



FILM & MUSIC

UNTAPPED POTENTIAL OF
JAMAICA'S FILM AND MUSIC
SECTORS

AGENDA 2030

IMPLEMENTING POLICY PLANNING
FOR SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

SMART TECHNOLOGY

BETTER ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT COMES TO BELIZE



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.

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25 February 2018



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Feb 16

Every time you turn off the tap when you have finished washing your hands; switch off the lights when you leave a room... you are helping to avoid flooding.



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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Feb 2

The Caribbean has one of the highest emigration rates of skilled and tertiary-educated individuals in the world. Women account for a large percentage of these individuals. In the



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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Jan 24

Experts across the region agree that there is significant potential for strengthening the economic contribution of the music and film industries in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean.



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COUNTRIES IMPROVE SCOPE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY INDICATORS

Barbados, Guyana, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago are forging ahead in their efforts to address renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) challenges with the support of ECLAC Caribbean. Representatives from the national energy sectors of each of the four Caribbean countries were introduced to tools to assess policies and programmes on EE at a workshop held recently in Port of Spain.

Hosted by ECLAC Caribbean in collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME), the workshop exposed participants to the Database of Energy Efficiency Indicators (BIEE) methodology and introduced the BIEE tool for the implementation of the database in the Caribbean.

The BIEE methodology provides a template to

gather national data for assessing and analysing policies and programs on EE in participant countries, and promotes capacity building on EE indicators and the enhancement of regional coordination on EE issues. It also facilitates the regional comparability of the energy sector, and motivates the implementation of EE policies and programmes based on monitoring, measuring and standardization.

In the workshop, the benefits of having the EE indicators, such as energy intensity by economic sector, energy consumption of transport per capita, and energy consumption per household were outlined during a summary presentation entitled 'The Role of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency on Building Resilience to Disasters'. The presentation suggested that the use of EE indicators would enable countries to craft better disaster and emergency mechanisms which could

facilitate resilient recovery of their energy sectors. Participants also engaged in discussions on issues including energy consumption characteristics, such as the status of EE measures, and energy policies in their respective countries.

Energy efficiency is an important development consideration for Caribbean countries given their energy matrix dependency on costly imported fossil fuel. Over the next few months, the BIEE project will enable the collection and input of relevant data for estimating EE indicators in the four beneficiary countries. The first stage of the project is the compilation of basic information by the national energy focal points. Then a BIEE analysis will be undertaken in seven sectors, including macro/energy balance, households, industrial, services/ tourism, agricultural/fisheries, transportation, and energy. The final step will be the training



U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS LAUNCHES 150-DAY MARKETING PLAN

of national focal points in the interpretation and use of the energy indicators.

This project is designed to strengthen the capacity of energy authorities in the Caribbean to monitor energy efficiency, improve data reliability and in turn enhance evidence-based decision-making in terms of energy efficiency. So far, 19 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have agreed to participate in this initiative. ■

In the wake of the devastating impact on its vital tourism industry caused by two Category 5 hurricanes last September, the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism has developed a 150-day rolling marketing plan intended to revive the industry, which is to be shared with industry stakeholders.

"This new plan has been developed to establish priorities and a road map of activities we will pursue as our destination recovers," Commissioner of Tourism Beverly Nicholson-Doty stated. She noted that the plan will be fluid and adaptable to the current environment and that the Department of Tourism is committed to continuing to share regular progress updates with travel partners and the local community. The 150-day plan will be rolled out over the coming weeks.

The Commissioner disclosed that the Department is working with a significantly reduced budget, as marketing activities are funded by room tax revenues.

"With a significant number of accommodations unavailable for most of 2018, the marketing plan reflects working with a reduced budget," she explained, noting that the U.S. Virgin Islands will maintain a limited presence at key trade shows across the United

States.

Public relations and marketing efforts will focus on sharing Virgin Islanders' stories of resilience.

"Our digital marketing efforts will primarily focus on social media, where we will highlight segments such as cruise, shopping, dining, water-sports, beaches, romance, culture, available accommodations and yachting," she said. Efforts to share and messaging to promote stories of resilience will use the hashtag #USVStillNice.

"As we recover from the challenges posed by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, we have no doubt that there is an opportunity for the U.S. Virgin Islands – with a refreshed product and visitor experience – to become the premier tourism destination in the Caribbean," the Commissioner asserted. She reported that airline and cruise line development meetings will continue this year, and that new tourism opportunities are being launched across the Territory, a detailed plan for which will be unveiled during the first quarter of 2018.

The Territory's film industry will remain a focus of attention, with the Department attending industry trade shows specifically targeted to this audience. ■



FEATURE ARTICLE

UNTAPPED POTENTIAL OF
JAMAICA'S FILM AND MUSIC
SECTORS



Film and music experts in Jamaica agree that there is significant untapped potential for increased growth in these sectors. This is especially so in the music industry, if one considers the phenomenal evolution of genres such as Reggae and Dancehall, which have achieved global recognition.

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Untapped potential of Jamaica's film and music sectors

Jamaica has long been known for the creativity and innovation of its music industry, which remains an important contributor to employment and incomes for artistes and the wider community. The country has a number of advantages, which present an opportunity for developing a more dynamic music and film industry. These include an abundance of natural trainable talent, well-established music studios such as Tuff Gong International and Anchor Records, a cadre of production personnel who have honed their skills by providing a range of services for foreign on-location film makers, beautiful scenery, an improved intellectual property regime, and a renewed focus on the development of the local film industry ecosystem by the Film Commission.

A new ECLAC study, entitled, 'The Film and Music Sectors in Jamaica: Lessons from Case Studies of Successful Firms/Ventures', takes a close look at the success stories, opportunities, lessons learnt and contribution of the film and music sectors to the Jamaican economy, with a focus on identifying the success factors that have resulted in the strengthened global competitiveness and economic contribution of the local music and film sectors.

Several artistes and ventures have been successful when it comes to establishing professional music services and studios. However, the consensus among the music experts is that song writing and artiste management, along with marketing and

distribution, remain the most important constraints to income growth and profitability in the industry. Moreover, the digital revolution has been a mixed blessing in that although it has made music production much easier and less costly, many musicians now eschew the recording studio, which traditionally has been an important space for guided apprenticeship and talent development. The view of many experts in the field is that this has not helped to advance the overall quality of music production.

In addition, musicians still complain of difficulties encountered in travelling to perform across the region, in spite of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Single Market Economy (CSME) protocol on free movement. Notwithstanding the long history of film production in Jamaica, the country still does not have a dynamic film industry. Filming is still characterised by occasional individual projects. In the past, the development of a domestic film industry was neglected because of a focus on attracting foreign on-location films.

Even today, film producers in Jamaica continue to face serious challenges along the value chain- from script writing to screen exhibition, including a shortage of well-trained script-writers, producers, directors, cinematographers and other skilled technicians. Other constraints include a shortage of financing, inadequate training institutions, underdeveloped distribution and exhibition platforms and a failure to fully exploit an existing co-production agreement with the United Kingdom.

These challenges notwithstanding, the future on the horizon is

looking much brighter. In recent times, the Jamaica Film Commission has been actively facilitating the development of the local film industry through a range of training and incentive programmes. These include facilitating participation of film makers at international and regional film festivals, arranging film training boot camps with international film makers and training in how film makers can access available fiscal incentives.

The study also highlighted key challenges that are common to both the music and film industries that need to be addressed.

These challenges stem mainly from deficiencies in institutional support systems, organizational design, the management of operations and flexibility in adjusting to changing times. The first challenge speaks to an underdeveloped institutional support system to provide high quality training and to evaluate standards of service delivery in the sub-sectors. The Caribbean School of Media and Communication (formerly CARIMAC) is perhaps the best placed to undertake this task. However, the institution has yet to develop a targeted advanced degree programme in music and film production. Knowledge development institutions would also need to develop systems to assess the success of their programmes overtime so that they can become learning institutions.

The second major challenge is a shortage of affordable finance in the subsectors. This stems in part from the high risk to returns and project-based nature of activities in the subsectors, which makes it difficult to attract funding from commercial banks. The third constraint is a distribution model that fails to adequately leverage digital platforms to monetise products and services. According

to the International Federation for the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) digital music sales accounted for half of music sales for the first time in 2016. Streaming and downloads have also outpaced DVD sales in some major markets. A fourth factor is a failure to maximise the benefits from music collaborations and co-production in film making. These arrangements are essential in such industries, where global value chains are important and players have the opportunity to collaborate based on their specialised skills and expertise, such as in the production of indigenous rhythms or for country-specific set design.

Key recommendations to leverage the opportunities and overcome the constraints in Jamaica's film and music industries are posited in the study. With respect to the institutional arrangements, it is recommended that programmes be developed to strengthen the weakest links in the sectors. According to experts in the field these are song writing and artist management in music and script writing in film; and distribution in both sub-sectors. These are low-hanging fruit that could be addressed through appropriate training offered in a by a Master's degree programme at the Caribbean School of Media and Communication. This could incorporate apprenticeship training with leading industry experts, musicians and film makers from more advanced countries. This could be complemented by a youth apprenticeship programme that targets youth with natural talent and provides them with an incubator-type environment to refine their artistic and business management skills. Jamaica should also develop an E-registry with detailed information on players in the sub-sectors to facilitate better targeting of government support.



The financial challenge should be tackled by a two-pronged approach. First there is need to improve the investment readiness of businesses in the sub-sectors by improving their financial and business management skills and strengthening intellectual property management, including reducing piracy to enable them to collect more rents. This would enable them to provide a more structured financial track record that could help them to secure funding from commercial banks, especially through their small business development windows.

Jamaica also needs to focus on developing innovative financing mechanisms, which are a better match for music and film given their risk profile. The EXIM Bank of Jamaica already has in place a programme in collaboration with the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO) to value intellectual property. This should be strengthened and where feasible, funding from the EXIM bank for operators in the sub-sectors should be increased. There should be further exploration of venture capital funding, which incorporates not only finance, but active monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the business. The Development Bank of Jamaica has a venture

capital fund, the Jamaica Venture Capital Programme (JVCP) and the authorities should try to secure additional resources from international and regional development finance institutions to top up its funding. Other mechanisms such as angel investing and crowdfunding should also be explored to finance the music and film activities.

The study recommends that the distribution challenge should be tackled by market research to determine what mix of traditional and digital platforms are best suited to Jamaican producers. Given that digital distribution is rapidly overtaking other forms it is imperative that Jamaican music and film businesses readily embrace digital platforms such as iTunes, Spotify, Vimeo, Spotify and Netflix. This might require business organisations to hire persons with talent and skill in this area to get the best value for money. Jamaica should also consider introducing content requirements to assist in the marketing of local music and films, as has been done in countries like Canada and France.

Jamaica could also do more to leverage existing collaboration and co-production with international partners. Collaboration is

already taking place between Jamaican musicians and musicians abroad. There is room to strengthen such collaborations by exploring better partnerships under the EU-CARICOM Cultural Protocol and to negotiate better deals. In addition, the 2007 Jamaica-UK co-production agreement should be better leveraged to increase the number of joint film productions. This demands that Jamaican producers and support service providers upgrade the quality of their production and service products offered to compete with other attractive destinations. ■

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CAYMAN ARTS FESTIVAL FEATURES LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL TALENT

One of the most exciting arts events in the Cayman Islands, the 2018 Cayman Arts Festival took place in early February, with an impressive line-up of international and local musical talent on hand to entertain audiences.

The events showcased performers including Classical Mayhem, Romanian cellist Andrei Ionita, the duo of the Myriad Song, Christopher Gould and Geraldine McGreevy, and also KT Sullivan and four of her New York Cabaret colleagues: Carole J. Bufford, Eric Yves Garcia, Natalie Douglas and Jon Weber.

The Cayman Arts Festival also has a tradition of supporting various art forms in addition to music. For the first time this year, it included three fantastic supporting events, each at a different iconic Cayman location.

The festival and the Visual Arts Society who have teamed up at Pedro St James for a celebration of music and art by the sea. Then there was the Rising Stars event at the George Town Public Library, comprised of selected finalists from the Butterfield Young Musician of the Year competition. Finally, the National Gallery's latest exhibition "Through Ivan's Eye" by Gretchen Allen, brought together Christopher Gould, Geraldine McGreevy and the popular local a cappella group, the Singrays.

For the first time, local poets also performed during these events. ■



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND MIGRATION IN THE CARIBBEAN

Women worldwide are on the move as much as men. In 2015, almost half (48 per cent) of 244 million international migrants were women in the Caribbean.¹ The implications of female migration, whether independent or with their families, are diverse and complex on the individual, household and community levels. These issues are examined in a new joint study by ECLAC Caribbean and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), entitled 'Women's Empowerment and Migration in the Caribbean', which focusses on migration and women's empowerment with the aim of encouraging debate among stakeholders, policy makers and civil society in the subregion about the importance of developing and implementing gender-sensitive and rights-based migration policies.

This study presents a contextual analysis of the mutual relations between migration and women's empowerment and informs practical actions for policy consideration, including for the negotiation process towards the adoption of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration that will be adopted this year and, more broadly, for sustainable development goals in order to ensure that no one is left behind.

There are several drivers of migration, which include: 1) demography; 2) demand for labour (and segmentation of this demand by gender and other

lines); 3) distance-shrinking transportation; 4) digital revolution; 5) degradation of the environment; 6) desperation of persons fleeing abject poverty, political persecution and hopelessness; 7) disparities – socio-economic inequalities within and between countries, including gender inequalities; and 8) disasters – natural, armed conflict, internal turmoil and political instability. Structural conditions defining pre-migration social, economic and political roles of potential migrants and their motivation to move are crucial to shaping the migration journey and its future impact. When compared with other regions, the presence of women in the Caribbean labour market is relatively strong, albeit largely at the lower end of the labour market hierarchy and without realizing their full entrepreneurial potential. Still, female labour market participation rates remain lower than those of Caribbean males with higher incidence of unemployment and poverty. To illustrate, available data on labour force participation rates in the Caribbean reveal gender disparity in the labour market, showing that males were more active in the labour force than females despite the fact that in most countries females comprised over 50 percent of the population. Based on data for the period 2011-2015 the labour force participation rate for females ranged between 41.6 to 69.1 per cent compared to a range of 56 to 84 per cent for males. As indicated in the study, many women perform menial jobs, often without access to social



protection, and predominantly as providers of unpaid or poorly paid domestic and caregiving work. Moreover, when in paid employment, women not only earn less than men, they tend to work longer hours, despite the fact that women are often better educated than men.

This points to de-skilling, underemployment and a narrower range of employment opportunities for women in the subregion. In addition, limited access to financial capital or appropriate financial literacy have resulted in fewer female than male entrepreneurs. Furthermore, female owned-businesses tend to operate in sectors characterized by low productivity and low growth, such as in clothing, food, and retail services. In addition to the limited labour opportunities, different forms of discrimination and violence against women in the private and public sphere can also act as factors stimulating migration, even though in many instances they would not be registered as such.* Interestingly, the current socio-economic position of women in the Caribbean subregion may make many potential female migrants vulnerable before they even start the journey. Mobility thus can be an act of sacrifice for the well-being of the household, not necessarily an act of empowerment -although both scenarios may co-exist in the

same migration journey. Whether independently or with families in tow, the motivation for female migration is multidimensional and complex at the individual, household and community levels. Despite this complexity, migration policies and international recruitment practices are often gender-blind in language, and do not consider the differing impact on males and females. Gendered labour market segmentation and differences in skill development opportunities in the labour market play a role in defining regular pathways of migration opportunities for female and male workers. In particular, in lower skilled immigration channels, migrant selection and admission de facto perpetuates the gendered perception of different occupations as "masculine" (construction, agriculture) and "feminine" (caregiving, domestic work). On the other hand, at least when legal channels for immigration in these in-demand occupations exist, they offer female migrants an opportunity to enter the destination labour market legally and access social services, even though still within the limitations of gendered employment.

In addition, female migrants are often faced with new levels of discrimination** in the country of destination, especially when they are forced to integrate into the labour market with low-paying jobs under difficult or

harsh working conditions.

The study recognizes that empowerment can only occur when both women and men have the ability to participate in, contribute to and benefit from growth and sustainable development in ways that not only recognize, but value their contributions.

The ECLAC/IOM's study provides guidance on ways to mainstreaming gender and migration into legal and policy framework in compliance with core international and regional human rights instruments and standards, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

■
* International Organization for Migration (IOM), Tackling action against violence and discrimination affecting migrant women and girls, infosheet, 2013.

** Discrimination against women means: "Any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field" (article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women).



HELPING ANIMALS IN HURRICANE-RAVAGED CARIBBEAN

As residents of the Caribbean islands of Antigua and Barbuda work valiantly to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, a small group of islanders is trying to care for thousands of starving and sick animals.

Lakeville resident, Julia Dixon, and her friend, Sharon Gerson, of Middleboro, Massachusetts, recently partnered with Dogs and Cats of Antigua Inc., a non-profit group established in Antigua to help animals across the islands in distress and to provide assistance for the welfare and protection of dogs and cats on the island through feeding, veterinary care, spaying and neutering, fostering and rehoming.

Dixon is the owner of Pet Recess, Inc. in Lakeville, while Gerson operates K9 Camp and Resort in Middleboro. The two women, along with friends Karen Cook and Abbie Rennie, travelled to Antigua last October with four large crates of pet food and veterinary supplies and helped to care for the countless dogs and cats searching

for food and shelter on the island.

"We went to try to help with the situation," Dixon said, adding that when the four women arrived on the island, the citizens were "reeling" from the destruction. Since 95 percent of Barbuda was destroyed, there was a mandatory human evacuation and all animals, including cattle, horses and goats, were abandoned.

"It was a terrible situation," she recalls.

Dixon adds that as she and her friends traveled across Antigua, they witnessed horrific scenes of starving animals covered with fleas, ticks and mange. Most of the dogs suffered from heartworm.

"These animals are just dying everywhere," Dixon said, labelling the situation as one of "crisis proportion."

When the two women learned of the desperate situation last October, Gerson established a Go Fund Me page to help raise funds for the five-day trip.

"Both of our businesses helped to fund the trip," Dixon said,

adding that the money was used to purchase dog and cat food and much-needed veterinary supplies. "My clients have been very generous in supporting the cause," she said.

According to Dixon, the four volunteers brought six puppies from Antigua that received medical certification to be shipped out the country. Each dog was spayed or neutered and received complete veterinary care. The dogs were fostered and subsequently were rehomed.

Dogs and Cats of Antigua, Inc., brought an additional five dogs to Massachusetts since October and transports the canines, which must be accompanied by an owner, to Boston, where Dixon or Gerson meets them and brings them to Lakeville or Middleboro to receive medical care and find a new home. Hummingbird pays tribute to the generosity of spirit of these animal champions, who ensured that these four-footed victims of Irma and Maria, were not left behind. ■



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

IMPLEMENTING POLICY PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Policy makers and government officials with responsibility for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean recently gathered at a workshop in Trinidad and Tobago to share their country experiences in the implementation of evidence-based policy planning within the context of sustainable development.

Organized by ECLAC Caribbean, the December 2018 workshop zeroed in on the implementation of an ongoing GIZ-funded project and plans for implementing an anticipated Development Account project. The project, entitled “Planning for the Implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean”, which covers Aruba, the Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Grenada, Guyana, and Saint Kitts and Nevis, is funded by the German government and focuses on the institutional arrangement and the statistical capacity for implementing and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Development Account project, “Strengthening

institutional Frameworks in the Caribbean for an Integrative Approach to Implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SIDS Sustainable Development Agenda” is expected to start in February 2018 and will include Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Sint Maarten.

The primary goal of both projects is to strengthen the capacities of Caribbean countries to design and implement national development plans that adequately address all the dimensions of development, including economic, social, and environmental, in a sustainable manner and using data to inform the process.

One year after the Caribbean Symposium on Mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in National Development Planning, which was held in Kingston, Jamaica, and a little over six months since the follow-up workshop to accelerate SDG implementation in the Caribbean, which was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago in May 2017, Member States have

made considerable progress in mainstreaming the SDGs.

The workshop revealed that this progress varies from the establishment of national institutional frameworks for implementing the SDGs to national efforts that have taken place in advancing the drafting of new national development plans. Examples include the presentation of Voluntary National Reviews* (VNRs), which Belize and Aruba, Curaçao, and Sint Maarten (as part of the Netherlands), delivered at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2017 and which the Bahamas and Jamaica are due to deliver in July 2018.

The workshop also allowed ECLAC Caribbean to identify more effective ways of providing technical assistance to beneficiary countries under the two projects. ■

* See FOCUS magazine Issue 3, July-September 2017 for an article titled “The follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the sustainable development goals (SDGs)” for an explanation of the VNRs and the HLPF process.



THE EFFECTS OF POPULATION AGEING ON PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

Policy makers in the fields of planning, public finance and social protection across the Caribbean recognise that demographic changes must be factored into development planning. In particular, the funding of public education, pensions, and health care are significantly affected by changes in population age structure.

This was one of the issues discussed at a meeting convened by ECLAC Caribbean in Trinidad and Tobago to discuss the findings of the study, 'Inclusive social protection and demographic change'.

The ageing population in the subregion has been characterized by a decreasing number of younger persons due to falling fertility, and an increasing proportion of older persons, with increased longevity. All Caribbean countries are ageing and will continue to do so over the coming decades with the changes in the age structure of the population being particularly rapid in the coming 20 years.

The study used a simple demographic model which linked public expenditure on education, pensions, and health with population age structures and GDP per worker in order to

examine how these factors are likely to affect public expenditure over the period 2010-2050. The results suggest that for education, the fall in the proportion of children relative to workers, which would tend to reduce education expenditure, is likely to be countered by the impact of economic growth, which would have the opposite effect. However, these factors will vary from country to country.

For example, in Trinidad and Tobago, the long-term impact of economic growth is expected to outweigh the impact of demographic change with the result that expenditure on education will increase as a percentage of GDP. In other countries, such as Belize, the demographic effect is expected to be more dominant, and expenditure on education is expected to fall.

The biggest increases in expenditure are projected to be due to pensions, reflecting the anticipated growth in the number of older persons compared to working age persons. Expenditure on pensions is projected to increase in all countries as a percentage of GDP. In these circumstances, countries will need to implement reforms to ensure that future public pension

liabilities can be met while also providing an adequate income for all older persons. For existing pension schemes, reforms could involve the introduction of higher pension contributions to be paid by workers and/or employers and increasing retirement ages.

ECLAC's study recommends that in some countries, non-contributory pensions will need to be expanded so that all older persons receive a pension. In addition, pension systems should allow for flexible retirement arrangements so that older persons can manage their own transition from work into retirement in a way which suits them.

Public expenditure on health care services is also expected to increase as a percentage of GDP as the population ages. The increases in health expenditure are not projected to be as large as for pensions but will nevertheless be significant, not least because controlling the future demand for health services is relatively more difficult than it is for pensions. While policy reforms such as increasing retirement ages have a measurable effect on future pension costs, there are no equivalent policies for managing the future demand for health services in such a direct manner. ■



SMART TECHNOLOGY FOR BETTER ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMES TO BELIZE

SMART, an acronym for Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool, is the leading tool for conservation law enforcement monitoring. SMART was developed by global conservation organizations in Canada, which work in collaboration with protected areas authorities, and other stake holders.

The software makes it possible to collect, store, communicate, and analyze data on illegal activities including wildlife, patrol routes, and management actions. SMART allows all this to be done in a more effective and efficient manner which can directly benefit responsible agencies in determining exactly where, how, and by whom poaching, illegal logging, and other direct threats to biodiversity are occurring. It can be used across a broad range of conservation contexts, from strictly protected areas to multiple-use zones, and from terrestrial to marine ecosystems.

In Belize, the implementation of SMART is a fairly recent activity and yet the benefits so far have been significant and already evident. SMART has mostly been used as a marine element in Belize

having been implemented by the Belize Fisheries Department throughout the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) system by Government and NGOs.

The Bacalar Chico, Glovers Reef, Caye Caulker, South Water Caye, and Holchan Marine Reserves have already begun use of the software. Other places include the Sapodilla Caye, Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Blue Hole and Lighthouse Reef Natural Monuments, Gladden split, Silk Caye Marine Reserve, and the Laughing Bird National Park.

At an official launch ceremony of the new SMART equipment on Wednesday 24 January, Dr. Omar Figueroa, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Environment, Sustainable Development, and Climate Change affirmed that Belize depends heavily on its natural resources and as the country develops, there will be an even greater need to strategically defend and protect these natural resources while practicing sustainable management of them. ■

STATE *of* AFFAIRS



Antigua and Barbuda

UKRAINE SIGNS VISA-FREE DEAL

- Feb -

The Ukraine signed a visa-free agreement with Antigua and Barbuda. The agreement was signed by the Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States, Valery Chaly, and Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the U.S., Ronald Sanders. The deal envisages that citizens of Ukraine and Antigua and Barbuda will be able to travel between the two countries without a visa for a stay of 90 days in any 180-day period. The visa-free agreement will come into force after the ratification by the parliaments of the two countries.

UAE SUPPORTS RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Feb -

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has launched a climate project to aid people displaced by natural disasters and reduce climate change risks around the world. Barbuda will get a share of the US\$1 million project, which will be used to strengthen the physical infrastructure and provide utilities among vulnerable groups, especially women. According to Prime Minister Browne, around 10 MegaWatts of solar energy will be installed around the island of Barbuda through a UAE \$15 million concession loan.



Bahamas

DEAL FOR OIL REFINERY IN GRAND BAHAMA

- Feb -

An oil refinery deal for the island of Grand Bahama was signed between Oban Energies and the government of The Bahamas. According to Oban Energies' website, the construction and fit-out of the refinery will take place in two phases. Phase one will require a US\$1.5 billion investment for development, construction, and start-up operations. Phase two of the project will consist of the construction of an oil refinery costing up to \$3.5 billion. The proposed refinery will have a capacity of up to 250,000 barrels per day.

INVESTMENT TO REVITALIZE GINN SUR MER

- Feb -

The government is eyeing an over US\$2.5 billion deal to revitalize the former Ginn Sur Mer project in Grand Bahama's West End with an investment group called Grand Palm Beach Acquisitions Ltd. Prime Minister Minnis said the government has entered into a "purchase and sale agreement" for the former Ginn Sur Mer development. The new development will be known as "Bahama Bay" once the deal is completed.



Jamaica

IDB CARIBBEAN GOVERNORS MEETING

- Feb -

The seventh annual Caribbean governors' meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) was hosted by the government of Jamaica on 26 and 27 February 2018. The meeting was held under the theme 'Jump Caribbean,' and included a series of bilateral and plenary sessions with the intention of preparing the Caribbean Governors and the IDB's management for the substantive deliberations on the future direction of the institution.

PRIME MINISTER TABLES REPORT ON CARICOM

- Feb -

Prime Minister Andrew Holness recently tabled a copy of the Report of the Commission to Review Jamaica's Relations within the CARICOM and CARIFORUM Frameworks in the House of Representatives. Tabling the report, Holness underscored that the review did not seek an exit from CARICOM or from various regional arrangements, such as the CSME, but rather sought to undertake a full review of the structure, procedures and practices that have not worked effectively in the national and regional interest.

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1.

Report on a meeting of the Task Force to advance the ECLAC debt for climate adaptation swap initiative



2.

Report of the Workshop to Accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals Implementation in the Caribbean

SOME FUN-FILLED EVENTS IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



Known for its 365 beaches, Antigua and Barbuda is a favourite Caribbean destination for year-round events and festivals. There will be a number of gatherings for all ages and interests in 2018 as the destination will host an exciting line-up of sporting events and festivals.

"Antigua is truly ready for discovery as our island is home to a UNESCO World Heritage Site, fascinating cricket action, the Caribbean's most dedicated sailing community and the list goes on and on," says Colin C. James, CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority.

"In 2018, I look forward to visitors celebrating and taking part in our many events and festivals that showcase Antigua and all we have to offer each guests' interests."

One of the early events is the Super50 Cricket Festival, which is taking place from 30 January to 24 February. The premier 50-overs cricket tournament features a party atmosphere, local cuisine and some of the hottest cricket action in the West Indies. This vibrant celebration of the most popular sport in Antigua will showcase some of the most exciting aspect of West Indian culture and entertainment.

Also taking place in early February is the Superyacht Challenge Antigua at Falmouth Harbor. Yachts in excess of 80 feet are invited to participate in this exciting, friendly challenge. This is taking place in the beautiful setting of Nelson's Dockyard, which is a hub of many social activities on the island.

If you are not into yachting, then how about the The Rohrman Triathlon on 17 February 2018. This is a modern-day race dedicated to the original spirit of the sport, where competitors of all levels come together in a close-knit friendly atmosphere to participate in the inspirational challenge. This year, past Olympians will join the competition, which has become one of the top triathlons in the Caribbean. ■

CARIBBEAN AIRLINES MAKES CUBA ITS 20TH DESTINATION

Trinidad-based Caribbean Airlines Limited (CAL) is now flying to Cuba. The regional airline launched a twice weekly non-stop service recently, making the Caribbean's largest island its 20th destination. The flights between Port of Spain and Havana are operated every Tuesday and Saturday.

CAL says there will also be seamless connections to and from Barbados, Grenada and Guyana.

"Now business, leisure and other travellers can easily fly direct to Cuba to enjoy all that the country offers," the airline's CEO Garvin Medera said at the launch of the service.

Trinidad and Tobago's Trade and Industry Minister Paula Gopee-Scoon, who was on the inaugural flight, expressed confidence that "we have the product quality and the tested relationships to ensure success on this intra-regional route". ■



ECLAC CARIBBEAN

Family

NEW FACES

Ms Camarinhas will serve as Social Affairs Officer in the Statistics and Social Development Unit (SSDU). She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Paris - Sorbonne and a Masters from the University of Lisbon in Urban and Regional Planning. Her expertise includes professional activity within the UN system, academic and research experience in the fields of sustainable development, experience in contributing to the publication of academic articles, as well as experience working with social development issues in Small Island Developing States (SIDs). Most recently, she served as Professor at the University of Lisbon, Portugal.

Her experience includes collaborating as a visiting professor and research fellow in several European Universities and in Brazil in the fields of urban planning, sustainable development, economics and urban development. During 2014-2016, she served as Programme Manager with the UN in the Maldives in the Low Emission Climate Resilient Development Programme. During 2010-2011 (as an Environmental Expert) and again in 2012-2014 (as a Human Settlements Officer) she was employed with UN-Habitat in Kosovo contributing to promoting spatial planning and sustainable development. She is fluent in English, French, Spanish and her native tongue, Portuguese.

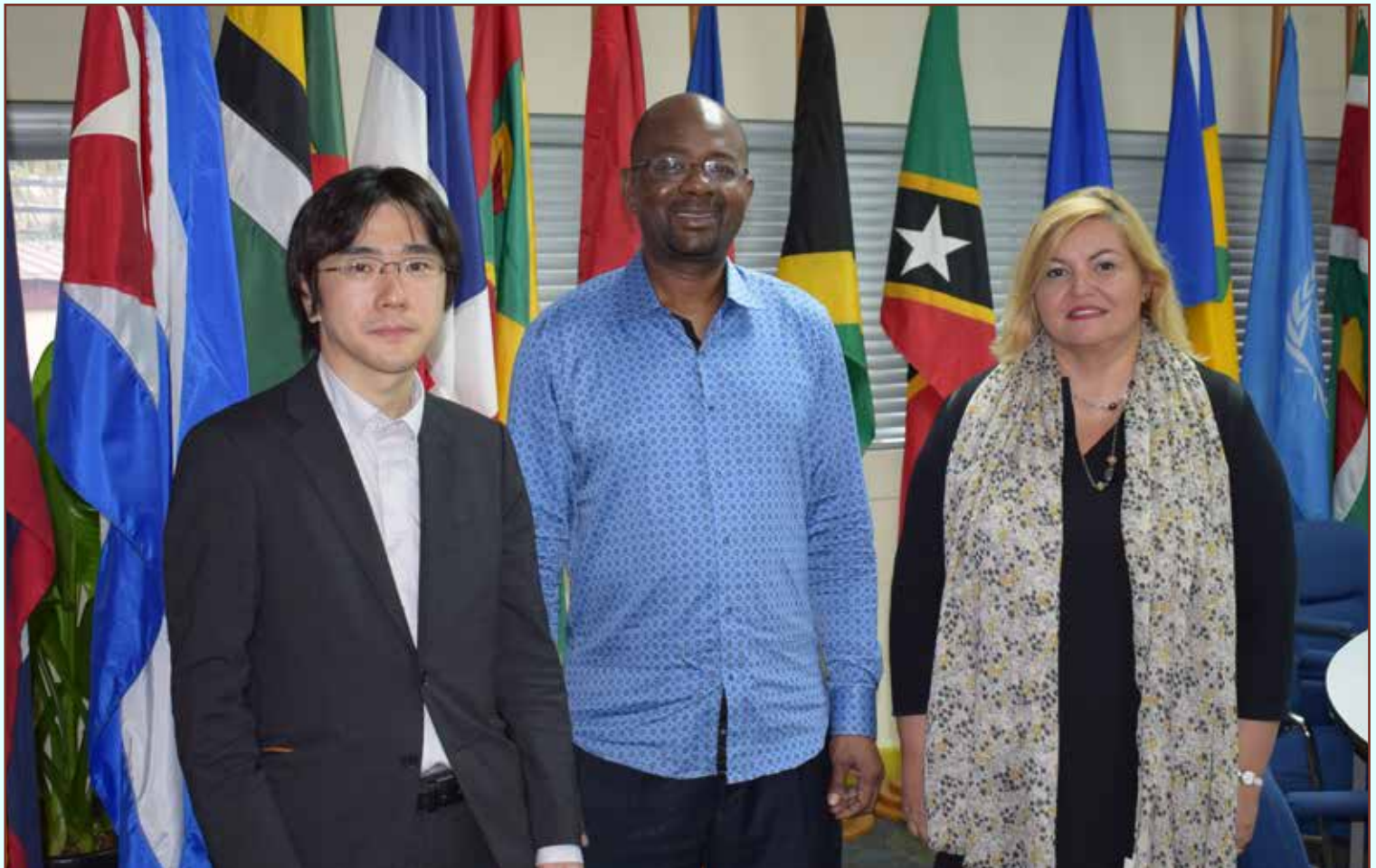


Mr Tokuda will serve ECLAC Caribbean as Associate Economic Affairs Officer in the Economic Development Unit. He is a graduate of the University of Tokyo with a BA in the field of Economics. His experience in applying economic theories to policy recommendations in broad research areas will be an asset to the EDU team as will his skills and knowledge of econometrics, economic modelling techniques, programming skills and application of several statistical software applications.

Mr. Oyolola works as an Economic Affairs Officer in the Economic Development Unit. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (USA), with concentrations in Economic Development and Growth, Applied Econometrics and Mathematical Economics; A Master's in Economics from the City College of New York (USA), and Bachelor of Science in Economics from the National University of Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire.

Oyolola has also served as Economic Affairs Officer at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa. His experience spans the areas of poverty reduction, immigration, child mortality, and maternal health, among others. He has worked with international NGOs, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, and with intergovernmental agencies such as the African Population and Health Research Center in Kenya.

He has also lectured in econometric modelling, trade and international finance and development related issues of the least developed countries in several academic institutions in the United States. His works have appeared in the International Journal of Economics Education and Development, Journal of Economics and Finance, International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy. He is a member of the Association for the Advancement of African Women Economists (AAWE), African Finance and Economic Association (AFEA) and National Economic Association (NEA).



Trini Chicken Pelau

What you will need:

4-5lbs chicken, cut into pieces and washed with lime/lemon juice
1 oz White Rum
1 Tbsp Salt
1 tsp Worcestershire Sauce
3 Tbsp Ketchup
3 cloves
Garlic – Finely Chopped or Crushed
1 tsp Fresh/bottled Ginger – Crushed.
1 Medium Onion – Chopped
2-3 Tbsp Cilantro, or 2 tbs Trinidad green meat seasoning
2 tsps Madras Curry Powder
10. ½ tsp Black Pepper
2 Finely Sliced Pimento Peppers
1 Green Onion Chopped
1 stalk Chive – Chopped
2 Sprigs of Fresh Thyme, 1 teaspoon dried
1 Large Carrot Cubed or Cut To Bite Sized Chunks
6 ozs Pumpkin Cut Into Small Cubes
2 Tbsp Vegetable / Coconut Oil
2 Tbsp Brown Sugar
3 cups Water
1 can Coconut Milk, about a cup
1 can Pigeon Peas, also known as congo peas
3 cups Long Grain Brown Rice, washed
3 Bay leaves, optional
Angostura Bitters, to taste

What you need to do:

1. Cut and wash the chicken and chop into desired serving size pieces. Season with ingredients listed above and allow to marinate for at least 1 hr before you continue.
2. In a large pot on medium to high heat, pour the oil and wait for it to become hot till just about smoking. Add the brown sugar, keeping an eye on things until the sugar goes to a dark frothy brown. When the sugar gets to this point, quickly start adding the pieces of chicken. Stir each piece around so it gets coated in the caramel that you just made.
3. Cover the pot and allow to cook on medium heat for about 10 minutes. (The goal is to cook the meat and also create a nice brown colour).
4. Add the canned peas (minus liquid), carrot, then the pumpkin, to the pot.
5. Pour the rice into the pot, then add the bay leaves, coconut milk and the three cups of water. Stir everything around and quickly bring back to a boil.
6. Lower heat, cover pot and allow to simmer for 35 mins, or until liquid is gone and rice grains are plump and tender'.
7. Turn off heat and add a few dashes of Aromatic bitters, stir in quickly to pot, return cover for a couple of minutes.
8. Serve with salad, cole-slaw or large tomato slices.



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