation risk is low), as in the case of Jamaica, the increase in liquidity can find an outlet in domestic and/or foreign goods/services and domestic assets. Independently of the time preference and liquidity preference decisions, the most likely outcome is an increase in prices, which can translate into an appreciation of the exchange rate and an increase in imports.

Both can lead to a wider current account deficit and a decline in international reserves. In turn, the decline in international reserves and the expectation of a continuing fiscal deficit can lead agents to expect a currency depreciation and in fact to act upon it. The consequent exchange rate depreciation feeds back into prices through a cost mechanism and acts as a further pressuring factor on the current account and international reserves. As mentioned above, the authorities can intervene by defending the domestic currency through international reserves or interest rate increases. This, however, will only exacerbate the process until the root of the problem – that is, the fiscal deficit – is tackled.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1994 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (ICPD) PROGRAMME OF ACTION IN THE CARIBBEAN



Government officials from 20 countries in the Caribbean gathered in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 11 and 12 November 2003 to review and appraise the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in the Caribbean, 10 years after its adoption in Cairo. They were joined by observers from the regional and international NGO community, and by representatives of the diplomatic corps and other United Nations agencies.

At the opening of the two-day meeting, Trinidad and Tobago Minister of Planning and Development, Ms. Camille Robinson-Regis, described the 1994 Cairo conference as "revolutionary in its thinking and

The 1994 Cairo conference was revolutionary in its thinking and concepts: the issue of population was no longer only about numbers but about living, breathing human beings...

concepts... for no longer was the issue of population only about numbers - it was and is about living, breathing human beings facing life's daily challenges." She continued, "It is about gender equality and equity, and the rejection of all forms of gender-based violence.... It is about improving the quality of life for all mankind."

Ms. Marisela Padron, Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Division of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), commended Caribbean countries for their commitment to

implementing the ICPD Programme of Action despite limited financial resources. While noting the reduction in infant and maternal morbidity and mortality rates, Ms. Padron called for greater attention to ensuring equal access to reproductive health information and services for all.

Acting Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, Mr. Daniel Blanchard, noted the role of the Caribbean in advancing the ICPD process over the past decade, from its inception at Cairo in 1994. He assured the meeting of ECLAC's commitment to helping Caribbean countries translate global and regional commitments into national action plans.

During the substantive meeting sessions, expert panels addressed HIV/AIDS and population, and poverty issues. Recent figures on the scope of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the Caribbean emerged from the first panel, which led a discussion on the impact of the growing infection rates (particularly among the younger population) on the subregion's present and future socio-economic development. Poverty, high unemployment and limited access to reproductive health information and commodities were identified as the major contributors to the rapid spread of the virus. The expert session on poverty highlighted the challenge to Caribbean governments of increasing poverty levels within the framework of globalization, trade liberalization and the free market. Discussants noted the need for a joint effort by all stakeholders to improve the quality of life of Caribbean populations,



ECLAC/UNFPA organizing team for the Caribbean subregional meeting to assess the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action

The ICPD Programme of Action: a brief history of implementation over the past decade

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994 was a milestone in the field of population and development. The 20-year forward looking Programme of Action on population, gender, and reproductive health and reproductive rights was adopted globally by 179 United Nations member States present, including representatives from the Caribbean.

Five years later, a number of round table and technical meetings were held all over the world to learn about successes and constraints experienced in the implementation of the agreed goals. Many partners, programme and donor countries, the United Nations System, and representatives of civil society – including NGOs and the private sector – participated in these meetings. A Special Session of the General Assembly convened in June 1999 to discuss the outcome of this review process and to elaborate on strategies to strengthen the support mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels.

The five-year review meeting on implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean was held in 1998 in Port of Spain; 16 CDCC member and associate member countries participated. The review document* was unanimously endorsed and the meeting reaffirmed its commitment to continued implementation of the ICPD goals in the subregion.

The tenth anniversary of the conference presents the opportunity to measure achievements and identify obstacles in implementation of the Programme of Action. Support of the Programme of Action and commitment to meeting its goals – by partners within both the developed and the developing world – are also being appraised. Have the developed countries met their goals and provided the resources to support the less and least developed countries? Have the national machineries in the developing world created an enabling environment for the execution of such programmes and policies? These and other questions will be explored in the various assessments currently being conducted all over the world.

* *Caribbean Subregional Review and Appraisal Report on the Implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, LC/CAR/G.549, 3 December 1998.*

especially among such vulnerable groups as migrants, women, youth and the elderly.

CARIBBEAN SUBREGIONAL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL

For this subregional review and appraisal activity, and prior to the Meeting, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean and the UNFPA collaborated in assisting CDCC member countries to evaluate implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. Based on the findings of a UNFPA Field Inquiry, which was conducted worldwide, and a subregional data collection exercise conducted by ECLAC/CDCC, a background document¹ was prepared to further assist governments in the evaluation process.



Meeting in Session

The document reports on the implementation activities conducted by governments and civil society at both the subregional and national levels, assessing progress made and difficulties encountered. It includes an analysis of policies and programmes to advance gender equity and equality, and examines the availability of reproductive health services and policies to promote reproductive rights. It considers the impact of HIV/AIDS and the responses of the Caribbean to the epidemic, as well as the special needs of adolescents and older persons. It also addresses broader aspects of population and development, such as the interrelationships between



Left to right: Ms. Hetty Sarjeant, UNFPA Representative for the Caribbean; Dr. Jacqueline Sharpe, President, Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago; Mr. Desmond Hunte, Chairman, Population Council, Ministry of Planning and Development of Trinidad and Tobago; Ms. Marisela Padron, Director, UNFPA Latin America and Caribbean Division; Mr. Daniel Blanchard, Acting Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and issues related to regional and international migration patterns.

Other critical aspects identified are the establishment and maintenance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and the availability, as well as the efficient use, of scarce resources. Furthermore, the report provides an overview of the major economic, social and demographic trends observed in the subregion since the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action in 1994. It assesses the impact of public sector reform efforts and macroeconomic adjustment programmes, and the consequences of various aspects of globalization for population and development related issues and concerns. Finally, this document identifies a number of specific themes that have emerged from the Caribbean analysis, and which will need continued attention in the years to come.

This background document, which formed the basis of discussions at the Caribbean review meeting, will feed into the Latin American and

continued on page 9

¹ Review of the Implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean (1994-2004): Achievements and Constraints, LC/CAR/G.767, 12 November 2003.

ASSESSING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIDS PROGRAMME OF ACTION IN THE CARIBBEAN – PREPARATIONS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW MEETING

Delegates from 21 CDCC countries met in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 6 to 10 October 2003, to assess their performance in implementing the 1994 Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS POA). Meeting participants - which also included representatives of donor countries; regional, regionally based and international agencies; and the private and civil sectors – reviewed the implementation experience at both the subregional and national levels and proposed strategies for strengthening the sustainable development process. The Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States was co-sponsored by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA); the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat.

In its resolution 57/262, the United Nations General Assembly had called for an international meeting in 2004 to review implementation of the 1994 Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS POA). It had also decided that prior to the review meeting, smaller preparatory meetings should be convened in each of the Pacific, African and Caribbean regions to assess implementation at their respective national and regional levels. These would produce assessments of each region's implementation experience, which would be synthesised at an interregional meeting (to be held in The Bahamas in January 2004) and then presented to the international review meeting, scheduled for September 2004 in Mauritius.

The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean - which, with the CARICOM Secretariat, is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the SIDS POA in the subregion - has provided technical support and advice to individual CDCC countries in meeting the Programme of Action's goals. It is also in this capacity that, in April 2003, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat convened a meeting of agencies directly involved in sustainable development policy development and implementation activities, which began planning for the Caribbean regional preparatory meeting.

At the preparatory meeting, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean gave an overview of the implementation experience at the subregional level¹, which considered achievements and obstacles, and established the framework for more specific, national assessments, as well as the formulation of strategies for furthering SIDS POA objectives.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIDS POA IN THE CARIBBEAN

During the years immediately following the 1994 United Nations Global Conference on Small Island Developing States (UNGCSIDS), Caribbean countries sought to identify and order priorities, and establish the appropriate mechanisms for implementation. Subregional initiatives included the convening of the Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the SIDS POA in Barbados, 10-14 November 1997, and the formulation of a *Caribbean Model for the implementation of the SIDS POA*². Through these, Caribbean SIDS, United Nations agencies and civil society organizations, worked at developing effective strategies for meeting SIDS POA goals. In 1999, following the five-year review conducted by the United Nations General Assembly, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) developed a framework for environmental management, which

1 Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS in the Caribbean Subregion 1994-2003, LC/CAR/G.749, 19 September 2003.

2 The model comprises a Joint Secretariat (consisting of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean and the CARICOM Secretariat) and a SIDS Bureau, together with an Inter-Agency Collaborative Group (IACG) for the implementation of a Joint Work Programme (JWP).

was later adopted as the St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS.

Also during this period, Caribbean countries identified coastal and marine resources, natural and environmental disasters, climate change and sea-level rise, and management of wastes, as priorities among the 14 substantive subject areas of the SIDS POA. The structural obstacles to addressing these issues were identified as fragmented institutional arrangements, inadequate financial resources, and the need to integrate the objectives of the SIDS POA into national planning and decision-making processes.

In addition, it was felt that the Programme of Action did not promote the holistic policy-making processes that were required for sustainable development - that it lacked the specificity and breadth that would have transformed it into a more effective operational tool. During its five-year review of the SIDS POA in September 1999, the Twenty-Second Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly sought to address such shortcomings by incorporating into the implementation process areas of focus that included trade, investment, commodity issues, capital markets, unemployment, and poverty eradication. By 2001, Caribbean SIDS had integrated these elements as well as such issues as crime - including the illicit traffic and use of drugs, and HIV/AIDS - into its Joint Work Programme for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Caribbean SIDS have gained substantially from the implementation process, apparent in, for example, the experience acquired by Caribbean representatives in negotiating international environmental and sustainable development agreements, and the commitments secured from the World Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat and other organizations to support further research into the economic, social and environmental

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIDS POA: THE ROLE OF ECLAC

The following is excerpted from the Statement delivered by the Acting Deputy Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean at the Opening Ceremony of the Caribbean Review Meeting:

"As we embark on the review process from the perspective of the small island developing States of the Caribbean subregion, I envisage that our meeting will be devoted to, among other things:

- **An assessment of progress made in the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action, both by individual countries and the subregion as a whole;**
- **An evaluation of the implementation of the commitments that were assumed by the international community in Barbados to underpin the implementation process - what is referred to in the POA as Means of Implementation;**
- **The sharing of best practices and lessons learned;**
- **The identification of the obstacles and constraints encountered in the implementation process and the initiatives to overcoming them;**
- **The reaffirmation of commitment to the goals and objectives agreed in Barbados; and**
- **The formulation of recommendations for the future implementation of the SIDS POA.**

Overall, the focus of the meeting should be on implementation. What specific elements have been implemented? What remains to be done? And how and by what means? These are some of the questions that we should attempt to address during the coming days.

[T]he activities envisaged to conclude the preparations for the 2004 International Meetings also underlines the importance of reaching concrete and specific conclusions. The Interregional Meeting that will convene in The Bahamas in January 2004 is intended to formulate joint proposals from the SIDS of all geographical subregions with respect to the future implementation of the Programme of Action. It will also provide inputs for the Final Document (or Documents) that will be adopted in Mauritius. This Caribbean Meeting therefore needs to articulate clear proposals that would feed into that process.

As we move further along into this meeting, I hope you will have a chance to better appreciate the role of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in the implementation of the POA. For the moment, I would simply like to give some ideas of what the SIDS of the Caribbean might expect from further implementation efforts.

Regional Commissions recognize the need for the international sustainable development effort to be coordinated at regional, national, local, as well as global levels. In that regard, they are well positioned to promote the implementation of the multi-dimensional concept of *sustainable development* and to articulate local and national priorities consistent with regional and global realities.

Regional commissions also recognise that cooperation among countries could be promoted most effectively at the regional and subregional levels especially when dealing with complex global issues. The value of cooperation with other regional and international institutions in undertaking the responsibilities related to the implementation of the outcomes of the global conferences and summits could never be overstated.

A number of factors place regional commissions in a strategic position to coordinate regional and subregional efforts towards the goals of sustainable development. On the basis of these considerations, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean indicates its readiness to continue to be an active participant towards translating these goals into concrete initiatives, projects and activities.

In this respect, I might recall the enhanced role for the regional commissions defined by the Secretary-General of the United Nations who, in his Report to the Second Preparatory Committee of the World Summit on Sustainable Development envisaged '...the fuller utilization of the regional commissions to promote regional sustainable development strategies and review regional and national implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.'

The *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation* itself states a mandate for the regional commissions. The mandate contemplates that implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit should be effectively pursued at the regional and subregional levels, through the regional commissions and other regional and subregional bodies.

In addition, regional commissions are requested to promote the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development into their work programme in a balanced way. Furthermore, they should also assist in the mobilization of technical and financial assistance to facilitate the provision of adequate financing for the implementation of sustainable development programmes and projects at regional and subregional levels, including addressing the goal of poverty eradication.

Finally, regional commissions are also called upon to support sustainable development initiatives and programmes such as the interregional aspects of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

Against this background, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean reiterates its readiness to actively participate in the further implementation of the SIDS POA for sustained involvement on the part of its member States, thus ensuring ownership of the process by the SIDS of the subregion. ■

vulnerability of SIDS. Governments have also strengthened their collaboration with civil society in the management of natural resources, the setting of standards and the preparation of environmental policies and action plans.

FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION: BUILDING RESILIENCE TO VULNERABILITIES

Identified among the immediate issues confronting CDCC countries in its ongoing implementation of the SIDS POA are:

1. *Susceptibility to natural and man-made disasters*
2. *Underdeveloped, domestic, real and financial markets*
3. *Low economies of scale*
4. *High income volatility*
5. *Limited institutional capacity arising from a limited human resource base*
6. *Social dislocations*
7. *The impacts of accelerated globalisation*

These constitute the main challenge to Caribbean SIDS: their economic, social and environmental vulnerability.

The ECLAC/CDCC review included recommendations for,

- The establishment of mechanisms to collect data on environmental vulnerability in all SIDS that would inform vulnerability-management and resilience-building processes;
- The compilation of an Environmental Vulnerability Index to identify and measure environmental vulnerabilities in SIDS and monitor changes in response to actions and through time;
- Consideration of the special vulnerability of SIDS in the development and execution of regional and international processes (such as adjustments and assistance, as necessary); and
- Strengthened public awareness about the unique conditions of environmental vulnerability, its management and resilience building.

Participants at the Caribbean preparatory meeting also explored strategies that could build resilience of economies, societies and the natural environment to stressors at the

national, regional and international levels.

The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean concluded its presentation by proposing a negotiating strategy to be adopted by Caribbean SIDS in preparation for the International Review Meeting. Such a strategy would be directed towards securing a renewed international commitment to the sustainable development of SIDS; the entrenchment of the "vulnerability" concept within international discourse; and the financial, technical and other support required to build resilience to the constraints arising from vulnerability.

The report of the Caribbean preparatory meeting outlines the regional position that will guide CDCC member countries at the interregional meeting to be held in The Bahamas, 26 to 30 January 2004 and then at the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, which will be held in Mauritius in early September 2004. ■

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1994 ICPD PROGRAMME *(continued from page 6)*

Caribbean regional review and appraisal process, and will become a substantive part of the ECLAC regional document that is currently being prepared by the Population Division of ECLAC (CELADE).

To express their continued support for the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, the country delegates to the meeting adopted a declaration² that reaffirms their 'unequivocal commitment to the principles and actions contained in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development'. This

declaration also calls on all stakeholders at the various national, regional and global levels to accelerate their efforts and to enhance collaboration towards achieving these goals.

ICPD IN THE WIDER LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGION IN 2004

Following this technical subregional review meeting in the Caribbean, the next step in the Latin America and Caribbean regional review process is the Open-ended Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and

Development, which will be held in Santiago, Chile from 10 to 11 March 2004. Later that year, in June 2004, the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development will convene in Puerto Rico to review and assess the implementation of the ICPD commitments throughout the entire region.

At this meeting, two expert panels will address HIV/AIDS and poverty issues. Population ageing has been chosen as the substantive theme of the meeting, in follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (2002) and the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing (2003). ■

2 Declaration of the Caribbean subregional meeting to assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) 10 years after its adoption, in: Report of the Caribbean Subregional meeting to assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development 10 Years after its adoption, LC/CAR/G.761, 28 November 2003.

LIST OF ECLAC/CDCC PUBLICATIONS

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2003

LISTED BY
CATALOGUE NUMBER,
TITLE AND
PUBLICATION DATE

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| LC/CAR/G.714
Preliminary Overview of Caribbean Economies – 2002
02/01/03 | LC/CAR/G.723
Provisional agenda of the 11th Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC
7/03/03 | LC/CAR/G.731
Analysis of trade flows between Puerto Rico and CARICOM and prospects for integration
31/03/03 |
| LC/CAR/G.715
Exchange rate regimes in the Caribbean
03/03/03 | LC/CAR/G.723/Add.1
Annotated Provisional agenda of the 11th Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC
7/03/03 | LC/CAR/G.732
Developments in relation to the proposal for securing the international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development
27/03/03 |
| LC/CAR/G.716
The adoption and application of information technology in the Caribbean and its contribution to scientific, technological and industrial development 13/03/03 | LC/CAR/G.724
Progress report on the implementation of the work programme for the 2002-2003 biennium
26/03/03 | LC/CAR/G.733
Global Economic Developments: 2001-2003
03/04/03 |
| LC/CAR/G.717
The Development of Services in the Caribbean
17/01/03 | LC/CAR/G.725
Draft programme of work of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for the 2004-2005 biennium
28/02/03 | LC/CAR/G.734
A review of Caribbean Tourism in the 1990s and at the beginning of the new century
26/02/03 |
| LC/CAR/G.718
The Impact of Foreign Direct Investment on Patterns of Specialisation in the Caribbean
16/01/03 | LC/CAR/G.726
Summary of resolutions recently adopted by organs of the United Nations which may be of special interest to member countries of ECLAC/CDCC
03/04/03 | LC/CAR/G.735
Report of the Grenada National Yachting Consultation
21/04/03 |
| LC/CAR/G.719
The impact of new technologies on the development process in the Caribbean
16/01/03 | LC/CAR/G.727
Framework For Implementation Of The Outcomes Of The World Summit On Sustainable Development (WSSD) In The Small Island Developing States Of The Caribbean Subregion
10/03/03 | LC/CAR/G.736
Report on the national training workshop on the ECLAC methodology to assess the macroeconomic and social impacts of national disasters, Saint Lucia
24/04/03 |
| LC/CAR/G.720
Report on the ECLAC/CDCC training workshop in evidence-based social policy formulation for the Caribbean, Port of Spain
17/01/03 | LC/CAR/G.728
Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean Subregion 1994-2004
12/03/03 | LC/CAR/G.737
Report of the regional meeting on the contribution of yachting to development in the eastern Caribbean
25/4/03 |
| LC/CAR/G.721
Report of the ad hoc expert group meeting on gender socialization and domestic violence: developing a research agenda
18/02/03 | LC/CAR/G.729
Subregional preparations for the 2004 international meeting that will undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the SIDS POA to ensure the most effective participation of Caribbean SIDS
17/03/03 | LC/CAR/G.738
Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique: The yachting sector
25/04/03 |
| LC/CAR/G.722
Report on the ECLAC/CDCC training workshop in evidence-based social policy formulation for the Caribbean, Jamaica
20/02/03 | LC/CAR/G.730
Disaster Assessment Training Manual for SIDS, Port of Spain, 17-19 March 2003
12/03/03 | LC/CAR/G.739
Report of the national training workshop on the ECLAC methodology to assess the macroeconomic and social impacts of national disasters, Port of Spain
01/05/03 |
| | | LC/CAR/G.740
Report on the national training workshop on the ECLAC methodology to assess the macroeconomic and social impacts of national disasters, Jamaica
02/05/03 |

LC/CAR/G.741

Domestic violence and the law in the Turks and Caicos Islands
30/04/03

LC/CAR/G.742

Report of the Joint Meeting of the Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean and the agencies members of the IACG
01/05/03

LC/CAR/G.743

Report of the eleventh meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC
02/05/03

LC/CAR/G.744

Report of the ECLAC-CDCC/CIDA Gender Equity Project Regional Conference on gender-based violence and the administration of justice
21/5/03

LC/CAR/G.745

A review of energy policies in the subregion and impediments to the introduction of new and renewable energy sources in the Caribbean
22/5/03

LC/CAR/G.746

Report on the expert group meeting on the comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities
17/7/03

LC/CAR/G.747

Major Statistical Publications – Abstracts Vol III, 2003
11/8/03

LC/CAR/G.748

Emigration of nurses from the Caribbean: Causes and consequences for socio-economic welfare of the country: Trinidad and Tobago – A case study
12/08/03

LC/CAR/G.749

Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS in the Caribbean Subregion 1994-2003
19/09/03

LC/CAR/G.750

Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS in the Caribbean Subregion 1994-2003 SUMMARY
29/09/03

LC/CAR/G.751

Report on the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on a Methodological Approach for a SVI for SIDS, Port of Spain
24/09/03

LC/CAR/G.752

Comparative study of policies on technology and industry in the Caribbean and their efforts on development
29/9/03

LC/CAR/G.753

Manual for the compilation of science and technology indicators in the Caribbean
03/10/03

LC/CAR/G.754

Conceptual and definitional approaches to sustainable development: In search of a Caribbean convergence
17/10/03

LC/CAR/G.755

Criteria for the efficient coordination of the activities for data collection and the design of instruments for mapping and data collection applicable to countries of the Caribbean
22/10/03

LC/CAR/G.756

Main trade trends, trade policy and integration agreements of the countries of the ACS
29/10/03

LC/CAR/G.757

Export promotion policies in CARICOM Caribbean countries
05/11/03

LC/CAR/G.758

CARIBTRADE: Trade statistics database
12/11/03

LC/CAR/G.759

Selected Statistical Indicators Vol. XVI 2003
17/11/03

LC/CAR/G.760

Report of the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on the Production of Statistics in Caribbean Countries
20/11/03

LC/CAR/G.761

Report of the Caribbean Subregional Meeting to assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD 10 years after its adoption
28/11/03

LC/CAR/G.762

The Yachting Sector – Dominica
1/12/03

LC/CAR/G.763

The Netherlands Antilles: Trade and Integration with CARICOM - Revisited
23/12/03

LC/CAR/G.764

Eliminating gender-based violence, ensuring quality. ECLAC/UNIFEM regional assessment of actions to end violence against women in the Caribbean
3/12/03

LC/CAR/G.765

Caribbean tourism, trends, policies and impact 1985-2002
10/12/03

LC/CAR/G.766

Economic overview of Caribbean countries 2002-2003
12/12/03

LC/CAR/G.767

Background document – Review of the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean (1994-2004): Achievements and constraints
12/11/03

LC/CAR/G.768

Report of the Expert Group Meeting on integrated planning in the Caribbean: A Perspective from the social sector
15/12/03

LC/CAR/G.769

Report of the ECLAC/NALIS WINISIS Training workshop and summary of presentations
(16/12/03)

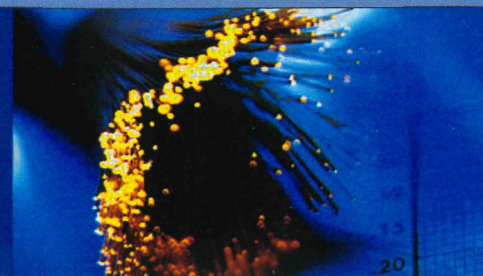
LC/CAR/G.770

Progress made in the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy
18/12/03

LC/CAR/G.771

Fiscal trends and policy – Issues and implications for the Caribbean
22/12/03■

UPDATE ON THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INDICATORS PROGRAMME IN THE SUBREGION



The need for reliable and comprehensive data on science and technology (S&T) resources and their application to sustainable development activities within the Caribbean, prompted the establishment of a subregional S&T indicators programme in 2000.

The research and publications of the Iberoamerican Network of Science and Technology (Red Iberoamericana de Indicadores de Ciencia y Tecnología – RICYT), which promotes the development of science and technology indicators for the Latin America and Caribbean region, had shown gaps in the information base for the Caribbean. Exploratory talks were held to find out how the Caribbean could be incorporated into the regional programme. This led to a meeting in 1997 in Trinidad and Tobago, where the programme was introduced to the members of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST).

In collaboration with RICYT, a second meeting was held in Jamaica in 2001, which sought to identify those indicators considered most relevant to small States. Following the development of S&T indicators for the Caribbean, two workshops were held in 2000 and 2001, where representatives from National Science and Technology Councils were trained in the definitions of the various indicators and the methodology for conducting surveys. Further to these training sessions, it was expected that countries would embark upon data collection exercises.

With assistance from the National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology

(NIHERST) of Trinidad and Tobago, the Science and Technology Unit of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, produced a manual in 2003 that would serve as a guide to the development of programmes in the collection and analysis of data.

COUNTRY EXPERIENCE IN IMPLEMENTING THE S&T INDICATORS PROGRAMME

The Science and Technology Councils in Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago have conducted S&T indicators surveys, although only Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Barbados have published the data collected.

In Trinidad and Tobago, NIHERST is responsible for the national science and technology indicators programme and has been involved in the collection of data since the late 1990s. Three biennial surveys have been conducted to measure the human and financial resources devoted to scientific and technological activities. Such activities include research and development, scientific and technological services, and scientific and technical education and training. To date, NIHERST, through its science and technology Statistical Unit, has also published a number of reports, including, "Report on Survey of S&T Indicators 1999"; "Report on Secondary Data on Education Indicators 1992–1997"; "Science and Technology Indicators 1995–2000"; and "Profile of Teachers in Public Secondary Schools, 1999–2000".

The National Commission on Science and Technology (NCST) Secretariat of Jamaica has collated, analysed and subsequently published S&T information in a booklet entitled

"Public Sector Organisations Involved in Science and Technology in Jamaica" (2002). This publication also gives profiles of the S&T institutions involved in research and development activities. In follow-up to the survey conducted in 2000, the NCST sought to update information on expenditure on research and development, and science and technology for the fiscal years 2001/2002 and 2002/2003. This exercise was recently completed, but data analysis is still unfinished. In some cases, the data was not disaggregated and therefore could not be properly analysed. Problems relating to changes in personnel also contributed to the slow process of analysis and therefore affected continuity of the programme.

Although a representative from St. Vincent and the Grenadines attended the very first workshop in 1999, actual collection of data in that country did not begin until October 2002. Once data collection had begun, inadequate funding was among the impediments to successful completion of the programme. Barbados began its own data collection exercise in June 2000. Data was collected mainly in the areas of human resources and expenditure. As with other countries, there was some difficulty in getting persons to respond to and return the questionnaire.

The Institute of Applied Science and Technology (IAST) in Guyana also started collecting data in 2000. Since Guyana lacks a clearly defined framework for science and technology agencies, the ones to be included in the survey had to be specifically identified. Several of the agencies interviewed did not realise that their operations entailed science and technology-related activities, making it

more difficult for them to complete the questionnaires.

The problems encountered in the implementation of the S&T programme in each of these countries were similar. Apart from financing problems, most difficulties related directly to the acquisition of the required data. Respondents were wary of the questionnaires, especially coming from a government agency, and were reluctant to release information, particularly on expenditure.

EVALUATION AND FURTHER TRAINING – SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INDICATORS WORKSHOP

In order to determine the effectiveness of the programme to date and to introduce the science and technology indicators programme to the remaining countries in the Caribbean, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean convened a training workshop in Macoya, Trinidad and Tobago, from 15 to 16 December 2003. *The Manual for the compilation of science and technology indicators in the Caribbean (LC/CAR/G.753)* was introduced at the Workshop and used as the main training tool. The workshop provided an opportunity to analyse the experience of selected countries in the collection and use of S&T indicators. Participants were also trained in the use of the Manual and in the analysis and use of data collected as a tool for policy formulation.

Mr. Daniel Deen of NIHERST and ECLAC Economic Affairs Officer, Mr. Donatus St. Aimee, conducted the training sessions, using the Manual as the main tool and exploring techniques used by NIHERST in their data collection exercise. The training sessions focused on the terms used in the manual, the type of data collected by different countries, and the application of methodology.

Some of the factors that can influence the effectiveness of survey methodology were identified. These include

questionnaires not received on time in the mail, the absence of national legal instruments that might assist in the procurement of S&T statistics, and, at another level, companies not maintaining separate accounting systems for expenditure on research and development, or science and technology. It was suggested that one way of overcoming problems of data collection was to draw on secondary sources of information (such as consumer surveys and census surveys conducted by national statistical offices). Data on macroeconomic indicators, expenditure on higher education, registration of students and degrees awarded at all university levels, and registration of students in technical and vocational courses could also be obtained from secondary sources.

It was agreed that individual officers should decide on the methodology to be applied in their respective country programmes, within the context of existing institutions and facilities; it was also recognised that, over time, the type of data collected and even the manner of collection might change, as development occurred. At the same time, participants were reminded of the importance of properly defined objectives and appropriately designed tools in developing any survey methodology.

The workshop facilitators also addressed issues of data use and analysis – in cost-benefit analysis, programming, planning, and budgeting exercises, for example. Sound data could also be useful for comparing national science and technology activities with other (developing and developed) countries.

CASE STUDY – SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INDICATORS SURVEY IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

In Trinidad and Tobago, which has a strong research and development component in the social sectors, the

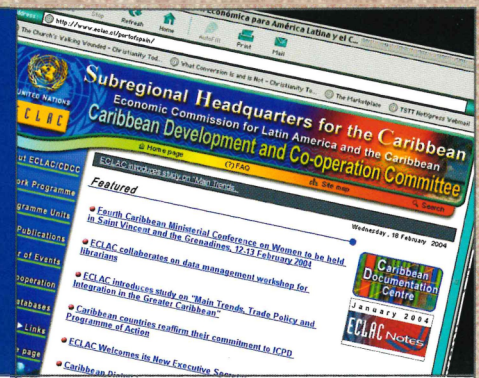
NIHERST exercise sought to collect information on the number of personnel employed in science and technology and in research and development activities. Also requested, was information on capital and current expenditure and on revenue, as well as on ongoing research and development projects. Persons interviewed were asked their opinion about the effect of such specific factors as labour, training, funding, facilities, environment and bureaucracy on their ability to carry out research and development activities.

THE WAY FORWARD

The training workshop agreed on the need for Caribbean countries to acknowledge the science and technology indicators programme as an important tool for development. The collation and analysis of S&T indicators should be integrated into the work programme of each country's science and technology council or equivalent institution. Developing and adapting original concepts to better reflect the Caribbean situation, based on the experiences of those countries that had already conducted surveys and utilised collected data, was the focus of the training workshop.

The success of such science and technology programmes when introduced at the national level may depend upon public sensitisation on the use and need for information on science and technology indicators; statutory provisions to facilitate the procurement of statistics from those organizations with a science and technology component as part of their activities; and, more importantly, increased awareness of the relationship between the S&T indicators programme and policy formulation for sustainable development. ■

THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY COMPLETES ITS FIRST SESSION: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CARIBBEAN



The much-anticipated first session of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) convened in Geneva in December 2003. Among its outcomes were a Declaration of Principles and a Plan of Action that is to serve as "an evolving platform to promote the Information Society at the national, regional and international levels". Phase two of the WSIS, scheduled for 2005 in Tunis, will focus on assessing progress made towards bridging the digital divide and bringing the goal of a Global Information Society closer to realisation.

As might be expected, given the diversity of interests involved in its compilation, the Plan of Action is comprehensive in its scope. It would be impractical for countries the size of those in the Caribbean to concentrate on all areas recommended for specific action and, therefore, their governments will have to identify those actions that would best advance the development agenda of the subregion.

Once familiar with the WSIS Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action, Caribbean governments and other stakeholders could benefit from other resources on information society issues in the Caribbean and in the wider developing world. A comprehensive list of such documents can be accessed through the Caribbean Digital Library at: <http://www.eclacpos.org>.

WSIS PLAN OF ACTION – AN OVERVIEW¹

The Plan of Action approved by the first session of the WSIS has as its

overarching objective the creation of an inclusive Information Society, which would put the potential of knowledge, and information and communication technologies (ICTs), at the service of development. The Plan addresses challenges for the Information Society, at the national, regional and international levels; it also uses as its basic platform, internationally agreed upon development goals, including those outlined in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

Ten indicative targets have been identified to guide governments in the development of more specific, national strategies:

- a) *Connect villages with ICTs and establish community access points;*
- b) *Connect universities, colleges, secondary schools and primary schools with ICTs;*
- c) *Connect scientific and research centres with ICTs;*
- d) *Connect public libraries, cultural centres, museums, post offices and archives with ICTs;*
- e) *Connect health centres and hospitals with ICTs;*
- f) *Connect all local and central government departments and establish Web sites and e-mail addresses;*
- g) *Adapt all primary and secondary school curricula to meet the challenges of the Information Society, taking into account national circumstances;*
- h) *Ensure that all of the world's population have access to television and radio services;*

- i) *Encourage the development of content and put in place technical conditions in order to facilitate the presence and use of all world languages on the Internet; and*
- j) *Ensure that more than half of the world's population have access to ICTs within their reach.*

The Plan of Action continues by outlining the actions to be taken by each of the stakeholders identified. By 2005, for example, all governments should have instituted some sort of *e-strategy*, identifying mechanisms for capacity building, establishing public-private sector partnerships, and documenting their experiences in order that their success might have a positive demonstration effect on other countries. Among the measures recommended for governments are the creation of incubator schemes, venture capital funds, investment promotion strategies, and the support of research and development in the ICT sector.

Information and communication infrastructure are identified as an essential foundation of the Information Society, towards bridging the digital divide. Governments are urged to take action, within the framework of their national development policies, to create an enabling environment necessary to promote investment in ICT infrastructure and develop new services. Such an environment would include, for example, the efficient management of country-code top-

1 The Plan of Action and other documents emanating from the WSIS can be found at the Summit web site: <http://www.itu.int/ws/is/>

level domain names (ccTLDs)². In addition, governments are urged to become model users and early adopters of *e-commerce*, in accordance with their respective levels of socio-economic development, and to raise awareness of the importance of international interoperability standards for global *e-commerce*.

When addressing issues of access, the Plan of Action calls on governments to develop policy guidelines for the creation and promotion of public domain information and to establish multi-purpose, community public access points, which would provide affordable or free-of-charge access for their citizens to the Internet and other information resources. It is recommended, as well, that governments actively promote the use of ICTs as a fundamental working tool, and support the creation and development of digital public library and archive services.

Recognising that no one should be debarred from the benefits of an information society because of lack of skill, the Plan of Action makes strong recommendations for capacity building. Since basic literacy is a pre-requisite for *e-literacy*, governments are urged to consider alternative education delivery systems, including distance learning, with a view to empowering local communities, especially persons in rural or under-served areas. The need to improve *e-literacy* among information professionals is addressed with a recommendation that specific training programmes in the use of ICTs be designed for this and related professional groups.

"Confidence and security are among the main pillars of the Information Society," the Plan notes, and it recommends that governments establish legal and other instruments to allow for effective investigation and prosecution of *cyber-crime*.

ESTABLISHING A CARIBBEAN INFORMATION SOCIETY

CDCC governments are currently seeking to build a subregional infrastructure and foster an ICT culture that will facilitate the Caribbean's integration into the global information society. At the same time, they are grappling with the ongoing social and economic issues that dominate the subregional agenda, and trying to reconcile the WSIS vision (as expressed through its Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action) with the Caribbean's own development needs.

During this transitory period, Caribbean governments, their technical advisors and other ICT stakeholders must also consider such specific questions as: What conditions must exist in the subregion for the potential of the Information Society to be realised? In a situation where the basic economic fundamentals continue to be unfavourable for a number of Caribbean countries, how vigorously should the transition to an information society be pursued? What would be its real benefits? Would it create employment or result in jobless growth?

Governments, policy makers and information professionals are expected to find the means of bridging existing ICT skills and knowledge gaps, towards ensuring that the people of the Caribbean are prepared to confront the challenges and maximise the opportunities presented by a burgeoning Information Society. ECLAC has a mandate to support CDCC governments in addressing such challenges, and in pursuing the goal of a Caribbean Information Society.

To this end, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean is proposing a series of national consultations to raise public awareness of the impending Information Society. Its Statistics and Information Unit will also produce ICT profiles on each

CDCC member State, providing information on national ICT infrastructure and related policies, programmes and projects. Such activities are meant to assist policy makers in building viable information systems and preparing the people of the Caribbean for full participation in the Global Information Society. ■

WHAT IS THE INFORMATION SOCIETY?

A 1997 IBM Community Development foundation Report defines an information society as:

...a society characterised by a high level of information intensity in the everyday life of most citizens, in most organisations and workplaces; by the use of common or compatible technology for a wide range of personal, social, educational and business activities, and by the ability to transmit, receive and exchange digital data rapidly between places irrespective of distance.

A more recent definition suggests that an information society is:

...a society in which the creation, distribution, and manipulation of information has become the most significant economic and cultural activity. An Information Society may be contrasted with societies in which the economic underpinning is primarily Industrial or Agrarian. The machine tools of the Information Society are computers and telecommunications, rather than lathes or ploughs.

The WSIS goes a little further and attempts to describe the promise of an information society as:

...increasing our ability to communicate and share information and knowledge. [It] increases the possibility for a more peaceful and prosperous world for all of its inhabitants. However, the majority of the world's people will not be able to benefit from this information revolution unless they are enabled to participate fully in the emerging knowledge-based society.

2 The right-most label in a domain name, established for a country or territory

CARIBBEAN LOSES A FRIEND

Serge Poulard

On 1 December 2003, Serge Poulard passed away. Serge had by then become a Caribbean person by adoption. He was indeed a citizen of the world – one who respected everyone and who was willing to help a fellow human being. Here at ECLAC, he was our unflappable, joyous wonder; he buoyed us with his mirth.

Serge Eugene Poulard joined ECLAC in February 1990 and was assigned to Port of Spain to assist with the data processing for the 1990 Round of Population and Housing Censuses. He brought his programming skills and applied them to the problems as described by those who wanted solutions to the data-processing issues arising out of the Censuses. He worked with the Regional Census Office as ECLAC's contribution to the 1990 Census and collaborated with the Regional Census Officer and the CARICOM Secretariat, which was responsible for the Census. In short order, Serge became familiar with the problems and got to know the countries and their Chief Statisticians and Census personnel. The level of support that he gave endeared him to all of the Statistical Offices in the Caribbean. He was equally well known and respected in South America after his transfer to Santiago, Chile, in March 1993.

In Santiago, Serge was attached to CELADE, the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Center, where his exposure to demography deepened. He inherited the REDATAM software, which was developed by CELADE with funding from the International Research and Development Center (IDRC) of Canada, and set about adding value to the fine work that had already been done by Ari Silva and his team of programmers. By this time, the operating platform for computing had moved to the Windows environment. Serge set about rewriting the software to bring it into the Windows environment and introduced an algorithm that would enable the programme to compute faster than it had

done before. The expertise that he developed in the handling of census and survey files and file formats enabled him to deliver effective technical assistance and training to countries as far apart as Dominica and Mongolia.

By the time of the 2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, Serge was the automatic choice of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat for assistance to the Caribbean countries. He again set about the task of training country personnel and solving the data issues that presented themselves. The modality of training changed from a large class to a small group of national data-processing persons who were working on the census data. In that way, training had become results-oriented. In the final quarter of 2003, Serge conducted such training in Port of Spain for personnel from Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Most of his work was done with REDATAM, delivering solutions to demographic data issues, but he also applied the software to house a trade statistics database. The application has been highly successful in that it allows a remote user access to the trade statistics of some 16 Caribbean countries and permits analysis of the type that could not have been done as easily before. Serge passed on before he was able to commission the last module of the package.

Throughout the years that we knew him, Serge was the embodiment of joy and dedication. He was a committed international civil servant who always served to the best of his ability.

The entire Caribbean acknowledges his professional contribution and mourns the passing of a dear friend. ■





UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

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ABSTRACTS OF SELECTED ECLAC/CDCC PUBLICATIONS

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2003

Criteria for the Efficient Coordination of the Activities for Data Collection and the Design of Instruments for Mapping and Data Collection Applicable to Countries of the Caribbean

*ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, 2003
LC/CAR/G.755*

The paper highlights the importance of good economic and social data to measure the change in the economy and the society in the light of external stimuli. It also highlights the need for governments to base policy decisions on good data. The paper discusses the issues of design and coordination of data collection mechanisms in a manner that optimizes the limited resources available for data collection and ensures that the data collected fit into an information mosaic that enables planning.

Background Document - Review of the Implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in the Caribbean (1994-2004): Achievements and Constraints

*ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, 2003
LC/CAR/G.767*

This document is based on the findings of a Field Inquiry conducted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and a data collection exercise administered by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, both completed in 2003. The report provides an overview of the major economic, social and demographic trends observed in the Caribbean over the past decade, including sector reform and macroeconomic adjustment, globalisation and their impact on population issues and concerns. Furthermore, it assesses Programme of Action implementation activities at both the subregional and national levels, as conducted by governments and civil society, respectively. Finally, the document identifies a number of specific issues that have emerged from the Caribbean analysis that are pertinent to many CDCC member States and which may need further attention in the years to come.

Population Ageing in the Caribbean: An Inventory of Policies, Programmes and Future Challenges

*ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, 2003
LC/CAR/G.772*

This study offers a demographic analysis of the ageing process in the Caribbean through the presentation of selected indicators from 1950 to the present and projections up to 2050. The paper also provides an inventory of national and subregional policies and programmes in the areas of social security, pension schemes and welfare programmes as well as labour force participation and health. Two regional initiatives to collect data on the socio-economic well-being and health conditions of the elderly are also introduced. Finally, the study identifies critical areas of major concern for policy makers, such as the need for more data and research and a thorough overhaul of existing policies and programmes. The assessment also calls for the design of new approaches to cope with the implications that these dramatic changes in age structure are having on the lives of entire populations in the subregion. ■



The Newsletter of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee
ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

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