



CARIBBEAN ECONOMIES

AND THEIR PRESENT
OUTLOOK

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

MAXIMIZING THEIR
BENEFITS

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

THEIR DECLINE IN LATIN
AMERICA AND THE
CARIBBEAN



ECLAC

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Issued on a monthly basis, The Hummingbird offers strategic insights into the latest projects, publications, technical assistance missions and research carried out by ECLAC Caribbean. In addition to these, sneak previews are provided of the most salient upcoming events, alongside enriching follow-ups to previously covered issues. With a view to featuring a variety of facets of Caribbean life and lifestyle, The Hummingbird also zooms in on cultural activities and landmark occurrences through an eye-opening regional round-up.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor: Alexander Voccia
Copy Editor: Denise Balgobin
Publication Design: Blaine Marciano

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8 September 2017

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United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation
12 September 2017

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General Assembly of the United Nations, Seventy-second session
New York
12 September - December 2017

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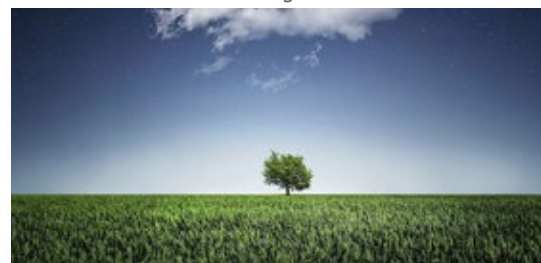
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ECLAC Caribbean

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SNEAK PREVIEW

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MAXIMIZING THE BENEFIT OF FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

Free trade agreements (FTAs) and partial scope agreements (PSAs) – which are usually designed to benefit signatory countries by removing barriers to trade, such as tariffs – are important mechanisms for the Caribbean. In the coming months, ECLAC will publish a study which takes a look at the constraints faced in the subregion in exploiting trade opportunities provided by FTAs



and PSAs,. It will also propose possible avenues for addressing these challenges, including capacity building of the private sector. Two trade agreements will be the focus of the study: the CARIFORUM – EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA); and the CARICOM – Colombia Trade Agreement, a Partial Scope Agreement. The Hummingbird is pleased to bring its readers a sneak preview of this upcoming ECLAC study.

Over the past two decades, Caribbean countries have entered into a number of trade arrangements which offer improved or preferential market access, including bilateral FTAs, PSAs and preferential trade arrangements. However, this has not greatly impacted trade expansion and there has

even been significant decline in exports for some of the subregion's key commodities, notably sugar, rice and bananas. In light of the subregion's challenge in exploiting trade opportunities, bodies such as the European Union have provided significant amounts of technical assistance to build capacity at the national and subregional levels in recent years. In this regard, while attention has been given to the public sector, capacity building in the private sector has been limited.

Against this backdrop, bearing in mind that growth in exports and exploitation of trade opportunities will be heavily dependent on the performance of the private sector, the upcoming ECLAC study will address the need

to strengthen the capacity of private sector entities through technical assistance. Moreover, while improvement in the enabling policy and regulatory environment is necessary for fostering an efficient and competitive private sector, it is by no means sufficient. The subregion's private sector faces a number of major challenges and constraints in exploiting opportunities created by the various FTAs.

The study, which will be published later this year, will therefore inform the design of a strategic framework to address these challenges and constraints, with a view to creating a solid platform for export expansion and diversification. ■



SEPTEMBER PREMIER IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FOR

'GREEN DAYS BY THE RIVER'

Eleven years ago, Michael Mooleedhar and Christian James met at the University of the West Indies. It was the first time that the institution had offered a Degree in film and they were among the first class of undergraduates who enrolled in the course.

In 2014, armed with Film Degrees and Masters in Creative Design Entrepreneurship and Fine Arts in Creative Producing, respectively - the creative minds reconnected to work on their first feature length film, 'Green Days by the River', an adaptation of the 1967 novel by renowned Trinidadian author, Michael Anthony.

A Caribbean classic which has stood the test of time, 'Green Days by the River' is an intriguing coming of age story whose plot revolves around a Trinidadian boy named Shellie who goes through all the emotional challenges of

adolescent life. Shellie moves to Mayaro and meets Rosalie and is instantly smitten. But when he meets Joan, he finds himself in a bit of a love triangle.

"We tried to stay true to the book and create something that Trinbagonians can be proud of," said Mooleedhar, the 32-year-old director of the film, known for his critically-acclaimed short films, including 'City on the Hill', which won People's Choice Award at the 2015 Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) Film Festival. "This film is unique because this is a Trinidad and Tobago story by a Trinidad and Tobago director and producer. It's being told by us for us."

Pulling off a production of this magnitude wasn't easy – or cheap. Mooleedhar and James – the film's producer, spent all of 2015 pounding the pavement in search of funding to get the

102-minute film in motion. They approached over 100 companies appealing for financial help and most declined, which they understood given the economy. "Imagine making a creative product and telling a business person that you need them to contribute some amount of money towards the total cost, especially in an economic downturn. So yeah, we got turned down a lot."

Mooleedhar and James were eventually able to secure corporate sponsorships from bmobile, First Citizens Bank, the National Library Service (NALIS), bpTT and Look Opticians, all in T&T.

Throughout the entire process, from financing right through production, the duo faced a number of challenges. From as early as casting, they faced the prospect of not getting a suitable

lead actress.

"We just were not finding the right person to play Rosalie," said James, 29. "We knew what we wanted and we were so driven that we basically took to the streets, scanning for the ideal persona, giving out call cards, trying to find our vision of someone that looked like a 'Rosalie'."

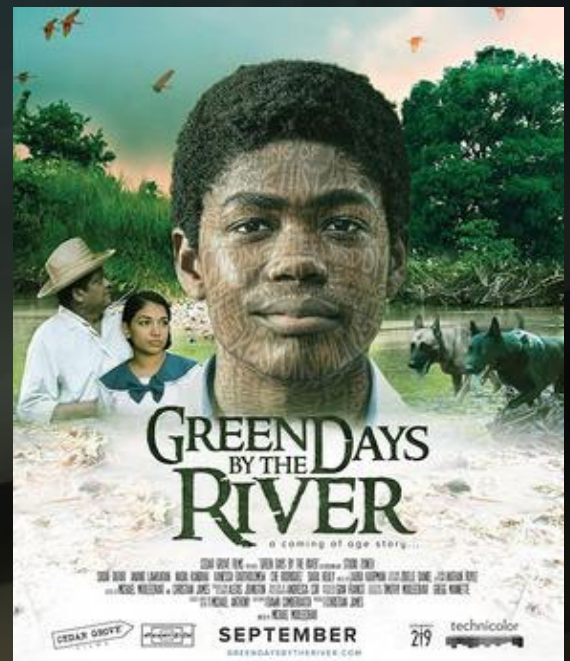
The crew spent 26 long days shooting throughout Trinidad and Tobago. Recreating country life of 1952 in the hustle and bustle of 2016 wasn't easy.

"It was a very challenging thing to find accessible, pristine locations without traffic and cars, so we really had a task getting quiet, unspoiled locations to shoot. We even found an old cocoa house that we rebuilt as the setting for Shellie's home. We shot in remote locations in the bush, which meant mosquitoes," Mooleedhar recalled. "But that's what filmmaking is. Sometimes you have to recreate a world that's no longer there."

'Green Days by the River' fans are eagerly awaiting the film's release. Its Facebook page has garnered thousands of likes and shares, and James - who first tasted the rewards of film as a St Mary's College student, when he and his peers won the inaugural Secondary School's Film Competition with a story he penned called, 'My Scarlet Letter' - hopes people will enjoy the movie and be proud that it was a local production.

"I want people to walk away feeling that they just watched a state-of-the-art production that was well directed and produced, with good acting. A lot of people love the book so I hope the film meets their expectations. No actually, I hope it surpasses their expectations."

'Green Days by the River' will be shown at T&T cinemas from 27 September 2017. ■





FEATURE ARTICLE

The performance of Caribbean economies



ECLAC's Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena, on 3 August 2017 launched the Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean which examined the economic performance of countries of the region. Dr. Dillon Alleyne, Deputy Director of ECLAC Caribbean, then followed with a more focused presentation on the macroeconomic performance of the Caribbean subregion in 2016, outlining projections for 2017.

[READ ARTICLE](#)





The performance of Caribbean Economies

The Hummingbird sat down for a one-on-one with Dr. Alleyne to gain further insights into the Caribbean situation.

What is the present outlook for Caribbean economies?

GDP growth among commodity exporters is expected to pick up while service exporters will remain stable. Average growth in the Caribbean should reach 2.1% by the end of 2017. Growth among the major commodity exporters is forecast to increase to 1.8% and 2.3% among service exporters. However there are several downside risks, the most significant being the persistently low commodity prices which have negatively affected commodity exporters. Secondly, the debt overhang continues to be an issue which threatens fiscal stability. Thirdly, the problems arising from de-risking threaten financial markets in the region.

How did the subregion perform last year?

Overall, the economic growth in the region was 0.7% in 2016, down from 1.5% in 2015. Growth performance among the major service exporters in 2016 remained low but stable, averaging 2.1% in 2016. Growth among the major commodity exporters was -3.1% as three of these economies experienced negative growth: Suriname declined by 10.4%, Trinidad and Tobago by 4.5% and Belize by 0.8%. Guyana was the sole major commodity exporting economy posting positive GDP growth of 3.3% in 2016.

What has been the debt situation for already strained economies?

The average public sector debt for the Caribbean rose to 72.6% in 2016 from 70.7% in 2015. The four largest increases were seen in three of the major commodity exporting economies, Trinidad and Tobago (11%), Belize (9.9%) and Suriname (5.4%) as well as Anguilla (26.8%). The two largest decreases were seen in Jamaica and Barbados, despite which, the two countries remain the most indebted in the region. As Caribbean member states begin to mainstream the SDGs into their development plans and programs, the debt overhang will continue to be a major constraint, especially since the private sector has remained risk averse since the 2008-2009 global economic crisis. It is for this reason that ECLAC continues to advocate for Caribbean debt relief to create additional fiscal space for public policy. The debt swap proposal calls for the Green Climate Fund to absorb the Caribbean multilateral debt at a discount, and the private debt through a debt buy-back scheme. The repayment proceeds can be placed in a Caribbean Resilience Fund (CRF) aimed at financing green industrial development. This will stimulate growth and investment while addressing adaptation needs of the region.



Photo: Dillon Alleyne - Deputy Director, ECLAC Caribbean

What further challenges do these bring for countries?

Total debt servicing is indeed a challenge which is aggravated by foreign exchange shortages in some countries. For some economies, debt service makes up a significant share of government expenditure, leaving little to spend on essential government services. In 2016, there was a continuing decline in capital expenditure to GDP for both service and goods exporting countries, mainly due to major retrenchment in capital spending as part of fiscal adjustment. The constraint on capital spending has two major consequences for sustainable economic growth. First, capital spending, especially in sustainable infrastructure, is complementary to private investment and helps crowd in private investment. Secondly, in response to climate change effects, a great deal of capital spending is necessary for adaptation

purposes.

What has been the input from the region's financial institutions?

Overall, there was a decrease in credit to the public sector over the 2015 to 2016 period for the Caribbean region, and private sector credit rose by 1.01%. In the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) as a whole, there were declines in credit to the private and public sectors. In spite of the decline, the ECCU on average experienced an increase in economic growth, suggesting an increase in the availability of funding by non-bank financial institutions. This is a very good sign since commercial banks have historically been a major source of business finance.

What about external financial flows to the Caribbean?

When we are considering Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), the inflows for the Caribbean fell from 8.2% of GDP in 2015 to 6.8% in 2016. Only five of the 15 economies experienced increases in their FDI inflow ratios, and only one of those, Barbados, experienced a change of more than one percentage point. All other economies experienced a decline in their FDI inflow ratios, with Anguilla experiencing the largest drop off. As is well known FDI flows serve a variety of purposes in small open economies like the Caribbean. They are a source of foreign exchange, they stimulate employment, and they could have spill over effects which stimulate other complementary domestic sectors and activities. It is important to discover the factors giving rise to this decline, and whether it is temporary or permanent, in order to address these urgently.

How has the economic climate affected employment levels?

Among the eight countries with available data, the overall average unemployment rate fell from 15.2% in 2015 to 11.2% in 2016. However, unemployment increased slightly among the goods producing economies, as Belize increased to 11% from 10.1% in 2015 and Trinidad and



Tobago to 4.1% from 3.4% in 2015. Despite a decline in the average rates, the situation in a few Caribbean countries is worrying. For example, in Saint Lucia and Grenada, the unemployment rates are around 20 and 29 percent respectively. Perhaps the most serious challenge is youth unemployment. In the Caribbean as a whole, youth unemployment tends to be twice the national average. This waste of critical resources cannot continue. Such unacceptably high youth unemployment leads to emigration of skills, and loss of productive capacity, as young people acquire no working experience. Even more seriously, youth unemployment has strong correlation with increased crime and violence. There are significant gender differences as well, with female unemployment rates being higher than those of men for most countries.

What are some of the other significant issues that were raised in the presentation?

The issue of “derisking” in the Caribbean was highlighted, whereby many banks have lost their correspondent banking relationships. ECLAC is currently engaged in projects to examine this issue, in addition to the contribution of the offshore financial sector to the economy in select Caribbean countries.

What was the performance of the important tourism sector?

In 2016, across the wider Caribbean, tourist arrivals from the US increased by 3.4% and Europe increased by 6.8%. However, arrivals from Canada were down by -3.1%. Cruise ship arrivals were up by 1.8%. The recent passage of hurricanes in the Caribbean, especially Irma and Jose, will force a reassessment of tourism forecasts for the rest of the year and for next year. The destruction in Anguilla, Saint Martin, Sint Maarten, BVI, Cuba, Puerto Rico and Barbuda demonstrate vividly, the severe vulnerability of the region to extreme events, and its heavy dependence on one or two major economic activities. It is the case that

some islands will gain from the tourist arrivals lost elsewhere, but the average regional arrivals from both cruise and long staying visitors, is likely to be down.

What is the way forward for Caribbean economies?

There are opportunities for the subregion that can turn the tide. Countries must seize this moment to diversify into greener industries, and to advance up the global value chain, especially in services. This can be done through industrial policies. The term embraces any policy affecting the sectoral composition of the economy or the choice of technology. Thus, industrial policy in this sense should also be part of corporate governance, anti-trust and competition policy, and monetary policy and bankruptcy frameworks, as well as, tax and expenditure policy.

These policies are focused on encouraging new sectors and activities which emphasize export promotion and employment creation. For example, the Caribbean must promote education and health services as potential export services. Intra-industry trade, which makes up a minor share of total trade in the region, can be increased through production integration in the Caribbean and in Latin America. This means improving the business environment, not just for attracting FDI, but for stimulating local firms to become regional and global exporters.

Public investments in education must continue to be made, and that investment must be aligned with national priorities. In addition, the Caribbean diaspora must be engaged and encouraged to participate in the sustainable development of the region, through investment and knowledge transfers. ■





CONVERGENCE OF CARIBBEAN CURRENTS: LOCATING IDENTITY WITHIN THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGION

*"Why waste lines on Archille, a shade on the sea floor?
Because as self-healing coral, a quiet culture
is branching from the white ribs of each ancestor,
deeper than it seems on the surface; slowly but sure,
it will change us with the fluent sculpture of Time."*

Derek Walcott, OMEROS (1992, Chapter LIX part 2)

The "fluent sculpture of Time" hints at an ever-changing mould that has been heightened by transnationalization. This rapidly changing mould has already changed the Caribbean and continues to change the region. In fact, some may deem the Caribbean identity to be sufficiently evolving in order to keep up with the "fluent sculpture". Perhaps that is why the Caribbean is "deeper than it seems on the surface". The Caribbean's culture is "self-healing" as it branches from "the white ribs of each ancestor". The region is washed with waves from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

Emilio Pantojas García (2008) has outlined that the Caribbean can be defined in convergences and divergences. Convergences refer to those characteristics which are shared and promote unification in the region. Divergences refer to those features which separate the Caribbean countries from themselves and from the rest of the world. This is the identity of the Caribbean; constantly evolving convergences and divergences, inclusive of shared and distinctive strands of culture, history, geopolitics and economics.

Convergences can be described as the facets which position the Caribbean region toward union and uniformity. When these facets come together they form a new whole, a space that is seen as the Caribbean's identity. Points of convergence can "serve as the basis to build a project of regional integration"^f. These can be seen in three categories: cultural-historical, geopolitical and economical.

History and culture in the Caribbean are embedded. Caribbean islands share the 'plantation experience' which involve colonialism and slavery. This can be seen through the Western labels associated with the Caribbean region: 'West Indies', 'Antilles', and

'Caribbean'. These give the impression of an exotic and fantastical region, permanently separating the Caribbean from Western culture. The historical past also informs the present in food, film, religion, music, fashion and family relations, all of which encompass similar components but are articulated differently. This is why diversity can be seen as a common strand in the region.

Geopolitical convergences include utilizing the geographical proximity among the islands to their political and economic advantage. The Caribbean continental lands that constitute the rim of the Caribbean Sea have realised that in order to avoid marginalization or feeding it, rather, the formation of regional associations may help in strengthening the region against more influential states. This lends to the Caribbean's identity, in that, there is strength in unity; unity that already exists as a common region sharing geopolitical interests, despite diversities; the CARIFORUM alliance with CARICOM members and Dominican Republic.

Economically, points of convergence are seen in trending markets of oil, agriculture and tourism in the Caribbean. These markets mainly feed raw materials to foreign companies which usually continue the cycle of financial and economic dependence on foreign states. As a result, Caribbean nations acknowledge this pattern from its colonial past to present and so adopted intra-regional associations as well as inter-island trade.

On the other hand, divergences can be referred to features which separate the Caribbean islands amongst themselves and from the rest of the world. The mathematical definition of 'divergence' is described as the failure to approach a limit. Therefore it can be said that the Caribbean identity has no limit. However these differences pose a threat to the region's economic growth regionally and internationally as well. Divergences stem from geopolitics, economic factors and cultural-historical pasts.

Geopolitically, there are island versus continental tensions with the plagued label of being a "small state". Some Caribbean states do not promote a Caribbean identity on the international forefront;

Venezuela and Colombia are considered Andean while Mexico adopts a North American identity. This is the attempt to escape marginalization that comes with the Caribbean identity. The Caribbean is associated with social problems by neighbouring foreign countries; drugs, illegal immigrants and financial debts. There is also a history of dependency on foreign states for security and financial aid.

As regards culture and history, the same plantation experiences have created post-colonial mind-sets, thereby creating xenophobic and ethnic issues. For instance, Dominicans alienate Haitians by labelling them as 'blacks' whilst lighter skinned Dominicans are referred to as 'indians'. This mentality of inferiority stemming from colonial pasts has led to the indigenous cultural erasure of what also constitutes Caribbean culture.

Also the differences in colonised histories lead to linguistic barriers in the region, particularly with those who have adopted a non-English language; Spanish, Dutch, Papiamentu and Creole. This further diminishes communication within the Caribbean and in the international arena.

Economic divergences consist of 'one-commodity dependent' economies or asymmetrical industries in the region; tourism, agriculture and manufactured goods. As such the Caribbean is known for being uncompetitive with trade liberalization in a globalised world. There is also heightened competition in the region to get the best out of regional trade agreements. Such economic restraints becomes the Caribbean and as a result, pushed further into the region associated with poverty, "small state" and "developing". Consequently, the Caribbean cannot be defined by a fixed term of analogy, for it is ever-changing. To locate similarities would be to focus on its diversities, which involve both convergences and divergences. ■

SNEAK PREVIEW

Look out for more in
upcoming issues!

BARBADOS - A GREEN ENERGY SHIFT, ONE STREETLIGHT AT A TIME

A new shift towards renewable energy in Barbados is set to lower the greenhouse gas emissions produced by electricity generation, heating and cooling systems, and transport, while saving taxpayer money in the process.

As the government of Barbados leads the way in the transition towards renewable energy in the country, more citizens have also been getting in on the action. In addition to the solar panels and water heaters which can be seen on government buildings, hospitals, police stations and bus shelters, thousands of private homes have also had them installed. Furthermore, desalinization plants are installing large photovoltaic arrays to help defray their own electricity costs.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the European Union (EU) are complementing and further supporting these efforts, not only by installing new street lights and retrofitting 13 existing government buildings, but also by funding a project that foresees the use of more electric vehicles in Barbados. This will certainly assist in the reduction of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions, thereby reducing the carbon footprint for the island, in the transition to clean energy. ■

OFFSHORE MEDICAL UNIVERSITIES CAN BENEFIT CARIBBEAN HOST COUNTRIES

Anywhere in the world, the existence of a tertiary level education institution translates into the presence of thousands of students, faculty and support staff, who inject financial resources into the host country. Cognizant of these opportunities, an upcoming ECLAC study will take an analytical look at the economic contribution of offshore medical universities (OMUs) in the Caribbean to their host countries, and will present strategies to enhance this contribution.



OMUs refer to institutions targeting students seeking to practice medicine in North America. The idea of OMUs in the Caribbean started back in the 1970s, when American entrepreneurs saw a demand for medical education from North American students which could not be met domestically. The factors that favour the Caribbean emerging as a location for OMUs, include less regulatory oversight from local authorities than in the US or Canada, lower tuition costs, close proximity to the US and the high demand for medical education.

Undoubtedly, offshore medical universities bring financial benefits to the host countries, such as the receipt of incomes from students and faculty as they spend on accommodation, travelling, clothing, and other goods and services. These benefits could prove especially significant for some of the smaller economies of the

subregion, such as those of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Netherlands Antilles. These islands have undiversified revenue earning potential, lack natural mineral resources and rely mainly upon agriculture and tourism to earn revenues. However, for this to happen, medical universities need to construct more programs which will prepare local students for the domestic or regional market.

Against this backdrop, the upcoming ECLAC study will focus upon various opportunities for enhancing OMU programmes. Examples will include the possibility for OMUs to form partnerships with Caribbean hospitals to allow their students to pursue their clinical rotations. When such students are training on their clinical rotations, this would add to the number of health care services offered to citizens of the host country. Such partnerships will

benefit both the university and the hospital, since the university may gain access to hospital for its students. Likewise, the hospital may earn additional revenue streams and or equipment. Thus, it may improve the quality of health care offered. ■

Foreign Direct Investment continues downward spiral



Latin America and Caribbean countries are being urged to create policies to attract Foreign Direct Investment flows which support their national processes of sustainable development. This as the flows of FDI shrunk 7.9% in 2016 due to low commodity prices, and their impact on investments made in the natural resources sector. In addition, slow growth in economic activity in various economies has been a reflection of an expanding global digital economy, that tends to concentrate transnational investment in developed economies.

These were revealed at the launch of the 2017 report on Foreign Direct Investment in

Latin America and the Caribbean, on 10 August in Santiago, Chile. The annual report predicts a fresh decline in FDI inflow, of around 5%. Foreign Direct Investment is an important factor in the development of export activities which contribute to economic growth.

However, in Latin America and the Caribbean, big productivity gaps persist and the new technological scenarios that the fourth industrial revolution poses, require new policies to harness the benefits of FDI in national processes of sustainable development, noted Executive Secretary Alicia Bárcena.

In 2016, Latin America

and the Caribbean received 10% of global FDI, a similar share to 2015 but below the 14% average that had been achieved between 2011 and 2014. Despite this downward trend, FDI flows represent 3.6% of the region's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), while the global average is 2.5%, which shows the relevance of these intakes for Latin American and Caribbean economies.

In the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic received 49% of the subregion's FDI and Jamaica 16%. FDI aimed at the natural resources sector fell from 18% in 2010-2015 to 13% in 2016, in line with the end of the boom in commodities prices. In contrast, the weight of



manufacturing and services rose to 40% and 47%, respectively.

With regard to the investing countries, China was responsible for just 1.1% of the FDI received by the region in 2016, a figure that likely underestimates the presence of Chinese capital in Latin American and Caribbean countries. The report also confirms that in 2016, FDI outflows from countries in Latin America and the Caribbean dropped 50%. ■



Dive Festival in Grenada

Grenada has long been one of the Caribbean dive sector's best-kept secrets, and now there's another reason for divers to head to the Spice Isle: the first-ever Pure Grenada Dive Fest.

The event, which takes place from 11-14 October 2017, includes everything from beginner lessons to free beach dives to an underwater photography competition.

The competition will run for the duration of the festival and prizes will be distributed for most creative selfie, best reef picture, best wreck picture, and many more categories at the closing party. The second day of the festival is divided into either a wreck diving day for experienced divers or a local diving day for those who are ready to make the plunge for the first time with professional instructors.

The festival concludes with a boat parade and a final party at the Coconut Beach Restaurant, with lionfish on the menu. ■

Encouraging independence for persons with disabilities

For those among us who have similar experiences, sharing life with a disabled person offers new perspectives on just about everything. You often learn to value things that may seem unimportant to others, but which can bring a sense of fulfilment and contentment, as you see the world through the eyes of someone on whom society often places a negative label.

Disability is a part of life. Many of us will experience some form of disability at some stage during our lives or perhaps will have family members with disabilities. Approximately 15% of the world's population, over one billion persons, experience some form of disability.

In the Caribbean, there are approximately 1.3 million persons with a disability of some kind and around 250,000 persons with a more severe disability. The number and proportion of people with disabilities is expected to increase over the coming decades primarily due to population ageing.

The focus of an ECLAC study to be published later this year is the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean (CRPD). This study underscores that the effect of disability on people's lives varies according to the type and severity of disability, socio-economic status, the communities in which they

live, and many other factors. However, many people with disabilities face barriers which prevent their full and equal participation in society.

Across the Caribbean, most schools, workplaces, public spaces, buildings, transport systems and cultural services are not designed to be accessible to persons with disabilities. They are therefore excluded from participation in activities which others take for granted with serious implications for their social and economic well-being. Persons with disabilities experience worse outcomes in education, employment, health and housing among other areas. This systematic discrimination is now widely

recognised as violating fundamental human rights. So how can we work to eliminate these challenges? ECLAC's study defines the fact that disability is NOT a medical problem and that persons with disability are full and equal members of society, with the same human rights as everyone else.

The study calls for societal change in removing the barriers that prevent equal participation, thereby enabling the effective exercise of rights, and promoting independence, a high quality of life for persons with disabilities and public awareness of disability.

To date, only four Caribbean

countries have passed comprehensive legislation addressing disability. These are The Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Guyana, and Jamaica. Guyana was the first in 2010 and the other three countries followed in 2014. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago adopted a slightly different approach and since 2008 has had an Equal Opportunities Commission and an Equal Opportunities Act, which addresses multiple types of discrimination, including sex, race and disability. Other countries have legislation addressing specific forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities, for example in employment law. ECLAC's study provides evidence and policy

recommendations to facilitate the implementation of international agreements, in particular the CRPD, which is a universal and binding treaty that protects and promotes the human rights of persons with disabilities.

The study also recommends that countries that have not ratified the CRPD should do so as soon as possible. In addition, countries should also consider signing the Optional Protocol in order to provide citizens with an individual complaints mechanism. ■



SNEAK PREVIEW

Look out for more in
upcoming issues!



MAINSTREAMING DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

In the face of the threat of natural disaster, the attention of citizens is usually at peak, listening for updates and safety instructions. During these tense times, the pressure is on for national agencies responsible for the coordination of disasters, risk management and response.

To better prepare for and minimize the impact of disasters, some countries have made progress in developing frameworks for comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (DRM). DRM is the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts, to analyse and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management

of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events.

New regulatory and institutional frameworks outline the explicit roles and responsibilities of national agencies tasked with disaster risk management, most notable, of which are the efforts to improve the recovery and reconstruction processes, and to incorporate measures of financial protection.

ECLAC is preparing to issue a policy brief for 'Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management Strategies in National Development Instruments'. The Hummingbird is pleased to share with its readers a sneak preview of this policy brief, which will be published later this year.

The paper has two objectives. Firstly, it outlines the five pillars for Disaster Risk Management (DRM), which are (1) risk identification, meaning improved identification and understanding of disaster risks through building capacity for assessments and analysis; (2) risk reduction, meaning avoided creation of new risks and reduced risks in society, through greater disaster risk consideration in policy and investment; (3) preparedness, or improved capacity to manage crises through developing forecasting and disaster management capacities; (4) financial protection or increased financial resilience of governments, private sector and households through financial protection strategies; and (5) resilient recovery, meaning



quicker, more resilient recovery through support for reconstruction planning - as well as their applications to disaster assessments.

Secondly, it describes the integration of DRM into development policies, with information from five member states of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), namely, The Bahamas, Belize, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica.

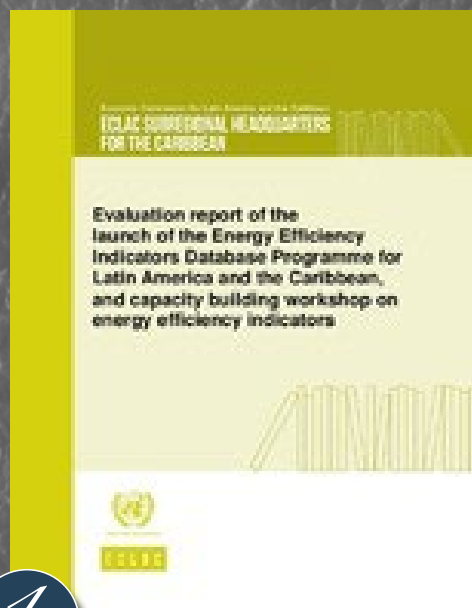
The impact of disasters is magnified for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). In the case of the Caribbean, the cost of disasters with respect to the size of economies is greater than in Latin America, as noted by Coordinator of the

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

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

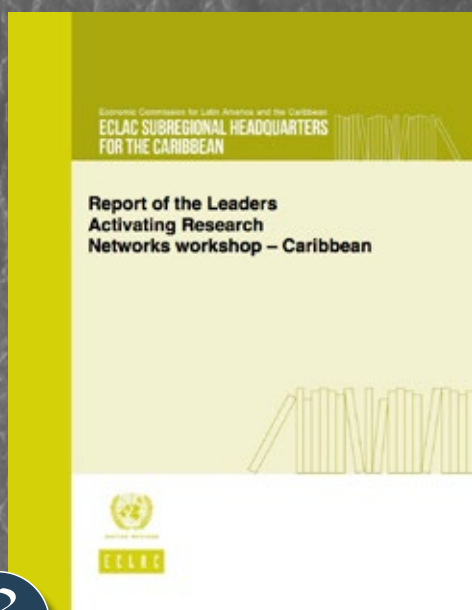
productive sectors and to social spending.

ECLAC's policy brief outlines indicators that can be used to assess the integration of a DRM strategy in the development of the countries of the region. Out of the five countries sampled, The Bahamas and Jamaica have comprehensively incorporated DRM in their national development plans, while the others have elaborated sectoral policies that address the issue in varying degrees. ■



1.

Evaluation report of the launch of the Energy Efficiency Indicators Database Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean, and capacity building workshop on energy efficiency indicators



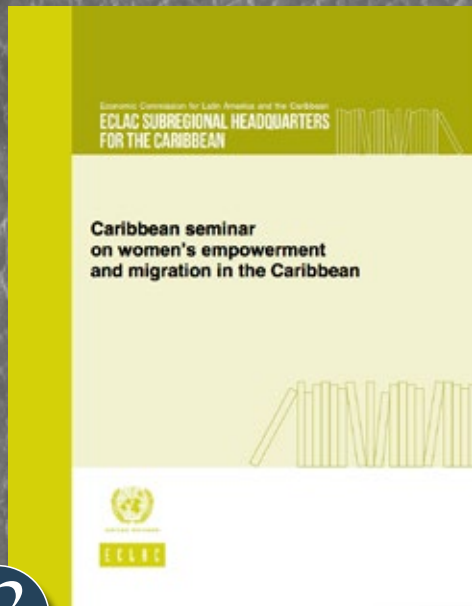
3.

Report of the Leaders Activating Research Networks workshop - Caribbean

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

2.

DIANE'S CORNER

The Director's views and thoughts on
the occasion of:



DIANE QUARLESS
Director of ECLAC Caribbean

23/8



International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition

"We commemorate the abolition of this cruel, inhumane trade because we cannot afford to forget; lest in new insidious ways, history dares to repeat itself. On this day let us seek to promote this observation by informing people about historical events such as on the night of 22 August 1791, when men and women, torn from Africa and sold into slavery, revolted against the slave system to obtain freedom and independence for Haiti."

#DirectorsTake

<http://vrb.al/directors-take>



STATE *of* AFFAIRS



Dominica

FUNDING FOR GEOTHERMAL PROJECT

- Aug 8 -

The Minister for Finance and Prime Minister, Dr Roosevelt Skerrit, revealed that funding for the completion of Dominica's geothermal project has been made available by the Government as well as other benefactors, such as the Government of the United Kingdom, the Government of New Zealand and the SIDS DOCK. Further funding is also expected from the World Bank in the form of a loan of US \$16.2 million. Currently, the designs for the geothermal plant are underway and should be completed by the third quarter of 2017.

CHINA ASSISTS WITH HIGHWAY

- Aug 23 -

The President of Dominica, His Excellency Charles Savarin, Prime Minister Skerrit and his Cabinet as well as the Charge D'affaires of the embassy of the People's Republic of China, were all present to witness the sod turning ceremony for the commencement of the rehabilitation of the E. O. Leblanc Highway post Tropical Storm Erika. Prime Minister Skerrit expressed deep gratitude for the Chinese Government's commitment to restore the west coast highway post Tropical Storm Erika and chose to emphasize the fact that the gift was not an obligation.



Haiti

NEW ACCESSIBILITY BILL

- Aug 31 -

In light of the challenges of accessibility faced by persons with disabilities in Haiti, Gérald Oriol Jr., the Secretary of State for the Integration of People with Disabilities, announced that various public policy measures have been adopted by the authorities to promote the integration of people with disabilities. Foremost among these measures is a bill on the accessibility standards for the built environment that was finalized and adopted by the Council of Ministers on 30th June. The bill has since been ratified by the Senate and must now be voted by the Lower House before being sent to the Executive for publication in the Official Journal "Le Moniteur".

257 NGOs BANNED

- Sept 1 -

The Haitian government announced that it had banned the operations of 257 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Haiti. The sanction was announced by the Minister of Planning and External Cooperation (MPCE), Mr. Aviol Fleurant, who stated that the NGOs were disconnected from the priorities and needs of the Haitian people. Also citing the need to get Haiti out of the conceptual state of welfare, and move it into real development, Minister Fleurant explained that the 257 organizations had violated a September 14, 1989 decree regarding their functioning.



Saint Lucia

EC\$37 MILLION FROM JAPAN

- Aug 24 -

The governments of Japan and Saint Lucia have signed a multi-million dollar project agreement for the reconstruction of bridges in Saint Lucia. Japanese Ambassador to Saint Lucia, His Excellency Mitsuhiro Okada, disclosed that his government would be providing financial assistance totaling 1,530,000 Yen, equivalent to EC\$37 million, towards the project. The funds will be made available through the Japanese Development Cooperation Project, and will assist with the reconstruction of the Cul de Sac and Ravine Poission bridges which have proven to be vulnerable to flooding.

CHILEAN PRESIDENT VISITS

- Aug 26 -

The Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, Hon. Allen Chastanet, and other government welcomed the President of Chile, Ms. Michelle Bachelet, on an official state visit to Saint Lucia. The visit is an opportunity for President Bachelet, along with some of her ministers, to engage with Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) member states in an effort to better position the region to address its priority issues. Saint Lucia first established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Chile in 1991.

BETTER DATA

LEADS TO

BETTER DECISIONS

ABOUT DEVELOPMENT POLICY



As Governments begin to include the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their national development plans, it is important to ensure that national indicators, as well as data collection and reporting arrangements prepared by National Statistical Systems are designed to meet global standards.



Captain Bligh's Caribbean Cargo

The story of the Mutiny on the Bounty is popular historical lore, and has been the subject of dozens of books and several Hollywood movies. In 1789, 23 year-old Fletcher Cristian organized the take-over of the Royal Navy Vessel HMS Bounty from the abusive ship-master, Captain Bligh.

Captain William Bligh of the HMS Bounty had been contracted to bring breadfruit from French Polynesia to the Caribbean. Breadfruit is a staple Caribbean food, but it's not native to the region. Like many other fruit and plants, it was transplanted here in 1793.

The voyage started from England to Tahiti to collect the breadfruit plants. All went well until the Bounty left Tahiti. Led by Christian, the ship's mate, the crew grew impatient with the length of the journey.

Christian and his supporters set Bligh and those sailors loyal to him adrift in an open boat, and the Bounty sailed back to Tahiti. The mutineers also threw the precious cargo of carefully tended young breadfruit plants into the ocean.

After being adrift for about 47 days in the Pacific, with

only a sextant to guide him and his men, Bligh arrived at Timor. From there he returned to Britain, where he was court-martialled. Acquitted of the loss of the Bounty, Bligh set out for the south Pacific again, this time aboard the HMS Providence. He collected a new batch of breadfruit plants in Tahiti, before sailing to the Caribbean. He landed at St. Vincent's capital, Kingstown, on January 23, 1793, his mission at last complete.

Today, you can scarcely go anywhere in St. Vincent without being reminded that it is breadfruit country – and of the Captain Bligh connection. A third-generation breadfruit tree – which was actually delivered by Captain Bligh's second voyage – has pride of place in the Saint Vincent Botanical Gardens in Kingstown. There is an annual breadfruit festival. The breadfruit forms part of the logo of one of the island's main supermarkets. There's even a Captain Bligh rum.

Breadfruit trees grow throughout the length and breadth of the island, and Vincentians won't hesitate to tell you which of the varieties of the fruit is their favourite, and the best way to prepare it. ■

PM Harris hopes health walks lead to reduction in NCDs

The monthly health walks initiated by Saint Kitts and Nevis' Prime Minister, Dr. Timothy Harris, 10 years ago in Constituency Number Seven, is playing a significant role in the promotion of healthy living by residents and citizens, which in turn can lead to the overall reduction of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the country.

PM Harris recently led dozens of participants on a health walk from Basseterre Fire Station to the West Farm lawn, as the monthly health walk initiative continues to expand to include other communities outside of Constituency Number Seven.

Harris said he is particularly pleased that this event is achieving its goal of educating residents on the importance of living healthier lifestyles by incorporating more physical activities into their routines. Increased

physical activity, he noted, is one of the four main factors that can help reduce the incidences of NCDs. The three other factors are healthy diets, reduction in the use of tobacco and reduction in the use of alcohol.

Harris further stated that "we have demonstrated again by this exercise, that this is an activity in which people can engage; an activity which you can do by yourself or with a group. At the end of it, we brought the discipline of a healthy diet, which is a second component which we have been advised is important too with respect to healthier living."

The PM, who serves as CARICOM's lead on human resources, health and HIV/AIDS, said that it is his hope that the monthly health walks serve as springboards for people to incorporate other elements of physical activities into their daily routines

that can redound to an improvement in their overall health and well-being.

"While we have been doing this once per month, it is demonstrative of what we are attempting to achieve and we want to encourage people, not only to show solidarity once a month, but in their own ways to increase their own level of physical activity," he said.

"It could be as simple as walking to work or it could be as simple as taking a walk to the venue by which you would have lunch. Anything that increases physical activity would have, over time, an appreciable beneficial impact upon one's health and wellness." ■

Children's Garden to bring new look to Botanic Park



When Queen Elizabeth II opened Grand Cayman's Botanic Park in 1994, only the Woodland Trail was complete, but new gardens and areas have been opening up ever since.

Most recently, the park broke ground on a new Children's Garden. "The garden is a place for children to play and learn," said John Lawrus, the park's general manager. The Children's Garden will feature an education area, open play area with a tree house and a grow zone. An environmental zone with mini ecosystems will also be a part of the garden.

"The Children's Garden will be a magical place, making a science book come to life

– climb, listen, touch, build - and will inspire the minds of children of all ages," said architect John Doak.

Some features of the park will include an open grass lawn area, raised planting beds and boxes for demonstrations where children can get their hands dirty, mini ecosystems, water features, misting areas, water pumps, solar and windmill energy generation, desalination, a maze, amphitheater, a rope bridge, and wattle fences.

Thousands of schoolchildren, locals and visitors visit the park every year to learn about flora and fauna and also to get some insight into Cayman's cultural heritage. The Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park is a nonprofit

outdoor garden and wildlife facility located in the North Side district. The park is owned jointly by the Cayman Islands government and the National Trust for the Cayman Islands, a group dedicated to preserving natural environments and places of historic significance in the Cayman Islands.

The park also contains the Floral Colour Garden, a Cayman Heritage Garden, a lake, an orchid boardwalk exhibit and a Blue Iguana Habitat. ■

Excitement and thought stimulation was the order of the day at ECLAC Caribbean's first Brown Bag Lunch session for 2017. Focus centered on the UN Cares group's message on Discrimination and unconscious bias: why UN Cares Matters. Focal points Candice Gonzales, Jeniffer Sankar-Sooknarine, Yjaraima Coggins-Green and Lydia Rosa Geny, inaugurated the lunchtime session with an interactive challenge on categorising staff members based on their similarity to one of two animals. It was a revealing study in the influence of perception, with results both surprising and entertaining.

Joining ECLAC Caribbean staff during the session were UNFPA

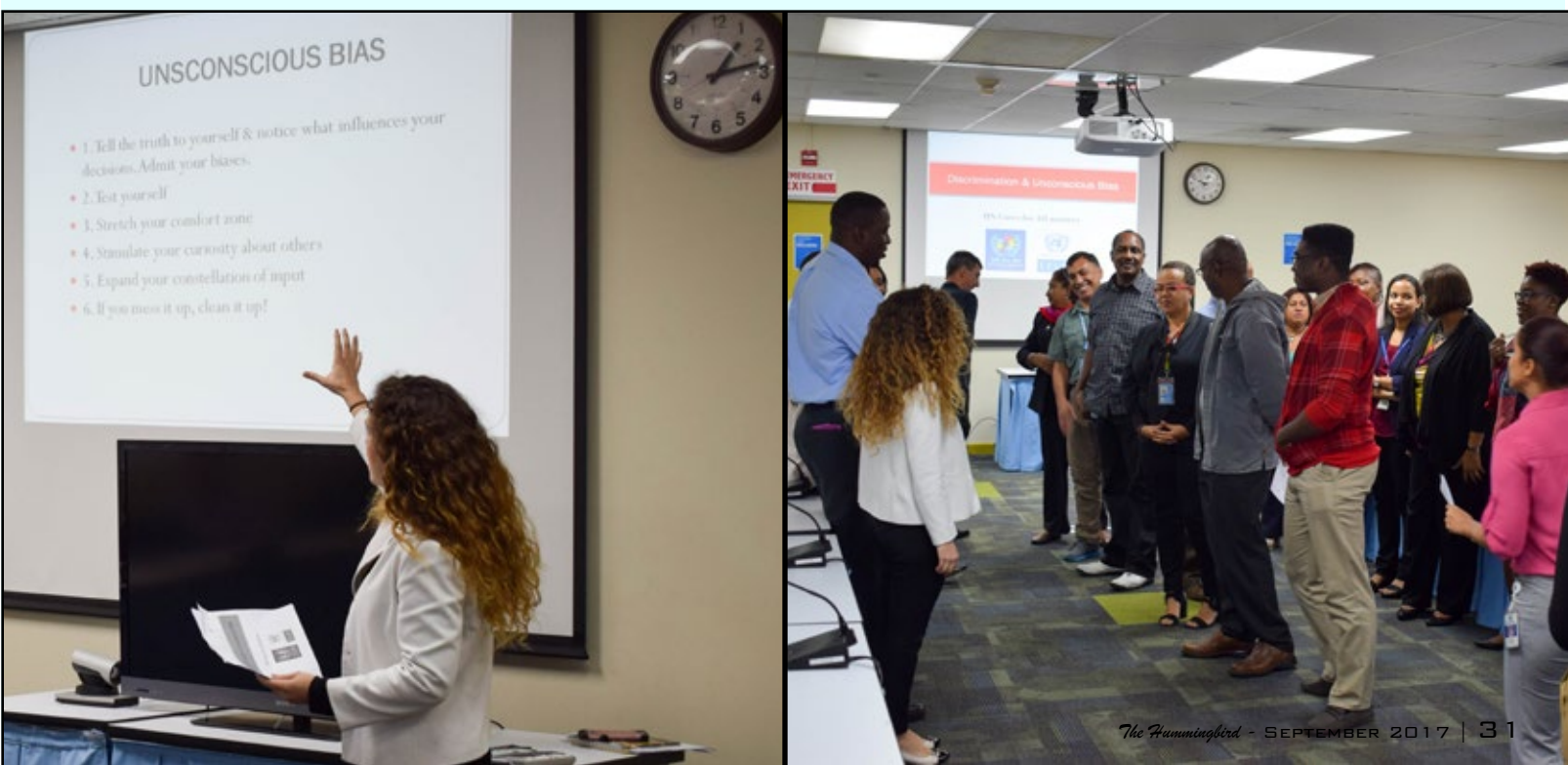
UN Cares focal point, Ella Gaspard, and the Executive Director of Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago, Dona Da Costa Martinez.

Multiple forms of discrimination and ways of overcoming unconscious biases were addressed during the session, with the aim of raising awareness on issues that could impact the work environment, as well as strengthening the inclusiveness of the UN system.

Participants also received information about the 10 Minimum Standards of UN Cares and the new stage of the work of UN Cares on stigma and discrimination: UN for All. In Trinidad and Tobago, the

United Nations theme group on Gender Equality, HIV and Human Rights, comprising all UN entities in the country, is reenergizing the UN Cares programme and many interesting activities are being planned for the next months and year.

Brown Bag Lunch sessions at ECLAC Caribbean have become a much anticipated event since its inauguration two years ago. The sessions provide an informal space (during lunch time, of course) for staff to discuss ideas, share experiences, problem-solve or learn something new, in a relaxed atmosphere. ■



Corn Pie

What you will need:

- 1 egg**
- 1 can whole kernel corn**
- ½ tsp. salt**
- ¼ cup (2 oz.) butter, unsalted**
- ½ tsp. black pepper or white pepper**
- 8 tbsp. cornmeal**
- 2 pimento peppers, chopped**
- 2 medium sized onions, chopped**
- 1 large sweet pepper, diced**
- 1 cup evaporated milk**



What you need to do:

1. Add 1 egg to the liquid from 1 can of whole kernel corn. If there is little liquid add water to bring it up to about 1 cup liquid.
2. Beat well then add salt and black pepper or white pepper. Stir in cornmeal to a smooth paste and set aside. Melt the butter and saute the onion, pimento peppers and sweet pepper.
3. Add evaporated milk and bring to boil. Add the cornmeal mixture and stir on low heat to a consistent paste. Stir in the whole kernel corn. Continue stirring until it leaves the sides of the pot. Remove from heat and pour into a greased dish. Smooth the surface with the back of a spoon.
4. Bake at 350 degrees F for approx 30 minutes or until golden brown.



CONTACT US

ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean,
1 Chancery Lane, P.O. Box 1113,
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago,
West Indies.

Telephone: 1 868 224 8000
E-mail: registry@eclacpos.org

MEDIA CONTACT
Tel.: 1 868 224 8075
E-mail: media-pos@eclac.org

SOCIAL MEDIA



www.eclacpos.org

