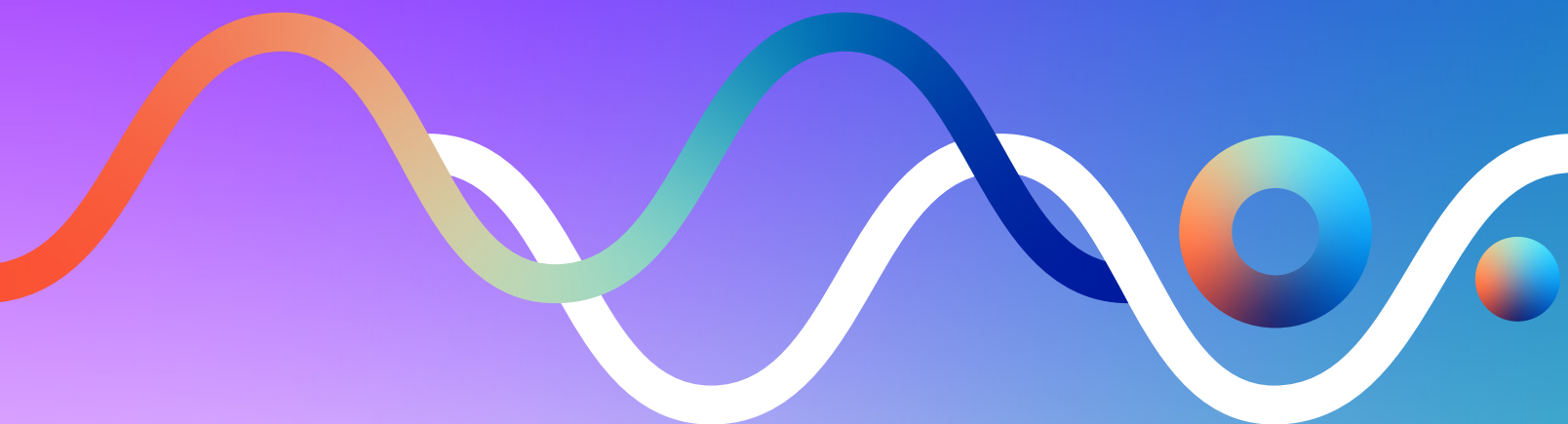
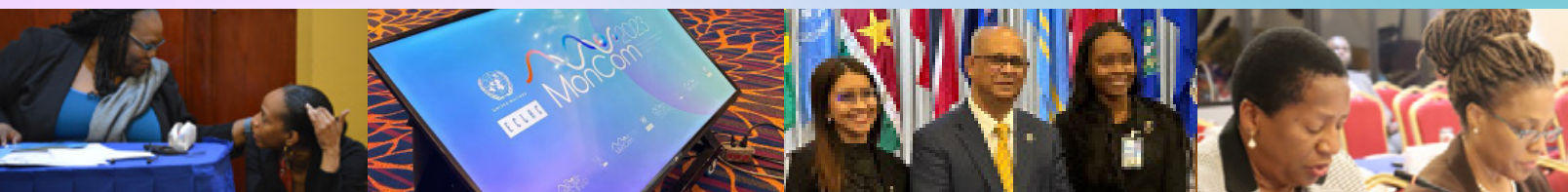


the Humming Bird



MonCom

RECAP



IN THIS SPECIAL ISSUE

21ST MONCOM RECOMMENDS
GREATER COLLABORATION

CARIBBEAN MUST BUILD
KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO TO HOST
CDCC MEETING NEXT YEAR



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

inside THIS ISSUE

- 6 21st MonCom recommends greater collaboration among countries to Improve SIDS situation
- 8 ES Salazar: Caribbean Development Challenges Significant, but not Insurmountable
- 10 Caribbean Must Build Knowledge Economy – ECLAC Caribbean Development Seminar
- 16 ECLAC Works with SVG on Sci-Tech and Innovation Policy
- 17 Trinidad and Tobago to host 30th CDCC meeting next year

ABOUT US

Issued on a monthly basis, The Hummingbird offers 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.

EDITORIAL TEAM

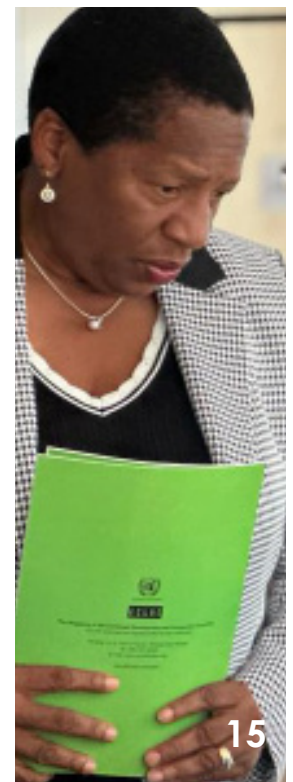
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INTERNATIONAL DAYS

1 December

World AIDS Day

2 December

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

10 December

Human Rights Day

18 December

International Migrants Day

UPCOMING MEETINGS

1 DECEMBER 2023

The leading role of Latin American and Caribbean parliamentarians in building a new green and inclusive development model

3 DECEMBER 2023

Events that highlight the Escazú Agreement at COP28 on climate change

5 DECEMBER 2023

Promoting sustainable and inclusive development: Just transition perspectives in Latin America and the Caribbean



A
special
ISSUE

A stylized illustration of a hummingbird in flight, facing right, positioned above a small, three-petaled flower. The hummingbird is rendered in a light blue color, while the flower is white with a small blue center.

the
MonCom
SEMINAR

A decorative graphic consisting of a white, stylized wave or sine wave that flows across the top of the text. The wave has a thick, rounded appearance and is composed of several overlapping, slightly offset lines.



MonCom 2023

*Twenty first meeting of the
Monitoring Committee
of the CDCC*

21ST MONCOM RECOMMENDS GREATER COLLABORATION

AMONG COUNTRIES TO IMPROVE SIDS SITUATION

ECLAC Caribbean recently convened its biennial seminar and Meeting of the Monitoring Committee (MonCom) of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

The Seminar, held from 1 to 2 November preceded the MonCom meeting on 3 November, and was officially opened by CDCC Chair and Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname Albert Ramdin, along with Director of ECLAC Caribbean, Diane Quarless.

The two-day seminar was themed

“Positioning the Caribbean in the knowledge economy: The role of data”. Participants noted a need for greater collaboration among countries and subregional multilateral agencies to promote and articulate clear positions on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean. This, especially in the lead-up to the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held in Antigua and Barbuda in 2024.

Particular attention was also given to the challenges in implementing sustainable development in the Caribbean, with the suggestion for stronger institutions to collaborate

and overcome the challenges in the region.

In a video message from ECLAC’s Santiago, Chile headquarters, Executive Secretary José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs acknowledged that countries of the subregion need to take stock of their development and focus on measured steps of renewal and recovery post COVID-19 pandemic. He said: “No doubt you are grappling with significant, pressing challenges that demand urgent and innovative response.

The world has changed in unanticipated and unprecedented ways. The international landscape





is fraught with heightened geopolitical tensions threatening fragile economic recovery and growth.”

ES Salazar mentioned the war in Ukraine, with the resulting spike in food and fuel prices that have complicated post-pandemic recovery in the subregion, “...and now to make matters worse, we are faced with the prospect of prolonged war on the Gaza strip which could spread, leading to spiraling inflation and supply chain disruptions, thereby dampening overall global recovery.”

The discussions focused on strategies to advance recovery and economic transformation; the SIDS agenda in the Caribbean; repositioning the Caribbean in the competitive global environment; and confronting the implementation deficit through strengthened institutional capacity.

At the end of the session, Director Quarless presented an overview of ECLAC’s programme of work, including research and projects which were undertaken in the subregion during 2022. She said

to participants: “I encourage you to take note of the extensive areas we have been working in. We are here to continue providing our support in these and other areas, and I urge you to call on us if you need help.”

ECLAC Caribbean serves as the Secretariat of the CDCC. Regular sessions are held every two years, with meetings of the Monitoring Committee convened during the intervening years.



ES SALAZAR: CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES SIGNIFICANT...

BUT NOT INSURMOUNTABLE

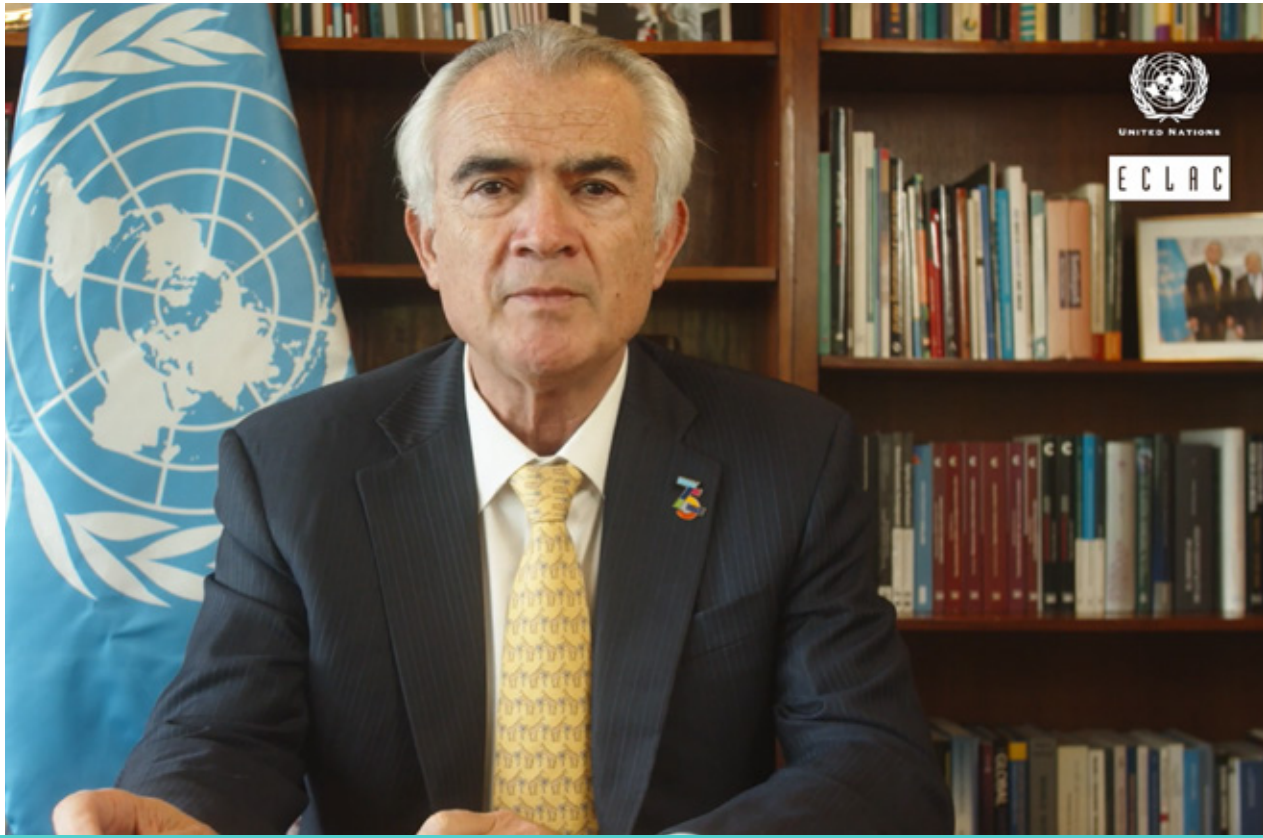
ECLAC Executive Secretary Jose Manuel Salazar Xirinachs says that Caribbean countries are in the throes of a significant challenge as they grapple with the fallout of the pandemic while trying to return to the track of sustainable development and secure economic recovery and growth. At the same time, however, he believes that there are “green shoots of opportunity, which if nurtured in a timely manner, can become the seedlings of solutions to respond to the unique needs of the Caribbean.”

Addressing the MonCom meeting by video presentation, ES Salazar Xirinachs said it is no surprise that both Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres have invested their effort and voices into reforming the global debt restructuring architecture. Countries of the Caribbean have struggled with their debt for decades. ES Salazar says the “high average debt to GDP

(Gross Domestic Product) ratio of over 75%, not only exceeds sustainability thresholds, but dampens growth and recovery.”

The economic challenge, he says, is compounded by significant social concerns. Among the most pressing are high unemployment, averaging over 12%, especially among youth; crime and violence; education and training; and the climate crisis which threatens Caribbean existence.

He asserted that today’s fluid geopolitics simultaneously presents challenges and opportunities for small states, a point made by Trinidad and Tobago economist Winston Dookeran while delivering a lecture for ECLAC’s 75th anniversary. To make this point, ES Salazar gave the example of the war on the Gaza strip and in Ukraine, and the resulting impacts on global relations and stability, food, and fuel prices. “The world has changed in unanticipated



and unprecedented ways. The international landscape is fraught with heightened geopolitical tensions threatening fragile economic recovery and growth.”

In addition, ES Salazar noted the collapse of global discussions on how to support Caribbean SIDS in the climate response is evermore challenging

“Over time these accrued costs from loss and damage represent a significant loss of resources that should have been invested in advancing the sustainable development of the subregion. The stall in recent climate talks regarding the proposed loss and damage facility for the climate vulnerable is therefore very disturbing in these circumstances.”

Even before the pandemic, ES Salazar noted that the Caribbean’s leading sectors: tourism, agriculture, and manufacturing, “were already facing competitive headwinds”. Therefore, these sectors require restructuring and diversification. “The subregion needs to build a strategy that upgrades and diversifies these sectors to enhance their capacity for integration into global value chains, substituting for imports where economies of scale and efficiencies permit.”

ES Salazar affirmed that digitalization and intense use of ICT are key to boosting productivity and quality in tourism. Also at the top of the priority list for more resilient economies and sustainable development are: increased fiscal space; long-term, low-cost development financing; a Caribbean Resilience Fund; comprehensive disaster management programmes; resilient infrastructure and a multidimensional vulnerability index supported by the international community.

These challenges, he said, while significant, are not insurmountable: “I believe that there is a path to convert the challenges the subregion faces into real opportunities for sustainable development. I assure you that ECLAC will continue to work with you to explore and pursue these opportunities for growth and resilient development.”

CARIBBEAN MUST BUILD KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

ECLAC CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

Speaking at the development Seminar, part of ECLAC Caribbean's meeting of the Monitoring Committee, the Chair of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), Suriname Minister of Foreign Affairs Albert Ramdin, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname Albert Ramdin urged countries of the Caribbean to leverage their vast human resources to develop knowledge economies.

This year, the two-day seminar in Port-of-Spain was themed "Positioning the Caribbean in the knowledge economy: The role of data". It was held in Port of Spain. Minister Ramdin presided over the opening ceremony. He said "...our economies are commonly characterized as either services-based or goods-based; never knowledge-based. Meanwhile, the current global labour market is increasingly becoming knowledge-intensive... Understanding and appropriately responding to these market forces requires, among other things, a better appreciation for, and utilization of data." In delivering remarks, Minister Ramdin called on development

banks to take note of the falling productivity of Caribbean economies. "It's important that the discussions here focus on positioning the Caribbean in the knowledge economy, as well as the critical role that data plays in advancing the sustainable development of countries, in particular Small Island Developing States (SIDS)."

Minister Ramdin expressed hope that the deliberations would be successful to identify recommendations for varying stakeholders, on optimizing the value of data, to position the Caribbean to become a hub of knowledge economies. He also urged those gathered to share experience, practice, and successes on the road to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Director of ECLAC Caribbean, Diane Quarless, reported that many of the subregion's governments in attendance have come to appreciate the importance and value of data. She highlighted the necessity of data to monitor progress in the implementation of the SDGs. Director Quarless





said: “Since 2020, 13 of our CDCC Member Countries have presented their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to the UN, which represents their progress towards meeting the aspirations of Agenda 2030.” She lamented, though, that an all-too common feature in those VNRs was an acknowledgement of the paucity of data for the SDG indicators used to monitor and measure the sustainable development process.

In addition to Minister Ramdin, in attendance were Penelope Beckles-Robinson, Minister of Planning and Development of Trinidad and Tobago, who is also Vice Chair of the CDCC. Other high-level government representatives were Joseph E. Farrell, Premier of Montserrat (another Vice Chair of the CDCC), Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda; and Alva Baptiste, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saint Lucia. The meetings also benefitted from the contribution of high-level experts and representatives of regional organizations, including CARICOM and the OECS. Among these were Joana Kazana-Wisniowiecki, Resident Coordinator of the UN in Trinidad and

Tobago and Carina Cockburn, IDB Country Representative for Trinidad and Tobago.

The discussions also featured a look at the subregion’s culture of data - the capacity constraints faced by small countries trying to produce official statistics are well-known and are compounded by the high (relative) cost of household surveys in small countries.

For example, in the current census round, recruitment, management and retention of field workers has been a severe problem in numerous countries, suggesting that the whole approach to census field work needs to be reconsidered. The Director of Research, Design and Evaluation of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) highlighted the potential of geospatial data and techniques of small area estimation to supplement census data and improve the availability of statistics about local areas.

During the artificial intelligence (AI) panel discussions, four experts and practitioners explored the policy implications of AI on the

Caribbean data revolution and its use for deriving better information to inform policy decisions and promote sustainable development. One of the primary areas of concern raised by the panelists was the importance of adopting mechanisms to mitigate bias in results which do not match Caribbean reality.

Another featured segment was a presentation on citizen-generated data, during which the difference between data and statistics was highlighted, where data in its raw form served as the foundation for generating statistics. Panelists emphasized the value of unofficial data, specifically citizen-generated data. This data is usually gathered from non-authoritative or informal sources – individuals, private entities and NGOs (non-governmental organizations). This type of data is quite vast and is usually provided by individuals with the assistance of technology.

The two-day seminar ended with advice on the advantages and disadvantages of this type of data and the future possibilities of data.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

The Magnificent Seven is the name given to the group of seven distinct colonial-style buildings that were constructed in Trinidad and Tobago during British Rule in the 19th and 20th centuries.

These mansions can be found at Queen's Park Savannah West. These buildings are a popular stop on many a tourist's (and locals too) visits to Port of Spain, and they are a tangible representation of part of the cultures that make up Trinidad and Tobago's identity today.

They were finished between 1902 and 1910 on land that was previously used as a government stock farm, and are listed as heritage sites at the National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago. Stollmeyer's Castle was the first building to start being constructed in the neighborhood and took several years to complete, as was typical of the Magnificent Seven.

Most were originally built as residences and kept within families for decades.

Here is a brief look at each of these "magnificent" landmarks. In order of location from South to North:



QUEEN'S ROYAL COLLEGE

The brilliant red facade and German Renaissance architectural features of the Queen's Royal College Main Building make this Magnificent Seven structure one of the most striking, with its distinct colour. The building was officially opened in 1904 and boasts of a 93-foot tall clock tower, which houses a gifted King Edward VII Memorial Clock and incorporates tropical architectural adaptations such as open corridors, high doorways and galleries to facilitate ventilation in the warm Caribbean climate.

Built as the residence of Trinidad and Tobago's Anglican bishops, this simple and elegant French Colonial-style building features intricate stonework, a wrap-around veranda and contemporary Scottish cast-iron architectural elements.



HAYES COURT



MILLE FLEURS

Mille Fleurs features a balanced and symmetrical architectural style best described as French Provincial. This charming mansion was built in 1904 under the direction of renowned architect, George Brown, of the Trinidad Trading Company and as a gift to Dr Enrique Prada, who served as the Mayor of Port of Spain from 1914 to 1917.



AMBARD'S HOUSE / ROOMOR

Roomor, originally Ambard's House, was constructed by Lucien F Ambard in 1904 as a family residence. It was designed by a French architect and is described as French 2nd Empire in style. Because of financial difficulties resulting in an inability to meet his mortgage payments to Gordon Grant and Company, Ambard lost his house in 1919. It was subsequently sold to Pointz Mackenzie, who also lost it in 1923 under similar circumstances. The property again came under the control of the Gordon Grant and Company. In 1925, William Pettigrew Humphrey, an American businessman, rented the house, and lived there with his family until 1940, the year that the house was sold to Timothy Roodal.

Today, Ambard's House remains the property and residence of Roodal's heirs and is presently occupied by his granddaughter, Dr Yvonne Morgan and her family. Roomor is a combination of two family names; Roodal and Morgan. Despite many changes, Roomor remains one of the few of the Magnificent Seven that has substantially maintained the integrity of the original design and finishes.

Built in 1903 and influenced by Indian Empire architecture with a touch of medieval style, the Archbishop's Palace stands out among the Magnificent Seven mansions around the Queen's Park Savannah. This is because of its truly distinctive architecture which also incorporates elements of its designer's Irish heritage, such as red granite and marble brought over from the Emerald Isle.



ARCHBISHOP'S PALACE



ROSENWEG (WHITE HALL)

White Hall, named after the beautiful coral stone with which it was made, was the largest of the six private residences of the Magnificent Seven mansions in Port of Spain. Construction of this majestic structure began in 1904, featuring a Palladian style with origins in classic Greek, Roman and Moorish architecture. The mansion served as the headquarters for the US Military during World War II until 1944. It also served as the Office of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago from 1959 to 1988 and from 1999 to 2008. It was officially reopened in August 2019, and once again serves as the Office of the Prime Minister.

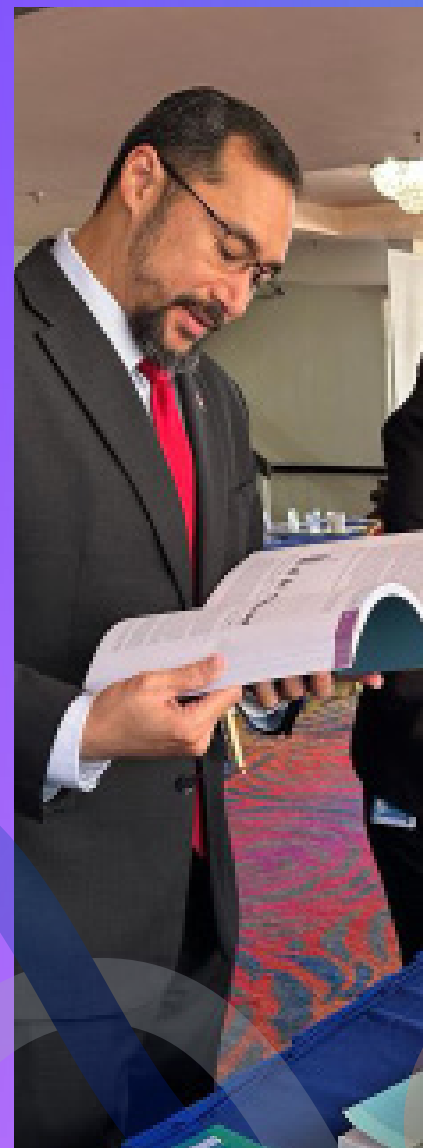
The elaborate Stollmeyer's Castle, also called "Killarney", is one of the Magnificent Seven mansions. It was built for entrepreneur Charles Stollmeyer in 1904 by Scotsman Robert Gillies who found inspiration in the Balmoral Castle of Scotland. It remained in the hands of the Stollmeyer family until the 1970's. Like White Hall, this building had restoration work so that they could be used by foreign dignitaries visiting Port of Spain, and it was also commandeered by the United States Armed Forces during World War II.

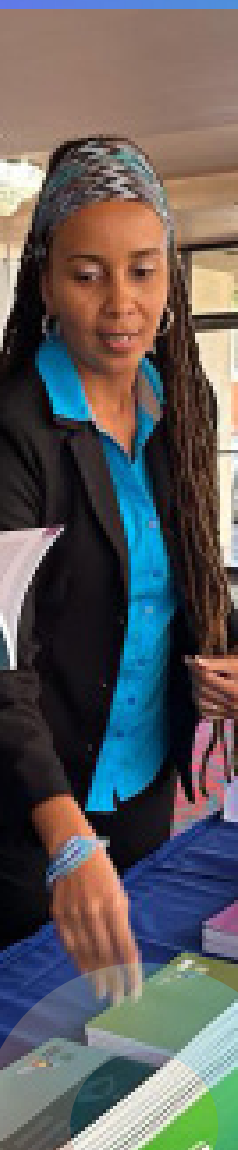


KILLARNEY (STOLLMAYER'S CASTLE)



LIBRARY VISIT





During the 21st Meeting of the MonCom, Trinidad and Tobago's minister of Planning and Development Penelope Beckles-Robinson visited the ECLAC Caribbean's Library book display, which provides a sample of ECLAC's current and catalogue publications.

While browsing through the Focus magazine (ECLAC Caribbean's quarterly journal on Caribbean sustainable development), she remarked, "If I didn't have these while I was at the UN, I would have been in trouble. That's what we would use when we were preparing speeches." Minister Beckles-Robinson was Trinidad and Tobago's permanent representative to the United Nations from 2016 to 2020. She continued, "They also use it a lot at UNITAR, which is the United Nations Training Agency."

During her contribution to the Seminar discussion on data in the Caribbean, the minister noted that the Caribbean often has more data than may readily be obvious and made note of the data available through the UN system. "The opposite of data poor is data rich. Especially when I have attended UN sessions, when speaking about Small Island Developing States (SIDS), it's not a fair description of the state of data in the region, as it relates to the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and the National Statistical Systems (NSSs) in general," she said.

Minister Beckles-Robinson was not the only high-level government official to browse the library material on display. Premier of Montserrat Easton Taylor-Farrell, Suriname Minister of Foreign Affairs, Saint Lucia Minister of External Affairs Alva Baptiste, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda Paul Chet Green, and T&T Minister of National Security Stuart Young.

ECLAC WORKS WITH SVG

ON SCI-TECH AND INNOVATION POLICY

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is well on the way to completing a Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy. It is expected that the policy will establish a journey-plan to help the country on the road to knowledge creation, competitiveness and influence sustainable growth. This follows an October workshop on the Development of a National STI Policy; a joint initiative of the government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and ECLAC.

Over the period July to August, ECLAC and the government conducted a comprehensive mapping and needs assessment exercise. The three-day workshop sought the input of senior public officials; and to draw on their experience and observations. Participants also benefitted from a wide range of presentations on the role of Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics; distinguishing the tourism product; stimulating the creative sector; strengthening agri-business, among others.

Delivering remarks, ECLAC Caribbean Director Diane Quarless said "The coming changes will be disruptive, however, there are opportunities for Small Island Developing States - like Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to keep abreast and contribute to this process of global knowledge creation... Preparing a draft STI policy is a challenging but critical task. It requires an in-depth understanding of the various STI-related policies and governance systems and their relationship to the rest



of society, including those who are the innovators. This is a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder endeavour. It is important to note that an STI policy must be a living document that is fit for purpose. The coming changes, at the global level, will affect all aspects of life, especially through areas such as biotechnology, nanotechnology, artificial intelligence, and robotics".

Minister of Education and National Reconciliation Curtis King said the work needs to be completed as quickly as possible as there is an urgent need for the policy. "This workshop involves the key stakeholders who will be critical to the formulation of the draft STI Policy for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. We at the Ministry want to ensure that such a policy creates the environment for greater research and development in our country. We want to ensure that such a country promotes entrepreneurship and attracts foreign investment. Our vision is that the policy will not only address some of the unique challenges that we face as a small developing country, but on the broader scale, it will give impetus to our economic growth and development... I extended my deepest appreciation for the technical support extended to us by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean through its headquarters in Chile and its subregional headquarters in Trinidad and Tobago. Your guidance and the ground support you have extended thus far have been very valuable and effective to this process."

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO HOST

30TH CDCC MEETING NEXT YEAR

Trinidad and Tobago will host the next session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) meeting in Port of Spain in 2024, at an exact date to be decided.

Minister of Planning and Development, Penelope Beckles-Robinson, accepted the commitment of the upcoming chairmanship at the closing of the Monitoring Committee meeting (MonCom), which took place in November.

Minister Beckles was responding to fellow CDCC Vice Chair, Premier Joseph Farrell of Montserrat, who made the official request, while presiding over the meeting.

ECLAC Caribbean serves as the secretariat of the CDCC. Regular sessions are held every two years, with meetings of the Monitoring Committee convened during the intervening years.







THE Hummingbird KITCHEN



TRINI PASTELLE PIE

What you will need:

- 1 lb beef - 1 lb
- 2 medium onions, finely chopped
- 1 bundle chive, chopped
- 1 small pepper
- 2 pimento peppers
- Garlic, to taste
- Chadon beni
- Fine thyme
- ½ cup ketchup
- Worcestershire Sauce - 4 Dash
- 3 tbsp capers
- 3 tbsp raisins
- 10 olives
- Oil
- 2 ½ cups cornmeal
- 1 ¼ tsp salt
- 1 tsp cayenne powder
- 1 tbsp of purpose seasoning
- 8 oz butter
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- 3 cups lukewarm water
- ½ lb grated cheese

How to Make it:

Meat filling

- STEP 1.** Heat pan over medium heat and add beef.
STEP 2. Add onion, chive, pepper, pimento, garlic, chadon beni and thyme and mix well.
STEP 3. Add ketchup, worcestershire, capers, raisins and olives and mix well.
STEP 4. Cover and let cool for 10-14 minutes.
STEP 5. Season with salt to taste and set aside.

Cornmeal batter

- STEP 1.** Place cornmeal in a bowl.
STEP 2. Add salt, cayenne and all purpose seasoning.
STEP 3. Cut in butter.
STEP 4. Add vegetable oil and 2 1/2 cups of water.
STEP 5. Add remaining water if needed.

Assembling Pie

- STEP 1.** Preheat oven to 350°F.
STEP 2. Place half of the cornmeal mixture into a greased baking dish.
STEP 3. Evenly distribute cornmeal.
STEP 4. Add beef mixture.
STEP 5. Cover with remaining cornmeal.
STEP 6. Top with grated cheese.
STEP 7. Bake for 45 minutes.



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