Volume 6 - Issue 4
April 2019

The Hummingbird

STATISTICS FORUM

GRENADA HOSTS HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON STATISTICS

DALA TRAINING

ECLAC & CCRIF SPC CONTINUE SERIES OF DAMAGE AND LOSS ASSESSMENT (DALA) TRAINING

WORK WE WANT

CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF WORK WE WANT

United Nations
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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Please see our contact details on the back cover of this magazine

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April Events

2 World Autism Awareness Day
2 April 2019

9 World Health Day
9 April 2019

12-14 Annual meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group and IMF
New York
12 - 14 April 2019

22 International Mother Earth Day
22 April 2019

25 International Girls in ICT Day
25 April 2019

ECLAC Caribbean
Posted Mar 21

Check out the Climate and SDGs Synergy Conference here: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/climate-sdgs-synergies2019

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ECLAC Caribbean
Posted Apr 1

Follow discussions during a recent online dialogue session for youth in preparation of the upcoming ECOSOC Youth Forum at: https://eclac.webex.com/eclac

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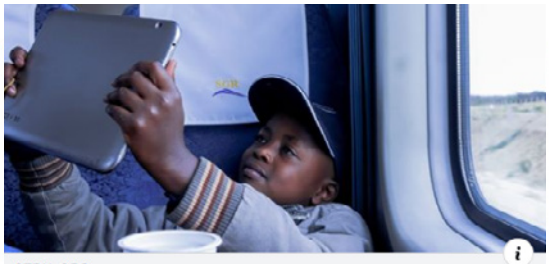
ECLAC Caribbean
Posted Mar 29

Caribbean youth address major development issues at United Nations meeting



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ECLAC/CCRIF SPC'S JOINT **DALA TRAININGS** CONTINUE

ECLAC Caribbean is very pleased to continue its collaboration with CCRIF SPC (formerly the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility) to provide training workshops in disaster preparedness and risk management. The latest in a series of training sessions on Disaster Assessment Methodology (DaLA) was held in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) in January 2019. This follows similar sessions in Anguilla, the Bahamas, and the British Virgin Islands which were carried out during the last quarter of 2018. In TCI, over 47 participants from various government ministries and agencies attended.

Led by Dr. Omar Bello, Coordinator of ECLAC Caribbean's Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, the training courses are offered as a follow-up activity to disaster assessment missions carried out to quantify the effects and impacts of Hurricane Irma and Maria.

In September 2017, the Turks and Caicos Islands were affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria over the span of two weeks. The hurricanes caused moderate damage throughout the country, due to excess rainfall, strong winds and storm surge. It is estimated that the total cost of the event in the was TCI US $559 million, of which 13% occurred in the public sector and 87% in the private sector. Overall, the hurricanes affected 17,220 persons and impacted 5,740 homes. In this context, Damage to the housing and public building sector is estimated at US $119.5 million. Among those who suffered were 3,977 students and 305 teachers, which were affected due to school interruptions caused by damaged facilities or lack of access to schools which were used as shelters. The hurricanes also impacted negatively the tourism sector, for which losses were estimated at US $195.4 million. The losses in the tourism sector were due to moderate damage to hotels and villas, as well as to disruption of the main airports which caused booking cancellations.

Against this backdrop, ECLAC's DaLA training in TCI was intended to equip participants with the tools to estimate the effects and impacts of disasters within the social, infrastructure and productive sectors. This type of analysis enables the collection of the data to determine the resources necessary to restore social and economic activities, as well as the investments required to ensure a resilient reconstruction process. The aim is to increase national capabilities in terms of disaster assessments, and to support governments' future efforts to incorporate prevention, estimation, and risk reduction in public investment plans and development programs. ■

Photo courtesy www.thecommonwealth.com

SAINT LUCIAN AMONG WINNERS OF 2019 COMMONWEALTH YOUTH AWARDS

A Saint Lucian citizen, who founded an indigenous biotechnology company is one of the four recipients of this year's 2019 Commonwealth Youth Awards given in recognition of efforts to end hunger, sexual violence, improve sanitation and mitigate climate change.

Johanan Dujon won the award alongside young people from India, Nigeria, and the Solomon Islands. A ceremony was held in March at the Commonwealth's headquarters in London, where winners shared a £12,000 (US$15,860) grant for their innovative projects.

Dujon's company, Algas Organics, develops commercial agricultural products from Sargassum seaweed which has inundated many of the region's shorelines. His products are intended to unblock fish landing sites and reduce the harmful and unpleasant effect of the seaweed's hydrogen sulphide emissions in local communities.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dujon said: "St Lucia heavily depends on tourism. This seaweed problem has had a crippling effect on our tourism and local fishery sectors. We have developed a process to transform this seaweed to high quality fertiliser that we now export to other countries." Dujon hopes to use his grant to expand his work to other affected small island states in Africa and the Pacific.

The other Commonwealth Youth Award recipients are Oluwaseun Ayodeji Osowobi of Nigeria, India's Padmanaban Gopalan, and Bobby Siarani from the Solomon Islands.

Every year the Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development Work recognizes the exceptional contribution of young people, aged 15-29, from the 53-member Commonwealth, who are leading initiatives which address the sustainable development goals.

From more than 500 nominations from over 45 countries, 16 finalists were chosen by a panel of judges including representatives of high commissions, partner organizations and young leaders before the final four were selected. Ryan Robinson Perinchief of Bermuda and Curmira Gulston of Trinidad and Tobago were among the 16 finalists. ■

The Hummingbird

FEATURE ARTICLE

GRENADA hosts high level forum on STATISTICS

The rallying calls of the Third High Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics included topics such as "greater investment in statistics", and, "teaching of statistics in the school system to help to demystify the science and attract younger minds."

Chief statisticians and directors of statistics from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states and associate member states along with regional policymakers gathered in Grenada for this event on 21-22 February 2019. Among the main topics discussed was the importance of forging a collaborative approach to the development of statistics based on partnerships among agencies and the avoidance of duplication of efforts.

Under the theme 'Investing in Statistics to Build Resilience and to Achieve Sustainable Economic Growth and Development in the Caribbean Community', the Forum was preceded by a one-day seminar. Both events focused on the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) to build resilience and generate evidence-based policy decisions.

Read More

Grenada hosts high level forum on Statistics

Attending the event on behalf of ECLAC Caribbean was Coordinator of the Statistics and Social Development Unit, Dr. Abdullahi Abdulkadri, who noted that ECLAC continues to place priority on statistical capacity building in the Caribbean as an important element of institutional strengthening, which is required for the sustainable development of the countries of the subregion.

Prime Minister of Grenada, Dr. Keith Mitchell, himself a statistician, delivered the keynote address and led the charge that statistics are a vital tool for governance and improving lives. "At the core of building resilience are timely and high-quality statistics," he emphasized.

Dr. Mitchell spoke of the importance of statistics across sectors, and singled out agriculture, trade, health, tourism and sports. He illustrated this when he referred to the current success of the West Indies cricket team as a practical example of data collection and data analysis in action.

"You've heard the commentators over and over speak to how bowlers attack a certain batsman because they do research on how many times that batsman gets out with a specific ball and what type of bowler that he has a certain weakness for and therefore they tend to attack that person in that particular context. Similarly, batsmen get to understand, through data collection, the strengths and weaknesses of certain bowlers. So, we're not talking about something that is far removed, because historically when we talk about these areas, we think of the intellectual and academic environments and not necessarily the practical. So, it is extremely practical for us to invest in the area of statistics," commented Dr. Mitchell.

Dr. Abdulkadri zeroed in on discussions on resource mobilization support from international development partners for the upgrading of statistics through the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS). He said that the RSDS represents a comprehensive strategic plan that is timely and much needed.

"It provides a framework for harnessing the different statistical development initiatives in the Caribbean." He stated that one of such initiatives is ECLAC's Development Account (DA) project on `Strengthening institutional frameworks in the Caribbean for an integrative approach to implement the 2030 Agenda and the SIDS Sustainable Development Agenda'.

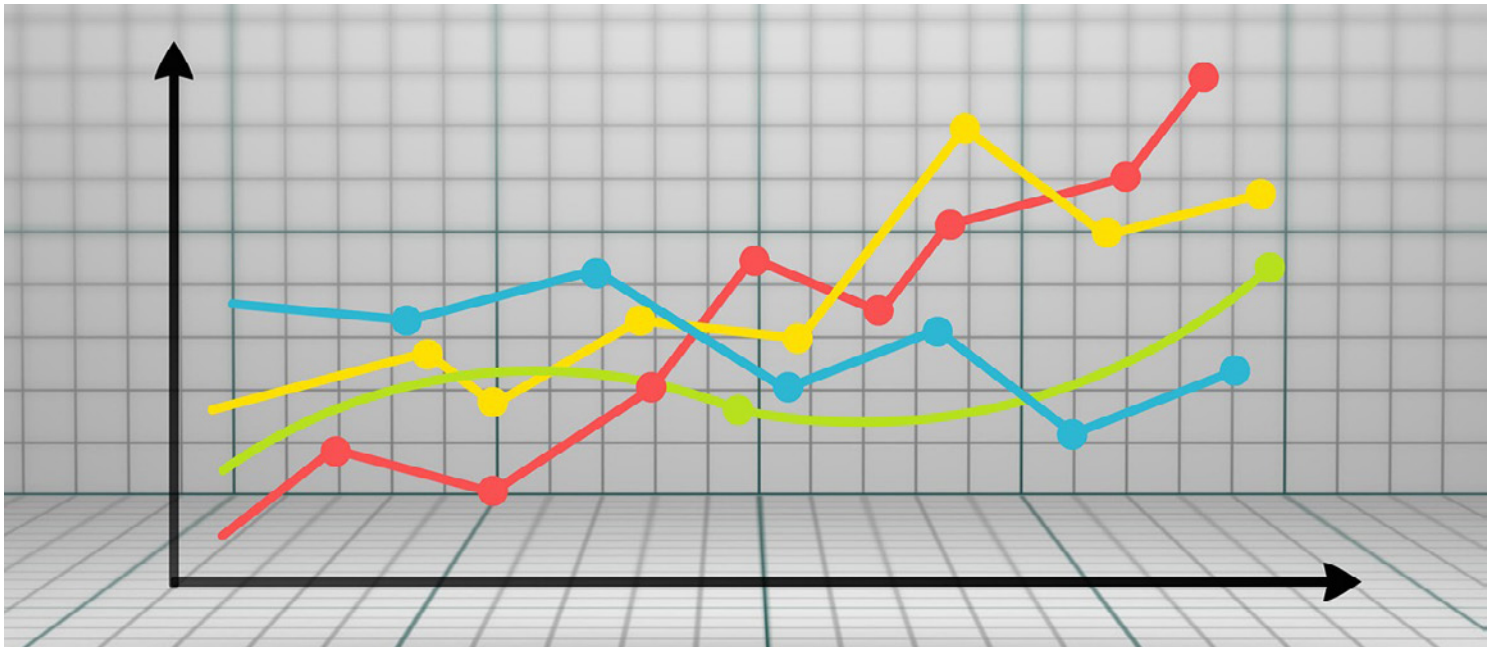
Dr. Abdulkadri explained that the DA project was designed to support countries in developing and implementing monitoring frameworks that integrate the reporting requirements of their National Development Plan and the SDGs.

"This process will entail addressing how data for the

indicators can be produced and will consider the tools that can be applied to facilitate data gathering and reporting. To this end, countries will be supported in the preparation and presentation of their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development as an additional means of identifying the challenges and potential accelerators of SDG implementation at the national level", Dr Abdulkadri said.

According to Dr Abdulkadri the DA project is an early enabler of the RSDS with three of its four drivers already incorporated in the project. Dr Abdulkadri added that ECLAC looked forward to further supporting CARICOM and the CDCC Member and Associate Member Countries in their efforts to promote statistics for sustainable development in the Caribbean.

The Forum and Seminar were organized by the CARICOM Secretariat and the Central Statistics Office in Grenada with support from PARIS21, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the European Development Fund Support Services Unit, Grenada, and with the active participation of ECLAC Caribbean. ■



CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF **WORK WE WANT**

The world of work is undergoing a major process of change, largely driven by technological innovation, changing patterns of production and the increasing integration of local markets in the global economy.

The International Labour Organization's (ILO) Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV) in coordination with the ILO Office for the Caribbean recently convened a subregional conference on the `Future of Work We Want: Workers' Perspectives from the Caribbean'. Held in Trinidad and Tobago from 14-15 February, the conference was attended by representatives from trade unions, governments, academia and employers, to discuss the developments that will drive the world of work in the future.

Representing ECLAC Caribbean was Deputy Director, Dr. Dillon Alleyne, who was a panelist on the dialogue session on `Economic, social and sustainable development in a globalized world'. In response to a question as to what was to be done to address the current economic challenges in the region he opined that a process of industrial restructuring was necessary to broaden the range of activities and sectors in the Caribbean and to encourage more young entrepreneurs to engage in productive activities. Such restructuring he further emphasized must be focused on generating decent work and the empowerment of workers. Dr. Alleyne maintains, however, that well targeted welfare programs would be necessary to support those that are affected in the transition and that such programs should be sustainable. Discussions at the conference reflected on current developments in the world of work and on the ways for countries to develop appropriate strategies to face the expected changes in future work. The meeting's goal was to contribute ideas to serve the Future of Work Centenary Initiative from a trade union perspective, taking into consideration the unique issues faced by the member countries of the subregion and exploring

possible policy responses, both of governments and social partners, as a means to promoting social justice and protecting the rights of working men and women.

The conference was part of a set of activities that ACTRAV is promoting in different regions of the world to stress the importance of ensuring that workers' organizations are a part of the discussions on the Future of Work. During the event, a special session was organized to discuss the Report of the ILO's Independent Global Commission on the Future of Work and new ways to promote decent work and social justice in the Caribbean. ■

POLICE GET **HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDEBOOKS** FROM UN

Approximately 2,500 pocket guides on human rights were recently handed over to the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) from the United Nations (UN) in an effort to standardize the training offered to members at all levels of the organization.

The pocket guides on Human Rights in Law Enforcement were the result of a joint effort between the JCF and the UN. The JCF explained that the move to put together the guide came about in 2016, when the former Senior UN Human Rights Advisor in Jamaica, Dr Birgit Gerstenberg, was approached by the National Police College of Jamaica with the idea of working together to develop a human rights training curriculum for members of the Force.

The guides will be used to enhance the fit between the training offered and that which is needed by members to perform their jobs effectively. They will also be used to ensure training which complies with and reflects constitutional and other legal provisions and developments in human rights standards and training internationally. ■

YOUTH MAINSTREAMING IN THE CARIBBEAN INITIATIVE

The government of Belize recently partnered with the Commonwealth Secretariat to host an event to discuss a coordinated government approach to promote youth empowerment. Held from 27 February to 1 March in Belize City, the National Youth Mainstreaming Strategy Framework Consultation looked at the social, economic and political opportunities for Belizean youth in planning and decision-making processes. The objective of the meeting was to reach consensus on the principles, approaches, and outcomes of an inclusive approach to youth empowerment and development.

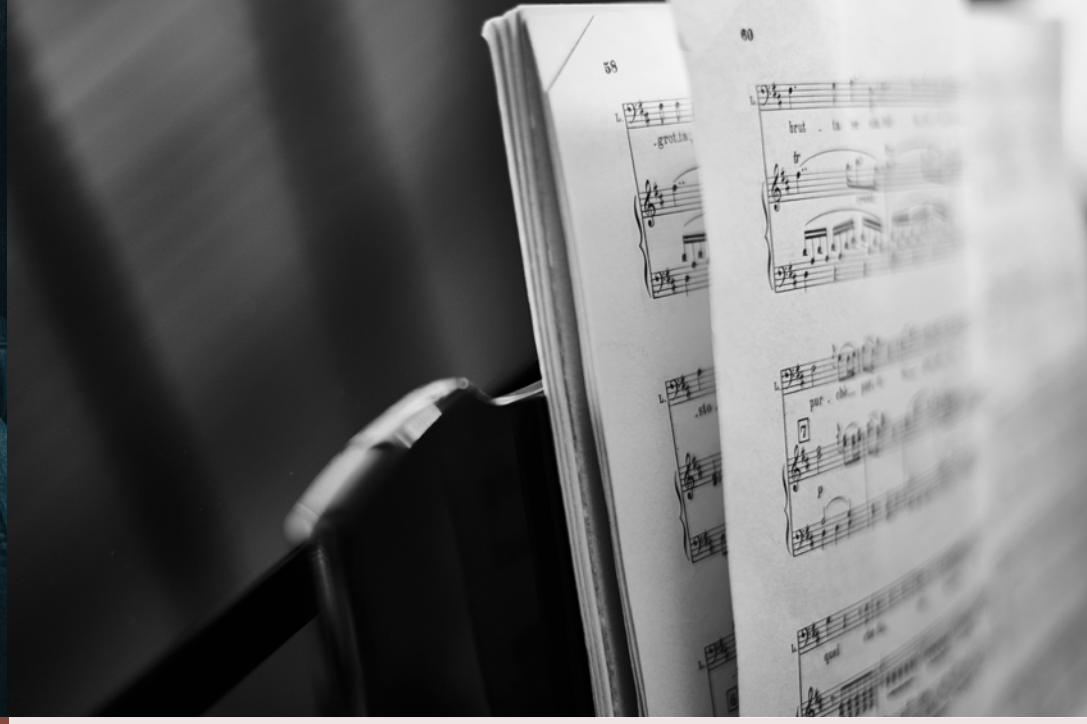
Representing ECLAC Caribbean at this event was Social Affairs Officer, Dr. Catarina Camarinhas, who contributed to a panel debate, "Youth issues, youth policy and youth mainstreaming initiatives in the Caribbean: what is the way forward?" During discussions, Dr. Camarinhas introduced ECLAC's recent work on Implementation strategies for youth mainstreaming in sustainable development processes. Camarinhas explained that implementation mechanisms for Youth should include political commitment, with consistent and targeted funding and programming for youth development priorities.

Specific recommendations on Financing for Youth Development, were later presented by Dr. Camarinhas with the assistance of ECLAC's Economic Officer, Mr. Michael Hendrickson. The recommendations included: focusing on the most vulnerable youth; improving finance for youth activities; strengthening mechanisms to ensure greater participation of youth in the decision-making process; the development of innovative forms of financing; and the strengthening of statistical systems in order to provide more data for decision making.

The event was organized by the Department of Youth Services of Belize. Belize is the first country in the Commonwealth to pilot this new initiative, according to Social Policy Director, Layne Robinson, of the Commonwealth Secretariat. Robinson stated that the principles and approaches identified at the consultation can serve as a model for other members of CARICOM and the greater Commonwealth.

Robinson asserted that young people have rights and must be seen as assets in the sustainable development, rather than a deficit on the national balance sheet. He advocated that youth be looked upon as instruments that can help to drive national economic development.

The event, sought to improve participants' capacities in



the application of techniques for analysis, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of youth mainstreaming. Further discussions were aimed at building consensus around a strategic framework for youth mainstreaming in Belize, an initiative which could be of value to the Commonwealth Caribbean.

More than 70 participants drawn from social development agencies in Belize participated in the consultation, as well as representatives from the wider Caribbean. ■

GUADELOUPE'S CLASSICAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Saint-Georges International Music Festival of Guadeloupe is one of the leading classical music festivals in the Caribbean. The second edition of this festival took place in March 2019. Tribute was paid to Joseph Bologne, also known as Chevalier de Saint-Georges, a musical legend born in Guadeloupe who was a virtuoso violinist and conductor whose musical impact influenced Mozart and Haydn, among others.

"We are thrilled about this second edition, as the Caribbean Tourism Organization has declared 2019 'The Year of Festivals for the Caribbean,' said Ary Chalus, President of the Regional Council of Guadeloupe. "This festival is unique because it celebrates the musical heritage of the first known Black composer and the most diverse orchestra in the world."

Concerts took place at some of the island's most emblematic landmarks, such as The Memorial ACTe, Saint Pierre, Saint Paul Cathedral and the city of Baillif, the birthplace of Bologne. ■

ECLAC **POLICY BRIEF** FOR CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES ON NATURAL DISASTERS

Through its latest policy brief, ECLAC Caribbean has profiled the disaster risk management (DRM) policies of five countries and analysed their interactions with national development plans and climate change adaptation strategies.

Entitled "Mainstreaming disaster risk management (DRM): strategies in development instruments", the policy brief identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the DRM strategies of The Bahamas, Belize, The Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica, and discusses policy recommendations to strengthen the role of DRM and to improve the use of resources through multi-sectoral projects.

The brief highlights that the five countries have elaborated sectoral policies that address the issue of DRM in varying degrees. Although most normative and institutional sectoral frameworks do not yet incorporate roles and responsibilities associated with DRM systems, sectors such as agriculture, environment, infrastructure and health show advances in the integration of the DRM. In this regard, The Bahamas and Jamaica have comprehensively mainstreamed DRM into their national development plans.

Perhaps one of the strongest links identified in this study is between climate change and disaster risk management. While climate change policies do not necessarily address DRM, the measures proposed which are aimed at adaptation and mitigation of climate change impacts could have positive effects on DRM. DRM policies in The Bahamas and Belize even recognize the importance of gathering data on the quality of the environment as it relates to the likelihood of disasters. Furthermore, some aspects of DRM have been considered in environmental impact studies. These include the identification of natural hazards that may affect a given project, as well as the elaboration of mitigation measures to ensure its sustainability.

Similarly, several development and sectoral policies recognize the importance of land use and territorial planning to increase resilience and adapt to/mitigate the effects of climate change. Even if some land use and climate change policies do not address DRM directly, it is possible to observe complementarities in the recommendations, such as enforcing the use of construction codes, elaborating hazard maps, promoting the use of renewable energies, expanding insurance in productive sectors such as agriculture and tourism, and improving multisectoral coordination.

Against this backdrop, the brief suggests that countries strengthen the territorial component of their DRM strategies, as it is observed that most local authorities are tasked primarily with emergency preparedness and response tasks. This requires updating DRM frameworks to establish binding responsibilities for territorial levels, and incorporating areas such as risk identification, planning of mitigation measures and data gathering, in addition to considerations for reconstruction processes that do not reproduce the risks and vulnerabilities that led to the disaster.

This is the second publication of ECLAC on the mainstreaming of DRM strategies. In 2017, a similar document was published that focused on The Bahamas, Belize, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica. ■

SAINT CROIX INTERNATIONAL REGATTA, A 26-YEAR TRADITION

The 2019 Saint Croix International Regatta recently tested the skills of thirteen of Saint Croix's and two of the British Virgin Islands' most skilled skippers. The St. Croix Yacht Club hosted the weekend event, as it has done since 1993.

While the 15 bigger boats competed in waters north of the island, including the rougher seas around Buck Island, young Optimist sailors raced in Teague Bay. Even the beginners, labeled the green fleet sailors, participated. Near shore, they sailed their little Opti boats, and learned to navigate their way around the marks. Advanced Optimists took the competition in earnest and competed farther out in the bay.

The Optimist, also known as the 'opti' or 'bathtub', is a small, single-handed sailing dinghy intended for use by children up to the age of 15. Contemporary boats are usually made of fibreglass, although wooden boats are still built. It is one of the most popular sailing dinghies in the world, with over 150,000 boats officially registered with the class and many more built but never registered. The dinghy is especially good for children learning to sail.

Racing began on the first day with the Captain Nick's Race, a salute to 93-year-old Nick Castruccio, who founded the regatta after securing Mumm's Champagne as sponsor. That first regatta, then called Mumm's Cup, drew 70 sailors from up and down the Caribbean chain of islands. Everyone dressed to the nines for dinner and entertainment after the races.

"A flamboyant French woman from Mumm's, Agnes, came each year, men wore suits and ties and ladies dressed up. It was fantastic!" recalls Regatta Director Karen Stanton.

Stanton organized regatta activities, beginning with the famous rum party, that welcome sailors and the community to the event. Live music, dancing on the beach, and hearty Crucian-style buffets provided good times after the races, although many onlookers attended wearing flip-flops rather than high heels, as in the earlier years. ■

MISSION TO ADDRESS THE INVASIVE LIONFISH SPECIES

A team of experts visited Antigua and Barbuda from 8-12 April 2019 on a fact-finding mission to determine the extent to which the lionfish has impacted marine life there, and to develop a control plan to curtail the increase in the population of this invasive species.

The mission included experts from the Unites States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, who were accompanied by local experts from the government of Antigua and Barbuda. Dr. Steve Gittings, project spokeperson, indicated that the purpose of the project is to help Antigua and Barbuda protect coral reef ecosystems and create economic opportunities by developing a comprehensive approach to minimize the effects of invasive lionfish. Depending on the nature and extent of the problem, the approach could involve removal of both shallow and deep-water lionfish, as well as commercialization of the stock, which would incentivize public participation. He noted that, during the initial visit, the planning team met with various stakeholders involved in the program to evaluate the status of the lionfish problem around the island.

There's no question as to whether lionfish have invaded waters in Antigua and Barbuda as they have been seen and efforts started some years ago to stop their proliferation.

To ensure that all stakeholders are fully informed of the issue, the team also met with community members, government officials, fishing, wholesale and retail operators, dive operators, non-profit organizations and educators.
The findings of the team during this visit will guide the development of a response plan for lionfish control in Antigua. ■

DOMINICA'S GEOTHERMAL HOPES GET A **BIG BOOST**

One of the Caribbean's most ambitious green energy projects is getting a major boost from the World Bank. The global institution has approved a US $27 million project to support the construction of a 7mw geothermal power plant in Dominica, a project that has long been in development.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity for Dominica to reach its energy and climate goals by investing in geothermal [energy], and to build a greener and more resilient future. The country has huge potential to provide reliable, low-cost renewable and high-quality energy in support of climate resilient growth," said Tahseen Sayed, World Bank Country Director for the Caribbean.

The project, called the Geothermal Risk Mitigation Project, could significantly lower electricity costs in Dominica and increase the share of green energy in the country's energy mix from 25 to 51%.

The plant could also generate enough power to export "homegrown geothermal energy" to neighboring islands. Developing geothermal energy, which entails the generation of power from underground reservoirs of heat, has long been a goal for several countries in the Eastern Caribbean. ■

ANGUILLA'S NEW **FOOD FESTIVAL**

It has long been one of the Caribbean's most celebrated culinary destinations, and now Anguilla is raising its game again. The island has launched a new culinary celebration called Extraordinary Eats, a two-week festival highlighting food, culture and the culinary arts. Extraordinary Eats, which begins April 14, will last through April 28.

"We are excited about this new event, which is grounded in our marketing strategy that identified cuisine as one of our brand pillars, and builds on our well-deserved reputation as an exceptional culinary destination," said Donna Banks, Chairperson of the Anguilla Tourist Board. "Travelers today will often plan their vacations around culinary experiences, and we are ideally positioned to accommodate these foodie enthusiasts."

The core of the festival is a large collection of eateries offering prix-fixe lunch and dinner menus for the two weeks; from the Four Seasons to the Malliouhana to popular spots like DaVida's, Garvey's and Blanchard's.

The two-week event will also include Festival del Mar, an annual celebration of "all things from the sea," on April 20 and 21. Extraordinary Eats will conclude with "Chefs Extraordinaires," a grand finale which will include an "epicurean extravaganza with special appearances from Anguilla's very own homegrown chefs." ■

State of Affairs

Antigua and Barbuda

ANTIGUA-BARBUDA STRENGTHENS PARTNER RELATIONS

- Apr -

Antigua and Barbuda's Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez, held a series of meetings with the country's critical cruise line partners at the cruise industry's largest annual conference known as the Seatrade Cruise Global.

The Cruise industry leaders have reported that 2018 was the best year for profitability and have forecast that the Caribbean continues to be the world's number one cruising destination.

UK DIPLOMAT VISITS

- Apr -

The British High Commissioner, Janice Douglas, paid a courtesy visit to the Prime Minister, Gaston Brown and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chet Green. Discussions included the United Kingdom's (UK) financial support for various local initiatives and the establishment of a Resident British High Commissioner Office. The Prime Minister made special mention of the country's efforts to adopting environmentally friendly policies and ended the discussions by conveying best wishes for the UK's hosting of the Cricket World Cup 2019.

Guyana

KUWAIT CANCELS DEBT

- Apr -

The state of Kuwait has cancelled almost US$51 million of Guyana's debt to that country in a sign of growing ties between Guyana and Kuwait. A bilateral debt settlement agreement was signed by Jordan, on March 18, 2019, with Kuwait, through the Kuwait Investment Authority, which agreed to cancel US$50,739,255.67 of Guyana's debt. This debt cancellation will reduce Guyana's external debt and allow the country to expand its development agenda, as funds saved under this agreement would be allocated to social projects.

OVERTURN OF VOTE

- Mar -

The Guyana court of appeal overturned the December 21, 2018, no confidence vote brought in Guyana's National Assembly by opposition leader Bharrat Jagdeo. The court of appeal judgment also reversed the January 31, 2019, ruling of Chief Justice Roxanne George, which upheld the no confidence vote. The court of appeal ruled that the Chief Justice erred, as the motion required 34 votes to meet the constitutional mandate of an absolute majority. Consequently, the motion was not validly passed and was unconstitutional.

Trinidad and Tobago

CARICOM MEETING

- Feb -

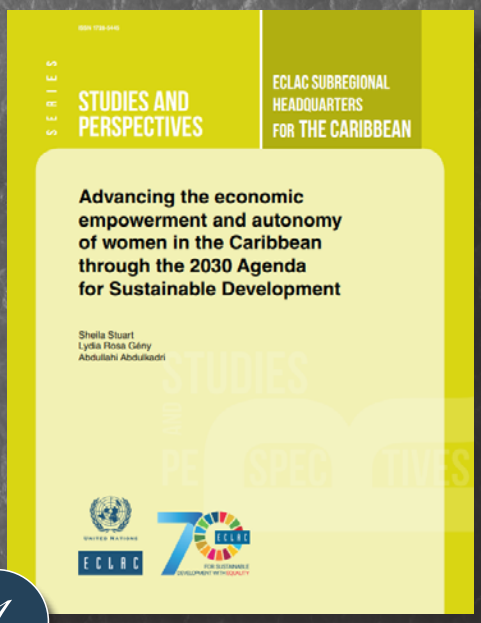
The GovernPrime Minister Dr Keith Rowley attended the 30th Inter-sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in St Kitts and Nevis. The meeting sought to further advance action on the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

UAE-CARIBBEAN FUND

- Feb -

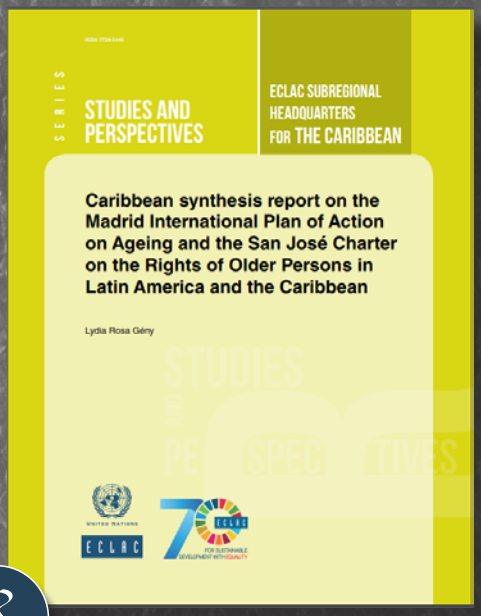
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC) of the United Arab Emirates announced the launch of the third cycle of the US$50 million UAE-Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund (CREF). Fully financed by Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), the national entity for international development aid, the UAE-CREF, the largest renewable energy initiative of its kind in the Caribbean region, allocates funding to projects delivered in Jamaica, Cuba, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago.

ECLAC Caribbean's Recent Publications



1.

Advancing the economic empowerment and autonomy of women in the Caribbean through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



3.

Caribbean synthesis report on the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean

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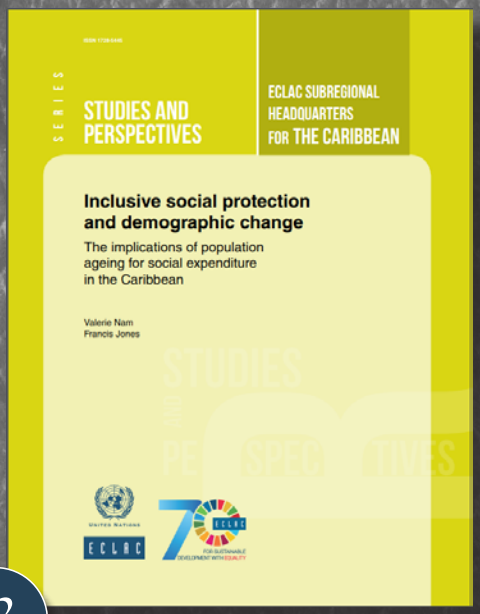

2.

Inclusive social protection and demographic change: The implications of population ageing for social expenditure in the Caribbean

Diane's Corner

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

Diane Quarless
Director of ECLAC Caribbean

8/4

International Women's Day 2019

"Caribbean societies must wholeheartedly embrace the potential of our female leaders, pioneers, innovators and engineers. Let's build support and strengthen the bonds among Caribbean countries to transform ideas and frameworks into meaningful actions and innovative solutions to overcome the obstacles that limit the ability of our women to take full control of their present and future lives."

#DirectorsTake

http://vrb.al/directors-take

JUDY, AN UNSUNG **HERO** OF THE ECLAC CARIBBEAN OFFICE

Following recent celebrations for International Women's Day (March 8), ECLAC Caribbean takes this opportunity to acknowledge the important work being carried out by women in the workplace, who make a vital contribution to the well-being of the office. In this regard, one noteworthy woman is Judy Cummings-Ryan, one of the secret superwomen providing a vital service to the office.

She was born and grew up in the countryside area of Guaracara-Tabaquite, Trinidad and Tobago in 1961 before the country gained its independence, and did not have the opportunity to attend school. By age 11 she had to take care of her nine brothers and sisters after her mother passed way.
Over the years Cummings-Ryan had many different jobs, including cutting sugar cane, gardening, and performing general cleaning of homes and offices – all to provide support and put food on the table for her family. Despite the difficulties she faced, this remarkable woman still wanted to have her own family. She is presently a single mother of eight children and made sure that all of them were educated.

They all live in close proximity to her current home at Indian Walk, Moruga -- which is about five hours away from ECLAC Caribbean's office in Port of Spain.
Since Cummings-Ryan started working for ECLAC Caribbean as an office cleaner, she decided to improve her own education and understanding. To improve her communication as a team leader, she has completed two short courses at the Princes Town Senior Comprehensive Continuation School, one on computer literacy and the other on supervision skills.

Apart from her work at ECLAC Caribbean, she takes care of children in her community, in addition to her 14 grandchildren. What motivates her, she said, is helping people by sharing with them information, knowledge, care and love that some people in the community may need. With her strength and persistence, she is building bridges among generations and empowering other women and girls to find opportunities which she did not have.

Her words of wisdom to the Hummingbird were, "Education is key, and it is never too late to learn!" Cummings-Ryan is a remarkable example of kindness and generosity and we salute her efforts to be positive example for others. ■

Pull-apart Easter Blossom bread

Preparation time: 3 hours 50 minutes
Servings: 20 persons

What you will need:

Ingredients:

6 cups all-purpose flour, or more if needed (divided)
1 tablespoon rapid rise yeast
1/2 cup white sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup unsalted butter
1 3/4 cups milk
3 eggs, beaten
1 lemon, zested and juiced
1 egg yolk
1 tablespoon water
1/2 cup seedless raspberry jam
1 cup confectioners' sugar

What you need to do:

1. In a large bowl, whisk together 4 cups of flour, the yeast, white sugar, and salt. In a saucepan over low heat, melt the unsalted butter with the milk until the mixture is warm, about 110 degrees F (43 degrees C). Gradually whisk about 1/3 of the butter-milk mixture into the beaten eggs, then return the egg mixture back into the remaining milk mixture. Stir the lemon zest into the liquid ingredients (set aside lemon juice for later). Pour the liquid ingredients into the flour mixture, and stir until thoroughly combined.

2. Add enough flour to make a soft dough; turn the dough out onto a floured surface, and knead until smooth and elastic, 8 to 10 minutes. Place dough into an oiled bowl, and turn the dough around to cover surface lightly with oil. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap, and allow to rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1 hour. Punch down the dough, and allow to rest for 10 minutes.

3. Divide the dough in half, and roll each half into a ball. On a floured surface, roll out a ball into a 12-inch circle. Place a drinking glass, face down, into the center of the circle to prevent cutting the dough too far into the center. Cut the dough with a knife, from the edge of the dough circle to the rim of the glass, into quarters. Cut each quarter into 5 narrow wedge-shaped strips. (Center of the dough is uncut.) Remove the drinking glass. There are 20 narrow wedge-shaped strips surrounding the uncut center of the dough.

4. Pick up two adjacent strips, and twist them together about 4 times; pinch the ends of the two pieces together at the top. Gently coil to form a rough flower shape. Arrange the round into the middle of the circle, where the drinking glass was.

5. Pick up two more adjacent strips, and twist and pinch them as before; coil them into a rough round, and arrange the new petal next to the center rosette. Repeat with remaining 16 strips, twisting and pinching them in twos, coiling and arranging them into 8 more petals around the center rosette. Finished bread has 9 petals surrounding the center round. Repeat steps with the second ball of dough to make two breads.

6. Grease a baking sheet, or line with parchment paper. Place the shaped breads onto the prepared baking sheet, reshaping them into rounds if needed; cover with a clean kitchen towel, and place into a warm spot to rise until almost doubled, 30 to 45 minutes.

7. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Beat the egg yolk with water in a small bowl, and brush the mixture over both the breads.

8. Bake in the preheated oven until the breads have turned golden brown, about 25 minutes. Allow to cool.

9. Use your fingers to gently deepen the indentations in the center of each petal, and fill each with about 1/2 to 1 teaspoon of raspberry jam. Mix the reserved lemon juice and confectioners' sugar in a bowl to form a glaze; drizzle the glaze in thin lines all over both the breads. Allow glaze to set. To serve, pull the petals apart.

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