



# NEWSLETTER

The Antigua and Barbuda High Commission

ISSUE No.106 January 2006



*The Blessing of  
the new premises of  
the Antigua and  
Barbuda High  
Commission and  
Tourism Office at 45  
Crawford Place*

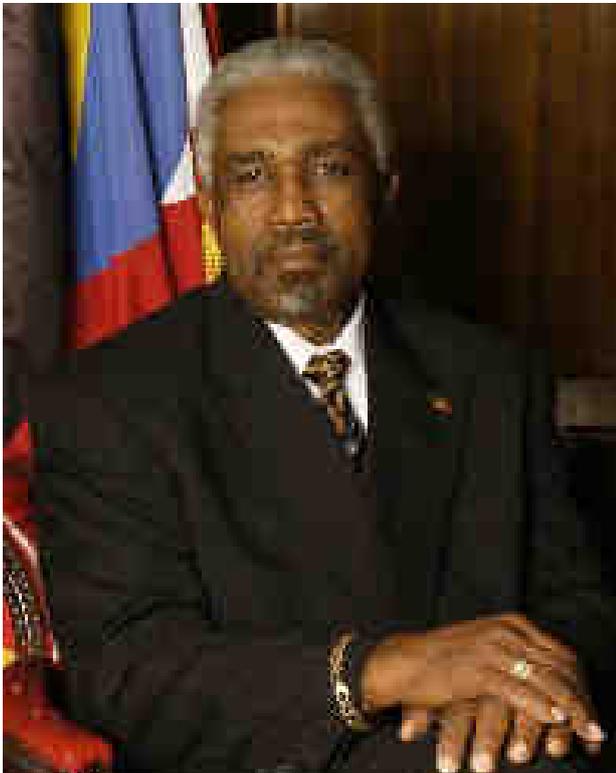


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# A MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY DR CARL ROBERTS, HIGH COMMISSIONER

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Dear Readers,

*This is a new beginning for the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission and Tourist Office.*

*On the 17th of January 2006, I along with my wife and staff, representatives from our Tourism Public Relations Firm (KTA), Father Ronald Farley, the President Mrs Manners and a few members of the Executive of the Antigua and Barbuda National Association and former President of the Association Mr Alphonso Peters came together to witness the Blessing by Father Farley of our new premises at 45 Crawford Place.*

*In my short presentation I reiterated Government's intention to institute change where it is needed so that the wheels of government will run better for the benefit of nationals both here and at home.*

*I also took the opportunity to introduce to the gathering a new member of Staff. Miss Cherrie*

*Osborne joins our family with a Masters Degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management.*

*Miss Osborne is British born of Antiguan parentage and I am extremely delighted that she has now joined the Tourism staff.*

*The Ministry of Tourism came out of 2005 on a high note, with the re-inaugural flight of Condor, a successful tourism week, Delta's Inaugural Flight, among other things.*

*The year ahead will see technical staff planning ahead for what is forecasted to be a very busy tourist season with the 2007 ICC World Cup Cricket. Many activities will be planned and executed as a precursor to this major regional event.*

*"The nation of Antigua and Barbuda will be celebrating its Silver Jubilee year of independence, however, although the homecoming festivals do not fall under the ambit of the tourism Ministry, any activity that involves increased visitor arrivals tend to mean increased activities for the tourism technical staff," say Communications Officer in the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Samoya Kirby.*

*Tourism Minister Harold Lovell informed technical officers of impending changes to staff inclusive mainly of new additions to come in areas which are deemed important for improvements if the Ministry is to accomplish major goals for 2006.*

*Kirby also stated that emphasis is being placed on moving forward with discussions for the development of The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority as well as the development of the National Tourism Master plan.*

**Dr Carl Roberts  
High Commissioner**



**Megan Samuel-Fields (left), Dr John Roberts, Q.C., Master Bencher, Grays Inn and Clement Samuel (right)**

## Antiguan brother and sister called to the Bar in England and Wales

Brother and sister study partners, Clement Samuel and Megan Samuel-Fields were called to the Bar of England and Wales on November 24, 2005 after teaming up to complete the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and Bar Vocational Course (BVC), for which they received honours.

During an intensive three-year period, the duo studied for the LLB via distance learning while working full-time and being active parents. They both travelled to University of Cardiff, Wales to complete the Bar Vocational Course (BVC) and were called as members of the renowned Grays Inn in London.

This has been a story of sibling camaraderie for this accomplished brother-sister team. For many years, they shared a significant part of their professional careers at the same

company, Cable & Wireless, moreover, in both instances, Clement and Megan's education in law is a move in a different direction from their first degrees and areas of discipline. Both new lawyers intend to use their qualifications to bolster their existing careers.

In Clement's case, he holds a degree in Engineering, and worked with Cable & Wireless for over 20 years. Having left the company in 2003 as Chief Engineer, he intends to combine his years of experience in the management of telecommunications with up-to-date legal expertise in his current position as the government's Telecommunications Officer. Megan holds a degree in accounting and has been a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) since 1992. She is in her 11<sup>th</sup> year with Cable & Wireless and is currently the company's Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

Clement and Megan are the children of the Honourable and Mrs. Charlesworth Samuel and credit their success to moral support that they received from family and friends. In addition, the brother-sister team has

followed in their father's footsteps in pursuing legal education as a second degree using the distance learning approach.

## Nationals pursue course in Social Work

Three nationals have been awarded full scholarships and are pursuing studies in the Principles and Practice of Social Work at the University of West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica.

This was announced by Emmanuel Gordor, Project Manager for the European Union (EU) Drug Demand Reduction Unit, which falls under the Ministry of Housing, Culture & Social Transformation.

The recipients are Reha V. Joseph, Marissa Benjamin, and Causilda Anthony. They will spend the next three months in Jamaica.

The course is designed to meet the needs of persons working in the broad field of social welfare, either as professionals or voluntary workers in recognized agencies, who have not had professional training in social work.

Mr Gordor said he is delighted that the European Union could assist the country's quest to develop a cadre of persons who can adequately assist in drug education and reduction. He said this is in keeping with the EU's overall mission and hopes that the relationship with the Government/Ministry of Housing, Culture and Social Transformation and the EU can continue for a very long time.





**Tourism Minister Harold Lovell and Giorgio Armani**

Mr. Armani related much of what he likes about Antigua and Barbuda, a place which he stated abounds in “Beauty isolated!”

“I am very intrigued at the diversity of cultures present on the island and the ease and flexibility with which the peoples co-exist,” he said. This, he said, he enjoys observing each day during his regular jogs on the outskirts of his property.

## International Fashion Designer buys home in Antigua

Renowned Italian clothing and textiles designer Giorgio Armani has made Antigua and Barbuda his destination of choice.

Just recently, after visiting Antigua and Barbuda for many years on board his yacht, Armani decided to spend more time in Antigua by purchasing a home, which he remodelled using everything Armani.

In a recent visit to the home of Giorgio Armani, Tourism Minister Harold Lovell sat and spoke with the man who has a net worth of about 1.7 billion as estimated by Forbes magazine in 2001.

The Minister thanked Mr. Armani for choosing Antigua and Barbuda to be the Caribbean island of choice for his home. He presented Mr. Armani with his very own edition of “A Little Bit of Paradise” as well as samples of the islands’ famous ‘Cavalier rum’ and world renowned ‘Susie’s Hot Sauce’.

With the assistance of Jeff Hadeed, who acted as translator for Mr. Armani whose native tongue is Italian,

He said that he feels very safe and the people are warm and helpful. “It is not a case where I feel like a captive in my own home, beauty, and serenity abounds here, but I can indulge in a little island entertainment in nearby St. John’s.”

“I can visit the pizzeria when I want, the club when I want, and the casino when I want,” “It’s all here in Antigua!” he adds.

Giorgio Armani also has major interests in investing in the island as he is very much interested in preserving nature. His words of advice to Minister Lovell were, “ensure that all developers respect your islands’ resources.” “They should not build too close to the shoreline and they should not build too many high rise buildings.” he concluded.

Armani seldom travels to Antigua alone, and is usually accompanied by an entourage of ten or more persons who are themselves VIP’s. His staff is mostly Antiguan and he buys Antiguan.

Minister Lovell said that this type of relationship could only prove beneficial to an island which is marketed as a mid to up-market destination. “The spin-offs are tremendous for our economy and we endeavour to continue to lift our product to attract such clientele”.

## Fiennes Institute receives timely donation

The Very Intimate Places of Antigua (VIP) Antigua Group – which represents many of the small hotels in the country, recently donated 20 bedside tables to the Fiennes Institute. The bedside tables, estimated at over EC\$3,000.00, was donated to the health institution as part of the on-going commitment by the group to support the Fiennes Institute.

In presenting the supplies to the institution, VIP Antigua’s Chairman, Eustace Potter said the V.I.P. Antigua Group’s giving will be continual to ensure that the staff and patients are comfortable. He appealed to the public to offer assistance in caring for the inmates in Fiennes.

Delores Jardine who is also a member of the Group noted that they will be monitoring the Ministry of Health’s wish list to see how they can assist in future donations.

Junior Minister in the Ministry of Health Winston Williams who accepted the contributions for the institution, said he is delighted that the group saw it fit to make such timely donations. He called on the public to play their role in making contributions to the Fiennes Institute and to the other health institutions across Antigua and Barbuda.

Matron for the Fiennes Institute Imelda Southwell expressed her gratitude for the timely gifts and indicated that with such generosity the Fiennes Institute will become the institution it ought to be.

## Antiguan Cricket Officials attend Duckworth Lewis Seminar

Game officials, statisticians, Cricket Operations Managers and Duckworth Lewis Match Managers from across the region attended a two day Duckworth Lewis Seminar, held in Antigua from January 21 to 22.

The seminar was part of the roll out phase as the region prepares for ICC Cricket world Cup West Indies 2007.

The seminar was conducted by Messrs Frank Duckworth and Tony Lewis. The Duckworth Lewis system is used for calculating the result of weather affected, interrupted or abandoned one-day games.

Antigua and Barbuda was represented by Kattian Edwards-Baltimore and Cassandra Murray, both scorer and statistician. Edwards-Baltimore and Murray stated that the seminar was timely as Antigua will be hosting several ICC one day games; "This training is very critical for us as Cricket World Cup is a one day international competition. This year, Antigua will host two international one day games, plus international practice matches and these will give us a great opportunity to use what we have learnt."

"We knew of the system but after attending this seminar we now have a better understanding of why and how the system is used. Duckworth and Lewis were excellent. They were able to explain the system to people with varying degrees of knowledge and with different official functions."

Michael Hall, Cricket Operations Director, ICC CWC 2007 Inc. added that: "The staging of this seminar in Antigua represents one in a series of events leading up to Cricket World Cup 2007. It has provided an opportunity for each hosting LOC to test their readiness to actually stage an event. Obviously, this was not an international cricket match but it did involve elements of the things they are going to have to perfect by Cricket World Cup 2007."

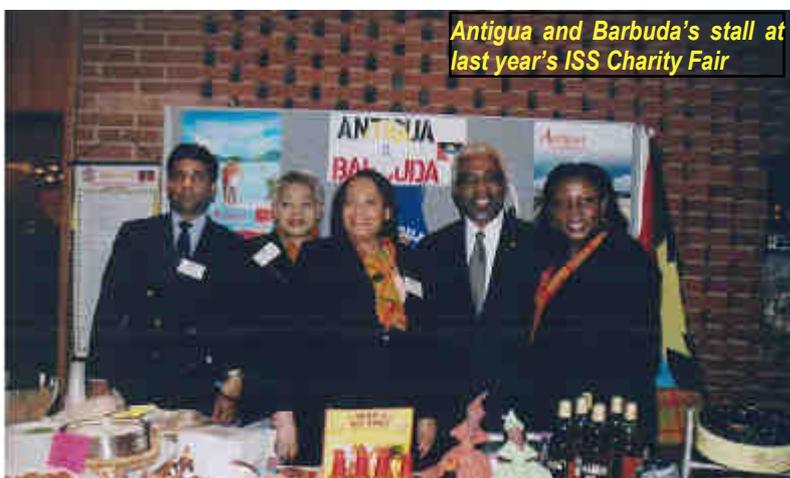
## Attorney General attends World Cup 2007 Security Issues Meeting

On the 18th January 2006, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Justin Simon QC represented the government at the Meeting of the Ad-hoc Sub-Committee of Ministers of National Security and Law Enforcement for Security Issues Pertaining to Cricket World Cup 2007 in Bridgetown Barbados.

The Meeting looked at systems of procedures for the processing of teams and officials, spectators, regular tourists and regular travel. Legislative issues, protocols, training needs, technology and equipment and accreditation also formed part of the meeting's agenda.

Minister Simon and his colleagues also considered recommendations coming from the Meeting of Immigration and Customs Officials which was held in July of last year; the Meeting of Regional Security Chiefs held in November in Barbados and the Meeting of the Caribbean Community CARICOM Cricket World Cup 2007 Sub-Committee.

National Security Advisor Alec Vanderpoole, who attended the Meeting of Officials for Security, Customs, Immigration, Intelligence and Disaster Preparedness, also attended the Ministerial meeting.



Antigua and Barbuda's stall at last year's ISS Charity Fair

**Don't miss the 47th International Social Service Spring Fair**  
on  
**Wednesday 9th and 10th May 2006**  
at  
**Kensington Town Hall**  
**Hornpton Street**  
**London W8**

*Stalls from around the world brought to your doorstep by the diplomatic missions of over 100 countries*



**Chief Passport Officer Ms. Paulette Otto presenting Prime Minister Spencer with his new Machine Readable Passport**

## PM Spencer receives first Antigua Barbuda Machine Readable Passport

On the 16th January 2006 Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer accepted the first Antigua and Barbuda new Machine Readable Passport during a brief ceremony at the Passport Office in St. John's.

Chief Passport Officer Ms. Paulette Otto presented the first Diplomatic Passport to the Prime Minister following a tour of the facility which is producing the new travel document.

The Government last year initiated the process of producing Machine Readable Passports which are essential to meeting International Civil Aviation Organisation ICAO global objectives designed to minimize delays in border-crossing formalities and to safeguard international civil aviation operation against acts of unlawful interference.

In accepting his new passport, Prime Minister Spencer said that he is delighted that the preparation process was a success and noted that the new design of the document not only meets international security requirements but with the addition of the CARICOM logo on the cover, it signifies Antigua and

Barbuda's commitment to regional integration.

Ms. Otto noted that new applicants for the document will begin receiving them from early next week and pointed out that persons who are in possession of valid passports should continue using them until the phased-out process for the old passport is announced.

Governor General Sir James Carlisle and Lady Carlisle and Mrs Jacklyn Spencer, wife of Prime Minister Spencer were also presented with the Antigua and Barbuda Machine Readable Passports. The passports are being issued in three colours and categories: Regular Passport – blue in colour; Official Passport – green in colour; and Diplomatic Passport – red in colour. The passports bear the CARICOM Logo, which identifies Antigua and Barbuda as a member state of the regional grouping and the Coat of Arms of Antigua and Barbuda on the front cover of the document.

## Antigua and Barbuda and OECS countries push back date for CSM compliance

OECS Heads during a meeting in Jamaica preceding the official ceremony to launch the CARICOM Single Market have agreed to push back the date for compliance to June 30.

Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer said that during the meeting, Heads took the opportunity to review the situation as it pertains to the Single Market. He said that the OECS, as they have been contending for sometime now that while they are fully committed to the process of moving the CSM forward there are some concerns that the timetable as being set by CARICOM in terms of being able to meet all the basic requirements under the treaty may not be to their liking.

"We have determined that in order for the OECS territories to be on board and to be able to fully implement the CARICOM treaty as it relates to the CSM that more time would be needed for all the OECS countries to come on board. So to that extent we have decided we should, for the purposes of signing the Declaration of Intent, have the 31 of March date put back until June 30 which would allow all the OECS countries to do what is necessary to bring them in compliance with the treaty," Prime Minister Spencer said.

He also pointed out that the Development Fund was also examined by the Heads. "It was indicated that some initial moves would have been made to establish the fund. Quite frankly the OECS is not comfortable that the development fund has reached the stage where it could be fully funded and become fully operational and that is an issue clearly that the OECS territories will be watching extremely closely," he said.

"I think it is important to emphasize that our decision to push back the date with respect of our Declaration of Intent would give the individual territories a chance to look at their legislative agenda and a number of other issues but at the same time to be satisfied in our own minds that the machinery would be put in place fully to allow for the implementation of the Development Fund and also to ensure that the special and differential treatment in relation to our CARICOM partners would have been fully ventilated," PM Spencer outlined.

Under the CARICOM Formula for country contribution to the US\$25 million Development Fund, Antigua and Barbuda will be required to contribute US\$ point 47 million.

## Labour Office soon to open in Codrington Barbuda

On the 18th January Minister of Labour Dr. Jacqui Quinn-Leandro chaired a meeting with Minister of Barbuda Affairs Trevor Walker, Dorothy Symister, Chief Executive Officer for the Barbuda Council and Labour Commissioner Hesketh Williams to work out details regarding the opening of a Labour Office in Barbuda.

“The meeting was fruitful and I am happy,” said Dr. Quinn Leandro. “It is important to be able to offer to our Barbudan sisters and brothers the same quality service we get in Antigua,” she stated.

The population of Barbuda is made up of 15 percent CARICOM nationals and as such it has become necessary for labour matters to be managed and dealt with expeditiously.

A major concern is the inconvenience to Barbudan residents who have to commute to Antigua to deal with Labour affairs. “It is expensive to travel to Antigua to sort out Labour matters,” the Minister said. She further explained that the Labour Commissioner would travel to the Codrington Office to handle cases that required his proficiency.

Minister Trevor Walker also expressed his satisfaction about the meeting. He said, “I am hoping that through this initiative the Minister of Labour can force a closer relationship with Barbuda and with the Barbuda Council. I am also hoping that this move will make the Minister more accessible to Barbudans.”

Last year, two Barbudans Ricky Michael and Omah Thomas, underwent a six month training session at the Labour Department in Antigua. They

have since returned to Barbuda and are working as Labour Officers.

It is the government’s intention to open the Codrington Labour Office within the first quarter of this year.

## Government commences Public Sector Audit

The Government has engaged the services of Profiles Antigua Inc. to conduct a Human Resources Audit in the Public Sector as part of its Public Sector Transformation Programme.

Profiles Antigua Inc. is a locally established professional services firm. The firm specializes in human resource management consulting and offers a broad spectrum of personnel assessment products and services. Dr. Vincent Richards and Dr. Errol Samuel established Profiles Antigua Inc. in 2000. Profiles Antigua Inc. is affiliated with Profiles Caribbean headquartered in Barbados, and Profiles International headquartered in Waco, Texas, USA.

The firm and its key professionals have crafted and assisted in the implementation of numerous human resources management interventions which have spanned a wide range of industry sectors and products and services. They have also ranged from private companies to statutory bodies to non-governmental organizations.

The audit is in progress in the Ministry of Works and Communication, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Public Information.

The audit will:

- Review and assess the current regulations for the Established workers and make recommendations for improvement in line with the government’s

overall vision of Public Sector Reform and Transformation.

- Review and examine similar models in the OECS and the wider Caribbean

- Provide extensive orientation and training for key stakeholders who will be the change agents. These include the Political Directorate, Senior Public Service Managers, Public Service workers and their representative organizations and representatives of Civil Society who will be involved in guiding and implementing the transformation process.

- Make recommendations for legislative change / revision / upgrade to facilitate the development of a performance-driven, results-oriented, service excellence-focused, highly motivated Public Service.

- Provide an assessment and evaluation mechanism for public sector workers in the new and transformed public sector system.

- Develop a grading and classification system for the Non-established workers consistent with the revised Established workers’ sector. Further, in the interim, design and develop a performance appraisal system for the assessment and evaluation of the Non-established workers.

- Review the grading structure of Established and Non-established workers with consideration being given to bringing them in line under the one set of regulations.

**GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

**Ministry of Justice**

**VACANCY NOTICE**

**Particulars of the Post of Magistrate, Magistrates Court**

**Ministry of Justice, Antigua and Barbuda**

**Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the post of Magistrate, High Court, Ministry of Justice.**

<b>Post:</b>	Magistrate	(b) conduct coroner's inquiries and licensing sessions;
<b>Qualifications:</b>	Bachelor of Law Degree Legal Education Certificate. At least seven (7) years experience as an advocate in a Court having unlimited jurisdiction in civil matters in some part of the Commonwealth.	(c) hear affiliation matters, certain matrimonial matters and other matters relating to the custody of children; (d) conduct juvenile court;
<b>Salary:</b>	\$58,836.00 per annum	(e) perform other judicial and administrative functions (e.g., issuing of warrants and granting of bail)
<b>Travelling Allowance:</b>	\$5,844.00 per annum (provided the officer maintains a car for the performance of official duties).	(f) perform any other duties which may be assigned by the Chief Magistrate, or as required by statute.
<b>Housing Allowance:</b>	\$18,000.00 per annum	<b>Hours of Work:</b> (1) Mondays to Thursdays 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fridays 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
<b>Duty Allowance:</b>	\$18,000.00 per annum	(2) Notwithstanding (1) above, the nature of the duties will require the Officer to perform work outside of the hours mentioned above, in addition to Sundays and Public Holidays when necessary.
<b>Telephone:</b>	Free telephone (limited to local calls)	
<b>Vacation Leave:</b>	Twenty-seven (27) working days per annum and in accordance with existing regulations.	
<b>Sick Leave:</b>	Thirty (30) calendar days during the period of twelve (12) months.	Applications stating qualifications, experience, the names and addresses of at least two referees, along with copies of Certificates should be sent to:
<b>Duties:</b>	a. adjudicate all criminal, quasi-criminal and civil cases within the limits prescribed by the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act, Cap. 255 and any other law;	<b>The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Justice Government Office Complex, Parliament Drive St. John's, Antigua W.I.</b>



**Minister responsible for Information Technology Dr Edmond Mansoor**

**Government Examines development of IT in Communities**

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has begun studying proposals for locating Internet Kiosks at the East and West Bus Stations in St. John's.

Minister responsible for Information Technology Dr. Edmond Mansoor said that one component of the Government's digital agenda is the deployment of technology in the society that will enhance the quality of life.

Dr. Mansoor said that the kiosks will provide:

- filtered internet access and access to e-mail
- bus routes and schedules where they exist
- maps and
- other local content

"This initiative will pave the way for citizens to access government services on line and transact business. The kiosks will be managed by the Government's Information Technology (IT) Centre," Minister Mansoor pointed out.

In addition, the Minister announced that the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has submitted a proposal for funding to a friendly Government for the erection of several Community Access Centres around the island and in Barbuda. He noted that the Centres will serve both residents and visitors.

Residents will utilize the Centres to access the World Wide Web, e-mail services and local and international phone services, and download national and community news, Government information and services and job opportunities

The Centres will also provide visitor information on places of interest, historical sites, island maps, bus schedules and routes and local and international phone services.



**KAHNAWÁ:KE and Antigua and Barbuda Regulators sign Mutual Assistance Protocol**

The Kahnawá:ke Gaming Commission (KGC) and the Antigua and Barbuda Financial Services Regulatory Commission (FSRC), two of the most senior regulating agencies in the online gaming world, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that allows for the sharing of investigative findings and material regarding existing and prospective licensees.

The objective of the MOU is to enhance effective regulation within the two jurisdictions through an efficient and reasonable channel for the exchange of information.

The KGC and FSRC both acknowledge the need and desirability of providing mutual assistance that will assist in securing compliance, administration and enforcement of their respective laws, regulations, requirements and overall policy relating to gaming and interactive wagering within their jurisdictions.

Each request for the sharing of information will be assessed on a case by case basis to determine whether assistance is appropriate and permissible by the laws of each jurisdiction.

"Given the global nature of the online industry, it is important that regulating authorities develop ways in which they can coordinate their activities. We believe that this MOU will assist the regulators in both Kahnawá:ke and Antigua and Barbuda in the performance of their duties and we hope that other jurisdictions will follow suit", said Alan Goodleaf, KGC Chairperson.

"The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between both Commissions is a concerted effort to effectively regulate the respective jurisdictions and to form an administrative relationship. I believe that this initiative is a key component in finally having a clear nexus between jurisdictions, bridging the relationship gap between gaming authorities, the advent of creating international standards for regulators and we stand to benefit from resources that we may otherwise not be able to obtain from our own means", stated Mr. Lebrecht Hesse, Chairman of FSRC, Antigua and Barbuda.

**About the Kahnawá:ke Gaming Commission:**

*Kahnawá:ke is sovereign Mohawk Territory located 20 minutes from Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The Kahnawá:ke Gaming Commission was established and empowered in 1996 under the Kahnawá:ke Gaming Law. The Commission's Regulations concerning Interactive Gaming were promulgated in July 1999 and are generally accepted as a model for regulating the global online gaming industry. The Commission presently regulates and monitors approximately 300 online gaming sites.*

*For more information, go to [www.kahnawake.com/gamingcommission](http://www.kahnawake.com/gamingcommission)*

**About the Antigua and Barbuda Financial Services Regulatory Commission:**

*The Division of Gaming is the regulatory body under the Financial Services Regulatory Commission (FSRC) responsible for the oversight of all aspects of the Offshore Gaming industry in the jurisdiction of Antigua and Barbuda. Antigua and Barbuda was one of the first jurisdictions to license interactive gaming and wagering companies in 1994. The internet gaming companies are classified as "Financial Institutions" and are subject to all the Anti-Money Laundering (AML)/Combating the Financing of Terrorism requirements of the jurisdiction and Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) requirements. The regulatory framework for these companies has been provided in the International Business Corporations (IBC) Act and the Interactive Gaming and Interactive Wagering Regulations (IGIWR). Today, FSRC, Division of Gaming continues to be home to a significant portion of the industry and some of the largest i-gaming companies due to our pursuit of being a tier one regulatory jurisdiction.*

*For additional information you may visit [www.antiguagaming.gov.ag](http://www.antiguagaming.gov.ag)*

**Minister Quinn-Leandro donates school furniture**

The Potters Primary School has received a much needed gift from the Parliamentary Representative for St. George Dr. Jacqui Quinn-Leandro.

The faculty at the school appealed for some comfort and got some relief in the form of three desks and six chairs for teachers. Grade 1 and Kindergarten Language teacher, Ms. Lois Drew, who is also a Potters resident, told the Representative about the poor condition of the furniture and was promised assistance.

Dr Quinn Leandro made a presentation to Principal Ms. Irma Bachelor in the presence of the older grades of the student body. Quinn Leandro stated that she was acutely aware of the shortage of furniture in the schools in her constituency and that this was the start of her effort to help the schools.

"Sometime down the road I will assist in getting computers for the schools in my constituency," the Representative said. She went on to praise the students for their high achievement in the Common Entrance passes and wished them well in the future.

Michael Lewis, Chairman of the UPP St. George branch helped to make the presentation and asked that the furniture be taken care of.

"We are indeed grateful and proud for the donation," said Assistant Principal Grace Ellis. Ellis stated that some teachers had no furniture at all while others were forced to use students' chairs for years.

The students showed their appreciation by applauding and then gathered around her for autographs. "Study hard and obey your teachers," she wrote.



**Parliamentary Representative for St George  
Dr Jacqui Quinn-Leandro**

## Antigua and Barbuda at Caribbean Marketplace

Antigua and Barbuda was marketed at the region's most important and productive marketing event, Caribbean Marketplace in San Juan Puerto Rico.

The event which ran from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> January set the tone for travel packaging in the Caribbean.

Antigua and Barbuda's delegation to this marketing event included Tourism Minister Harold Lovell, Director of Product Development Lorraine Headley and Director of Tourism for the USA, Mrs. Derede Samuel Whitlock.

One of the primary reasons that Caribbean Marketplace is successful and productive for its participants, year after year, is the active participation of the international buyers in the Matchmaker© appointment scheduling process which matches Buyer and Supplier mutual requests, Buyer requests, and supplier requests, in that order.

According to Minister Lovell, "The Antiguan delegation used the opportunity to follow indications on how the tourism season will go, what the trends will be, and how offer will meet demand."

International buyers were invited to attend Caribbean Marketplace based on their proven capability or potential to sell the Caribbean as a destination. The Caribbean Marketplace International Buyer Screening Committees, overseen by the Caribbean Hotel Association, qualify and approve the buyers.

A major aspect of Antigua and Barbuda's participation in the 2006 event is the launch of the "Love on Location"

marketing program put together by the New York Tourist Office. The initiative operates off of the premise that although Antigua and Barbuda continues to attract significant levels of couples, the destination has not strategically tapped into the potential that this market segment presents.

This promotion focussed on wedding and honeymoon packages and other special activities created exclusively around the theme of romance and rejuvenation. One of the highlights of this marketing programme was a destination wedding in Antigua and Barbuda with the theme "Love on Location".



## First Transatlantic Row Boater arrived in Antigua on January 8<sup>th</sup>

The first Rowing Boat in the Wood-vale Events transatlantic "Row4Life" venture arrived in Antigua on Sunday January 8<sup>th</sup> 2006, at the historic Nelson's Dockyard.

The race began on November 30<sup>th</sup> 2005 in La Gomera, Canary Islands, Spain, however, Antigua was announced as the official finish port since August 2004. Antigua was chosen by the organizers as the official finish port as a result of a number of key elements including accessibility by sea, marina facilities, and local support.

Simon Chalk, Managing Director of Wood-vale Events, in an earlier press release stated, "We're absolutely delighted to be able to bring our world class prestigious event to Antigua. Our research to find the best possible finish location has been extensive and thorough, and after a number of competitive bids from the other Caribbean islands, we decided upon Antigua, as it provides everything we could possibly want from a race finish port."

He continued, "Antigua has excellent facilities, character and historic links. The people of Antigua are fantastic to work with and fully embrace the ethos of the event."

Minister of Tourism Harold Lovell was on hand to welcome the first Rower at the welcome reception being organized by the Antigua Charter Yacht Club, on Sunday afternoon.

Minister Lovell sees the event as a manifestation of the fact that Antigua and Barbuda is indeed the "Yachting centre of the Caribbean". "Such a partnership can only seek to forge friendship and goodwill among the international ocean rowing society and the people of Antigua and Barbuda, and I take this opportunity to share the hospitality of the our people and our wonderful harbours with the sailors," he concluded.





**Miss Carol Hay, Director of Marketing UK and Europe**

**High Commissioner and Director of Marketing attend Annual Tourism Meeting in Antigua**

High Commissioner Dr Carl Roberts and Director of Marketing UK and Europe Carol Hay attended the Annual Tourism meeting in Antigua from February 1 - 4.

The event was also attended by Directors from the USA, Canada, Germany and France.

The team finalised Antigua and Barbuda's new brand to be launched at the end of 2006.

Meetings were held with LIAT, Caribbean Star, Antigua Carnival Committee and World cup 2007.

The UK and European Directors will now embark on their tourism marketing programme which include increased advertising and participation in trade shows and

strengthening industry and media relations.

**Information on new passports**

The passports which meet International Civil Aviation Organisation ICAO regulations are issued in three colours and categories:

- Regular Passport – blue in colour;
- Official Passport – green in colour;
- Diplomatic Passport – red in colour.

The passports bear the CARICOM logo, which identifies Antigua and Barbuda as a member state of the regional grouping and the Coat of Arms of Antigua and Barbuda which will be on the cover of the document.

Those persons holding valid passports will be allowed to continue to do so until a phased out period is announced.

The Passport Division also announced the fees structure for the Machine Readable Passports. The fees payable are as follows:

**New Passports**

- Passports for persons 16 years and over (32 pages) £50.00
- Passports for persons 16 years and over (64 pages) £100.00
- Passports for persons under 16 years (32 pages) £25.00

**Replacement Passports**

- Passports for persons 16 years and over (32 pages) £100.00



- Passports for persons 16 years and over (64 pages) £200.00
- Passports for persons under 16 years (32 pages) £50.00

**Emergency Issue of Passports**

- Passports for persons 16 years and over (32 pages) £100.00
- Passports for persons 16 years and over (64 pages) £200.00
- Passports for persons under 16 years (32 pages) £50.00

The new standard in the issuing of passports (machine readable) is essential for meeting ICAO global objectives, to minimize delays in border-crossing formalities and to safeguard international civil aviation operation against acts of unlawful interference.

Machine Readable Passports are readily recognized by officials at security, immigration and customs check points and by embassies and consulates worldwide, and thus make it easier for a person to obtain visas for travel and to be cleared at airports.

