



The Antigua and Barbuda High Commission

Official Newsletter - Issue 128 -- July/August 2008

Antigua and Barbuda Makes Presence Felt at

CARIFESTA 2008

Antigua and Barbuda's contingent to the tenth edition of the Caribbean Festival of Arts, CARIFESTA gave a stunning and colourful presentation during the much anticipated parade of nations, held during the opening ceremony on Friday 22nd August at the National Stadium at Providence in Guyana.

CARIFESTA is regarded as a festival for and by Caribbean people to

express themselves in various forms such as drama, cultural dances, conferences, workshops and the culinary arts. The Antigua and Barbuda parade was led by patriotic national, Hilson "Super Blue" Joseph (The Flag Man), followed by the Community Players and the Urlings Iron Band.

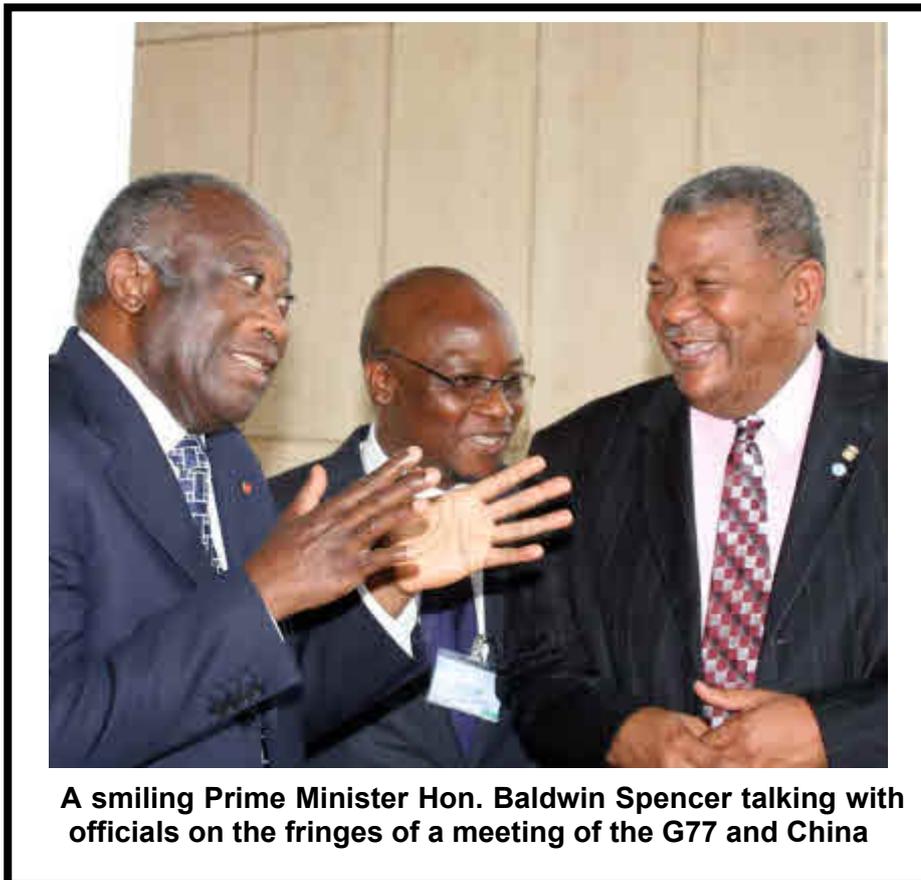
The rhythmic and cultural sounds of the Urlings Iron Band penetrated the environs of the National Stadium

causing applause and admiration from the audience. Also included in the parade were the National Dance Theatre and the National Youth Theatre among others. The country's opening parade and concept was planned by Rudolph Davis and followed the theme "Masquerade". "I think it came off quite well and members of the contingent did a wonderful job under the circumstances", Mr. Davis said. Davis is also a member of the local organizing CARIFESTA Committee.

The highlight of the event was a full length production of song and dance called 'Celegacy' which means celebrating our legacy. The programme featured some 1000 children that depict areas of Guyanese culture of folk music and dance. CARIFESTA was declared officially opened by President of the Republic of Guyana, Bharat Jagdeo.

The Minister responsible for CARIFESTA, Dr Frank Armstrong said like CARIFESTA, Guyana had always fulfilled a role in Caribbean integration and he hoped that as they sought to make the event more economically viable, the spirit of togetherness will never be lost.

During the period the visiting groups travelled throughout Guyana giving several presentations in song, dance, concerts and other areas of performing arts. Antigua's 125 strong delegation was led by Gilbert Laudat, Acting Director of Culture.



A smiling Prime Minister Hon. Baldwin Spencer talking with officials on the fringes of a meeting of the G77 and China

In This Issue

1. *Caribbean facing grave challenges* page 6
2. *Carnival is a success* page 10
3. *Making waves in China* page 19

A MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY DR CARL ROBERTS, HIGH COMMISSIONER



The CPTM and its Work

This Newsletter begins a mini-series focusing on the work of CPTM, a little known institution of the Commonwealth which started its official existence in 1995.

CPTM, short for the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management Ltd., is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, and is a partnership between Commonwealth Governments and the Private Sector.

CPTM traditionally is an “extensive network of members who provide their services free in a process called cooperative resourcing”. The company helps to develop and implement country activities on behalf of its Commonwealth Government members. “These activities generally aim [to enhance] development through improved application of Technology Management.

CPTM is also a leader in the smart Partnership Movement which brings together Heads of Government, Senior Business and Labour figures, as well as NGO's, in international Smart Partnership Dialogues to achieve consensus on important development issues”. The dialogues are intended to enhance Nation capabilities for the creation of and participation on global wealth.

As a registered company, CPTM is governed by a Board of Directors and its CEO, Dr Michaela Smith. Several Companies (recognised for their major contribution to the resources and work of CPTM and the Smart Partnership Movement over a sustained period) and Fellows (bestowed upon by invitation of the other fellows, any Head of Government or person of eminence in Government or in Private or Public Sector companies and organisation who actively support the concept and practice of Smart Partnership) make up the resource pool of the organisation.

Smart Dialogue brings together Heads of Government, Heads of Public or Private Sector companies, NGO and other persons of influence and interest to discuss and share experiences on common issues and concerns.

Issues discussed in the past include “National Visions and Traditions as a basis for Transforming Communities”, “The Civil Service and Realising National Visions” and “Growth Areas/Economic Zones and Technology Parks”.

In the first of several contributions, I shall share with readers the reflections of one of the Companions of CPTM who for over 20 years has been a First Lady of Malaysia. I found the thoughts and suggestions extremely useful and thought provoking. I have no doubt you will also:

“The Role of First Ladies

Excerpted from Mulungushi Smart Notes - Lusaka 28th-31 July '08

Let me say that **nothing prepares you to be a First Lady** – you are suddenly thrust onto the national and international stage with no rehearsal whatsoever! It is only by experience and intuition that you get by. You learn as you go along and you do not repeat your mistake. I feel much of what I am about to say here is applicable to the spouses of leaders in position of authority – be it in the government, the military or corporations.

The wife of a newly appointed Prime Minister or President becomes a First Lady by association (if not by accident)! But **the making of a First Lady is not by sheer chance**. Like the Head of State or Government, she too has to work for it.

As her spouse has to endure the hurly burly of an elected political life with all the bouquets and brickbats that come with it, she too has to endure the same. And this is where the role of an emerging First Lady is configured and set firmly in place over time.

There are a few attributes which I see as critical as one journeys along with the spouse, arriving at that role of national leadership.

The first attribute is that of a **steadfast partner**. The First Lady has to provide strength when things do not go right, and through that strength, she must nurture a caringly tough stance for him to fall back on when he needs a truthful partner to confide in. In truth, she has to be his best friend and, at the same time, his most honest critic, as there will be moments in his political life when the well-intentioned will gloss over the unpleasant and naysayers will be unkind.

The second attribute is that of showing that you are a **“thinking citizen”** who studies the issues from different perspectives. While the President or Prime Minister is consumed with addressing the hard facts of leadership in nation building and economic direction, the First Lady could create a support function in areas like Social Issues. With the Smart Partnership Dialogues we Ladies have succeeded in bringing pertinent and critical social challenges into the mainstream Dialogue agenda. We have repeatedly emphasized the need to address education, poverty and killer diseases in our social agenda. We have shown that while we occasionally welcome social distractions, we want to be included in the Smart Partnership Dialogue process)! And this where we can provide a holistic perspective to issues of national and global importance.

The third attribute is that of being congruent with yourself, especially where your values are concerned. **You need to maintain (and protect) you own identity** and not succumb to the “fragmentation of self” common to public figures.

When Mrs Mathato Mosislili, First Lady of Lesotho, was in Langkawi for the Smart Partnership Dialogue in 2002, she provided the sad and commonplace scenario of child-headed families – products of a missing generation to HIV / AIDS. The call for responsible parenthood, (in particular responsible fatherhood) has never been more urgent, and parents have a duty to protect themselves against AIDS. **While children belong to their families, they need to be acknowledged as the responsibility of the state**, civil society, and the international community.

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

I am sure that many of you here, have your own areas of concern that you are passionate about and I hope that there will be time for you to share your experiences during this dialogue.

Finally I should like to briefly share the “**should not**s”; and this is derived from my own personal experiences.

Never forget that **your role capability is defined by your association with your spouse** and that you are there to maximize your opportunity to serve, and add value, rather than become a “**competing distraction**”. One red line that you should never cross is that of sharing your spouse’s official duties, as he is the one who has been elected into office.

While **your loyalty to your political party should not be questioned, do avoid being at the forefront of partisan politics**. You need to tune in to the multifarious voices that cry to be heard, and this is where you should allow your natural

maternal instincts to come to the fore, so that can be the “**mother of the nation**”.

While there may be many projects that compete for your patronage, **do not be seduced by trivial pursuits** that do not make a difference in the cause of national interests.

There are many examples of people at the top being “**held captive by an inner circle**” who tell you what they think you may want to hear, rather than what you should know. This could be perilous and that is why many mere mortals at the very ‘pinnacle’ of power get disconnected with the reality on the ground. They can easily be out of touch with the real world, cocooned by their preferred coterie of advisors and supporters.

Finally, as a First Lady, **never short-change your role as a woman, wife and mother**. You have to find the time to keep your family intact and protect them from the glare of public scrutiny, while being mindful that your family occupies a significant “public space”.

Prime Minister Spencer Receives Cote d'Ivoire Honour

At the National Day ceremony held in Abijan, Cote d'Ivoire on the 7th August 2008 to mark that country's 48th anniversary of independence from France, the President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire His Excellency Laurent Gbagbo conferred his country's highest honour, **Commander of the National Order of Cote d'Ivoire**, on Prime Minister the Honourable Winston Baldwin Spencer in recognition of his sterling leadership of the Group of 77 & China at the ministerial level.

“Under the leadership of Prime Minister Spencer my country has been able to play a leading role within a resurgent Group of 77 & China and we are eternally grateful

for his personal efforts in ensuring that the recent meeting of G77 & China Foreign Ministers, IFCC XII, which was held in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire, was a complete success,” President Gbagbo said.

Prime Minister Spencer who was unable to attend the ceremony in person, conveyed the following message to the President through UN Ambassador Dr. John W. Ashe, who accepted the award on his behalf:

“Let me at the outset thank you for the personal interest and leadership you have shown in the Group of 77 & China, which I have the honour of chairing this year. Without this and similar commitment by you and other heads of State and government we would not be this far along with the Group's agenda at this point in time. And let also thank you with deep humility for this high honour you have bestowed on me.”

Côte d'Ivoire, which has a population of approximately 17 million people, is located in West Africa and is bordered by the North Atlantic Ocean, between Ghana and Liberia, became independent from France in 1940.

The development of cocoa production for export, and foreign investment made Côte d'Ivoire one of the most prosperous of the tropical African states, but did not protect it from political turmoil.

This is the second honour Prime Minister Spencer has received from Cote d'Ivoire. In June of this year he was made an honorary hereditary “Chief” and was given the title of Nanan Koussai II.

Later this month, a special emissary of President Gbagbo, Ambassador Zakaria Fellah, will visit Antigua to formally present Prime Minister Spencer with his award.

Large Turn Out For PM's Visit

On 16th July there was a large turnout of the Antigua and Barbuda Diaspora to meet, listen and pose questions to the Honourable Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda. The meeting was held on the ground floor of the building, which houses the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission.

The Prime Minister had that very day concluded the UK-Caribbean Forum which he co-chaired with the UK's Foreign Secretary David Milliband.

PM Spencer brought the Diaspora up to date on CARIFORUM's signing of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and what it would mean for Antigua and Barbuda; crime in Antigua and Barbuda and what the Government is doing to combat it; Holberton Hospital and the new Mount St John Medical Centre; government vehicles and the regulation of the system; unlicensed vehicles on the roads, among other things. Questions posed to the Prime Minister surrounded the issues of buying land in Antigua and Barbuda pensions and investment in Antigua and Barbuda

At the conclusion of the meeting, the audience gave the Prime Minister a resounding round of applause in appreciation for the vital information that he imparted to the Diaspora.



CARIFESTA 2008



PM: Time to Step Up to the Plate

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, the Hon. Baldwin Spencer has declared his 'hand' and suggested that the twin island state should host Carifesta.

Prime Minister Spencer was at the time speaking to local media during the opening ceremony for the tenth edition of CARIFESTA being held in Guyana from 22nd to 31st August under the theme "One Caribbean, One Purpose – Our Culture, Our Life".

"I believe that Antigua and Barbuda should put in a bid to host CARIFESTA in the nearest possible future. I think we now have an arena where CARIFESTA can be hosted and what we need to do is to plan ahead of time ...and put our own Antiguan and Barbudan touch to it. I think the time has come when

Antigua and Barbuda should step up and seek to host CARIFESTA", said PM Spencer. He said that the country has always supported the event over the years and highlighted the fact that for this year Antigua/Barbuda has one of the biggest delegations, which totals 125 individuals.

According to PM Spencer, the development of the arts is critical to the maturity of Caribbean societies and believes that a society and the arts must grow 'hand in hand'.

"You cannot say that you are a society fully developed unless you allow the cultural and artistic expression to come to the fore in a real way.

"It's a powerful tool for development and for the economic returns that could come and I believe it also has very deep and physiological effects on residents", said the Prime

Minister. PM Spencer, who is well known for his support of the arts, said that involving the youth in this type of event, has many positive effects.

"I think that from this (CARIFESTA) will come some great artists and I truly believe we are laying the foundation for which we can build", said PM Spencer.

He credits the local committee for ensuring that a large majority of the contingent is comprised of young people.

"I have always felt that it was important to involve the young in CARIFESTA activity. It is important that we ensure that the young people get involved in this event, as it gives them the exposure, builds character and self esteem and gives them the feeling that they are recognized at an early age", outlined Prime Minister Spencer.

MOVING FORWARD

Carol Hay, Antigua and Barbuda's Director of Tourism for the UK & Europe, met with senior hotel partners to chart the way forward following the gun related incident on 27 July, 2008, that took the lives of British Citizens, Catherine and Benjamin Mullany. During a recently held meeting High Commissioner, Dr. Carl Roberts, gave a welcoming address and thanked all partners for their ongoing commitment and support.

While there was general consensus that many media reports had presented a balanced perspective highlighting the

arbitrary and isolated nature of this incident, a detailed plan is being presented to reassure the travel trade and the public that Antigua and Barbuda remains a desirable destination with a well deserved reputation for warm and friendly hospitality.

Additional meetings with airline and trade partners will take place this week and a "Moving Forward" plan and budget will be submitted to the Ministry shortly with a clearly defined strategy, tactics and recommendations.

Hay said : "Today's meeting was a great step forward with overwhelming support from our trade partners; it is clear we need to address visitor confidence to our Islands

and reassure the British public that Antigua and Barbuda is deserving of its long held popularity.

She added "We are optimistic that with unified support our Moving Forward action plan will serve to instil reassurance and confidence."



World Bank Scholar Graduates with “Distinction”

Ian Horsford, a recipient of the 2006 Joint Japan / World Bank Graduate Scholarship, graduated from the University of Portsmouth in the United Kingdom with a “Distinction” in MSc. Marine Resource Economics.

Mr. Horsford is the son of Christophine Horsford and the late Ivan Horsford of Lower Gambles, and a former science teacher of the Antigua Grammar School.

Mr. Horsford is currently employed

with the Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture, and his dissertation focused on conducting a comprehensive economic evaluation of the fisheries sector as well as develop computer “risk models” for investment.

This research is quite timely and valuable, since models can be used to assess the impact of factors such as fuel prices on the viability of investments, in addition to providing investors, policy analysts, fishery managers and lending institutions with “tools” to simulate the possible “outcomes” associated with various investment or management options.



Photo: Mr. Ian Horsford (left) and Mrs. Leontine Manners – President of the Antigua and Barbuda National Association (London) (right).

Happy Graduation

Proud Parents and Grandparents of Miss Caroline George were on hand to see her graduate from Staffordshire University recently with a 2-1 BA Honours in English Literature.

Father and Mother Caudley and Cosmin George with Grandparents Mr David and Jennifer White looked on in the presence of other distinguished guests including Alan Johnston the BBC Journalist who was kidnapped and held in Gaza for some four months and on whom an Honorary Doctorate was conferred.

Caroline said “Staffordshire University Class of 2008, 11th July 2008. This is a date that shall forever be embellished



Miss Caroline George flanked by her father Caudley and mother Cosmin George

upon my memory, since it was the single most proud day of my entire life. Why? Because it was my graduation ceremony.

“But this ceremony was not only in honour of my achievement, but also a mark of the successful way in which both my parents

and grandparents nurtured, guided and loved me from day one.

Looking above and beyond the sea of scholarly hats which filled the room, I saw the faces of my dedicated family: my Jamaican Grandparents and Mother and my Antiguan Father.

They looked proud and content, as though their work had been done. One thing I did not forget that day was that without the unconditional love and support of my family, I would not have the words BA (Hons) added to the end of my name at present “

Thus I conclude that not only is my English Literature Degree in which I achieved a 2:1 a mark of my dedication but it is testament to the dedication and commitment that my parents have showed me for the past 21 years and I would like to take this opportunity to thank both of them.”

Antiguan Author Gains Profile on Amazon

Author Rachel Collis is gaining additional exposure for her work from the Amazon Book Publishing Company.

In a unique promotional programme which pairs newly published books with a top-selling title, BookSurge, the self-publishing arm of Amazon Book Publishing Company, is jointly offering Collis’ recently-published first novel, Emerald Isle of Adventure, with A Thousand Splendid Suns, a novel written by Khaled Hosseini.

Collis’ novel, according to a press release, is a lively action-packed tale of

adventure for the whole family, and is enjoying popularity on the local market.

According to a review from Amazon, his novel “packs a wallop of a good time.”

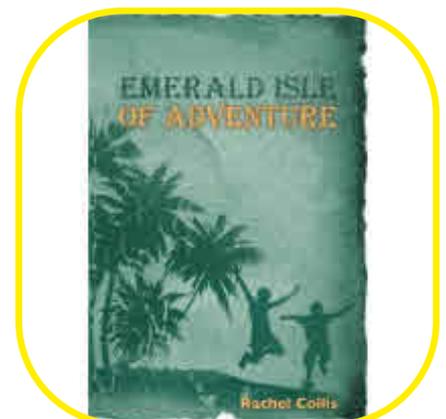
Hosseini’s ‘A Thousand Splendid Suns’ deals with women in Afghanistan who have to endure the hardships of life, the slights of men, and the disdain of society.

It features the lives of two women, one of whom falls victim to the Taliban, while the other escapes to a brand new life. His first novel, The Kite Runner, was a popular bestseller.

Both books are offered at Amazon.com, a retail channel which has more than 55 million active customers.

The promotional programme, called

Buy X Get Y (BXGY) provides special savings to customers who buy both books together. Collis’s novel is also available at the Best of Books Store in downtown St. John’s.



Caribbean Facing Grave Challenges

Prime Minister, Hon. Baldwin Spencer has said that Caribbean continues to face many challenges including globalisation and climate change. The nation's leader made this statement at the recently held UK-Caribbean Forum. This Forum took place against the background of a number of changes since the last UK-Caribbean Forum which was held in April 2006 in Barbados under the theme, "Partnerships for Promoting and Sustaining Caribbean Development: Strategies for the Medium and Long Term".

Spencer said the region is "confronted with unprecedented challenges, many of them not spawned by the fifteen small, vulnerable but indomitable states that form our membership, but all of them direct threats to our very survival.



Increased pollution is speeding up global warming

and our size. Our seascapes and landscapes and our populations know hurricanes. "

"We accept and know our seas to be blue, and for some of us, our rivers to be brown, our vegetation lush, and our years divided into dry and rainy seasons even as we accept and know the seas to be stormy and our vegetation dry and our years to be divided between floods and hurricanes.

"What is new to us is the unprecedented frequency and intensity of these natural disasters. What is new is how man's activity is now altering and pushing to extremes hitherto unknown, the natural phenomena we were once familiar with."

He also added "Hurricanes and floods now constitute more an irreverent act of man than an act of God. Everything is affected, potentially or in actuality. Climate Change is only too real to us though we contribute little to the phenomenon.

"I speak of climate change, of security challenges, of rising energy and food prices, and of the socio-economic imbalances and instability that these threats engender.

"Even as we meet on this British summer evening, the Caribbean is on guard- hurricane poised. This is not new. It is and always has been our lot by virtue of our geography

"And then there are the other challenges, the ones we succeed in overcoming only to find ourselves compromised by our efforts - to achieve the millennium development goals by finding ourselves disqualified from access to concessionary financing and development assistance, which are vital to implementation, because we are now deemed to be middle income rather than poor countries."

Jamaica Celebrates 46 Years of Independence

The Jamaica High Commission in London held their Thanksgiving Service to celebrate 46 years of Independence at St-Martin-in-the-Fields, London.

In attendance -along with the large number of Jamaican Diaspora attendees- were Commonwealth High Commissioners and other dignitaries including Her Excellency Dame Louise Lake-Tack, Antigua and Barbuda's Governor-General, as a special guest.

The High Commissioner, The Hon. Burchell Whiteman also hosted a special Independence Day reception at the Jamaican High Commission in London on August 6, to mark the country's anniversary of Independence.



(Left to Right) H.E. The Hon Burchell Whiteman, High Commissioner of Jamaica; H.E. Dr Carl Roberts, High Commissioner of Antigua and Barbuda; H.E. Dame Louise Lake-Tack, Governor-General for Antigua and Barbuda and Mrs Pauline Roberts. A step behind is H.E. Mr Joseph Charter, High Commissioner for Grenada

Antigua and Barbuda Wins Top Award



Hon. Dr. Edmond Mansoor being congratulated by the Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation, Dr. Ekwow Spio-Garbrah

Antigua and Barbuda has won a top regional ICT award for its cutting edge national information technology project, the *Connect Antigua & Barbuda Initiative*.

The Caribbean Association of National Telecommunication Organisations (CANTO) on Monday evening

awarded Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Edmond A. Mansoor with the first ever CANTO Connect the Caribbean (CTC) prize at the CANTO 24th Annual Conference and Trade Exhibition being held in Nassau, Bahamas.

Speaking from Paradise Island in the Bahamas, where he is heading Antigua and Barbuda's delegation at the CANTO Annual Conference, Minister Mansoor said that the presentation by his team on the Mobile IT Classroom component of the Connect Antigua and Barbuda Initiative not only received very highly favourable reviews from the eminent panel of judges but stunned the adjudicators by its technical scope and the extent of its community outreach.

"The Connect Antigua and Barbuda Initiative has several distinct components which are integral to the IT revolution that is currently underway in Antigua. It is an integral component of the Government's overall development agenda and is a hallmark and superior response to the International Telecommunications Union's Connect the World Programme, Minister Mansoor declared.

"The Connect Antigua and Barbuda Initiative is a comprehensive blueprint for the rapid deployment and utilization of ICTs throughout the state. The Mobile IT Classroom component was overwhelmingly endorsed by the panel of judges and is indicative of the depth of work provided to this project by my support team in the Ministry.

We could not have done this without the unwavering support of the Antigua Computer Technology (ACT) Limited, and I want to thank ACT and the dozens of support people who have been involved in this project", Minister Mansoor added.

Also attending the CANTO meeting in the Bahamas were the Acting Director of the Community Technology Programme, Beverly Laviscount, and e-Commerce Development Coordinator in the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and Telecommunications, Terry Ephraim.

Government has opened over a dozen Community Computer Access Centres island wide and has deployed a fleet of five mobile IT classrooms to serve all public primary schools as well as select private primary schools as well as non-governmental organizations, community based organizations and faith-based organizations.

Youth Minister Discusses Youth Policy

Antigua and Barbuda's National Youth Policy has won the admiration of a large group of young people around the world.

Minister of State responsible for Youth and Sports in the Ministry of Education, Winston Williams, had the occasion to discuss the document as he spoke to 105 young global entrepreneurs from fifty countries recently.

Williams was invited to sit on a panel of eminent individuals at the prestigious Global Village at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Minister Williams, who was specifically identified on account of the progress made on the National Youth Policy of Antigua and Barbuda, joined other panellists that included Mark Gumz, CEO of Olympus Camera, Frank Zenie, Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Dennis Cheek, Vice President of Kauffmann Foundation, a premier philanthropic organisation in the United States.

During his presentation, Williams focused on the entrepreneurial dimensions of the youth policy.

His motivational speech was well received by the young leaders who later turned out to attend his seminar.

Minister Williams also used his trip to the United States to hold high level discussions with officials at Lock Haven University and Stevens Institute of Technology where he held advanced discussions in such areas as athletic exchanges, coach training, internships, technical assistance and youth innovation initiatives.

In summing up the results of the trip, Williams said that he was extremely pleased with the enthusiasm he encountered from the universities their willingness to collaborate with Antigua and Barbuda. He said Antigua and Barbuda stands to benefit, in among other ways, such as the strengthening of sports administration, the fostering of youth empowering programmes and the building of human ability.



Minister Williams is passionate about youth development

The Antigua & Barbuda
INTERNATIONAL *Literary* Festival
Jolly Beach Hotel Nov. 7-9, 2008



Victoria Rowell



Junot Diaz

SELECTED 2008 PARTICIPANTS



Marie-Elena John

Kwame Alexander -- Poet, publisher and author of "Do the Write Thing: 7 Steps to Publishing Success," as well as producer of the Capital BookFest in Washington, D.C.

Tina McElroy Ansa - novelist, publisher, filmmaker, teacher and journalist, organizer of the Sea Island Writers Retreat, and author of the new novel "Taking After Mudear"

Junot Diaz - named by *New Yorker Magazine* as one of the top 20 writers for the 21st century and author of "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao," selected by *Time* as the best novel of 2007



Eric Jerome Dickey

Eric Jerome Dickey — author of 17 novels, many of which have appeared on the *New York Times* and other best-selling lists. In 2006 he was selected Male Author of the Year at The 2nd Annual African-American Literary Award Show

Ramabai Espinet — Trinidadian novelist, poet and author of children's books, as well as professor at Seneca College and the University of Toronto

Lorna Goodison — Jamaican poet and recipient of the Musgrave Gold Medal as well as professor at the University of Michigan

Marie-Elena John — Antiguan author whose 2006 debut novel, "Unburnable," was short-listed for the 2007 Hurston-Wright Legacy Awards in the Debut Fiction Category

Mondella Jones — Literary agent, president of MJLA Media, and former senior editor of *Black Issues Book Review*

E. Ethelbert Miller — Literary activist and award-winning poet/author of 10 books, including "How We Sleep On Nights We Don't Make Love." Since 1974, he has been the director of the African American Resource Center at Howard University.

Stacey Evans Morgan — Screenwriter and writer/producer of UPN's hit show *The Parkers* and the NAACP Image Awards Show

Mary B. Morrison — Novelist, poet and non-fiction author who conducts workshops on self-publishing. Author of the best seller "Sweeter Than Honey"

Victoria Christopher Murray — Christian-centered novelist and author of an inspirational teen fiction series

Elizabeth Nunez — Trinidadian-born novelist and winner of the 2001 American Book Award as well as chair of the English department at Medgar Evers College

Roscoe Orman — television and film actor who played "Gordon" for 30 years on PBS' acclaimed *Sesame Street* as well as a poet and author of a memoir about the show and a children's book

Esther Phillips — Poet who won the Alfred Boas Poetry Prize of the Academy of American Poets in 1999. She is founder of Writers Ink Barbados and an educator at Barbados Community College.

Althea Prince — Antiguan-Canadian novelist, essayist and children's author who received the first Antigua & Barbuda Literary Prize in 2007.

Arnold Rampersad — Trinidadian-born biographer and literary critic whose first book, "The Life of Langston Hughes," was a Pulitzer Prize finalist. His recent book, a biography of Ralph Ellison, has met with considerable critical praise.

Victoria Rowell — distinguished, versatile actress (*The Cosby Show*, *The Young and the Restless*) as well as author and filmmaker who is an international advocate for foster children

Esmeralda Santiago — Puerto Rican-born author of memoirs, novels, essays and opinion pieces as well as a producer and writer of documentary and educational films

Frances Anne Solomon — director and producer of Canadian sitcoms and documentaries as well as head of her own production companies, one of which is a non-profit company for multimedia products aimed at the educational market

Delilah Winder — celebrity chef, restaurant owner and cookbook author who has appeared on various Food Network shows. Winner of Oprah's "Favorite Mac-n-Cheese" competition

Malik Yoba and Akoshia Yoba — authors of a non-fiction book on relationships. Malik is an actor known for his roles on *New York Undercover* and FX Network's *Thief*. Akoshia is a poet and novelist.



Kwame Alexander



Elizabeth Nunez



Arnold Rampersad



Delilah Winder



Victoria Christopher Murray



Roscoe Orman



Esmeralda Santiago



Malik Yoba

For updates, please go to www.antiguaandbarbudaliteraryfestival.com



Photo courtesy www.yepton.com

Know Your Rights: Renting in Antigua and Barbuda

If you are thinking about moving back to Antigua or Barbuda, deciding where to live may be of the the biggest challenges you face - especially if you are looking for a house to rent.

Before venturing out to find a place to call home, you should familiarise yourself with some basic regulations governing your relationship with your landlord.

You should bear in mind that there are two common forms of tenancies: Periodic and Fixed-Term Tenancies.

Periodic Tenancy runs from period to period, month to month or week to week. It can only end when a valid '*notice to quit*' is served.

LANDLORD

When starting a tenancy the landlord or agent must provide tenants with:

- A copy of the lease within 14 days after signing.
- Statement of their rights and duties.
- The landlord's full name and address or agent.
- Secure, lockable premise (house) that is vacant, clean and in good condition.
-

Tenants

- Must keep premises (house) in reasonable clean and tidy condition, must notify landlord or agent of any damage as soon as possible.
- Must not be nuisance to others or use premise (house) for illegal activities.
- Must get the landlords permission before making any alterations to the premises, sub-let or allow others to take lease.
- Must immediately give key to landlord if locks were change. Must avoid damaging the premises (house).

Landlord/agents

Must maintain premises (house) in good conditions must not interfere with tenant's privacy and use the premises. Landlord / agent can only enter premises when tenant agrees, or by giving 24 hours notice, stating time between 8:00 am and 6:00 pm, on one of the following reasons:

- To show the house to prospective tenants or buyers.
- To value the premises.
- To carry out obligation under law. (For example repairs).
- Where the landlord/ agents have reasonable suspicion that tenant has not complied with the lease and in case of an emergency.

For further information on other consumer-related matters, contact the Prices & Consumer Affairs Division,

Redcliffe Street & Corn Alley

Telephone 1268-462- 4347 or 1268-562-2732/3.

The Antigua and Barbuda Association's Independence Service

will be held on

27th October 2008

at

St Marks Rise Church at 3:00 p.m.

His Excellency Dr. Carl Roberts, High Commissioner will be the feature speaker at this event.



Carnival is Resounding Success

Chairman of the 2008 Carnival Development Committee (CDC), Marlon Rawlins, is pleased with this year's festival, labelling it a resounding success. A post-mortem press conference at which Rawlins delivered his chairman's report.

Rawlins said he used a score where his main focus was aimed at the spectators' experience, attendance to the shows, the level of sponsorship, operations – with regards to security – and the experiences of the participants in the various competitions.

Rawlins said this year, the marketing and branding of the festival was done in such a way, that the public came out excited about the shows. He made special mention of the level of sponsorship, which he said was record-breaking this year. With the exception of one show, all others had title sponsors.

Rawlins continued to say that he was pleased with the level of security that was provided. He said participants were able to grow significantly as a result of being involved in the various shows.

Also on the list of his committee's accomplishments were the timely start of all the shows, with the exception of two, the smooth flow at the entrances and ticketing booths, the new initiatives the committee undertook and the level of media exposure they were able to provide to the festival.

The new computerised ticketing system allowed for shorter lines and this was highly favoured by the public. Three new initiatives were started this year; Carnival Village, LIAT Caribbean Melting Pot and a compilation CD, Sound, Sea and Sand; Road March Kings Volume 1. Rawlins said he was pleased with their end results.

The TEMPO network also covered this year's Carnival and will do a broadcast of it in the form of a half an hour promotional video. The Ministry of Information was able to get three shows broadcast to 22 Caribbean countries, the United States of America (USA) and Canada, via arrangements with Caribbean Media Corporation and Caribvision.

Wanda Clark, chairman of the Judges' Sub-committee, spoke about the new computerised judging system that was adopted this year. According to Clark, the system was well received by the contestants and judges. She described it as super efficient as final results were available within minutes. She continued to say that the system was here to stay and all necessary changes will be made.

"The people were pleased overall" Everton Barnes said, with reference to the troupes and groups in the final parades. He added that they moved off on time and troupe leaders were very co-operative. Financial Consultant to the CDC, Richard Apparicio, also commended the ticketing system. He said it offered much assistance with the tracking of monies received and planning. Apparicio added that all bills were being paid and a draft of the financial statements should be available by the end of August.

Overall, the CDC is satisfied with the outcome of Carnival 2008 and is looking forward to bigger and better things for the future. (Source: Antigua Sun)



2008 Calypso King - Young Destroyer



Vibrant Carnival colours



Steel band providing music for j'ouvert revellers



A section of the j'ouvert crowd

THE COMMONWEALTH FAIR 2008

WHERE GLOBAL MEETS LOCAL



..savour the exotic flavours, sounds and colours of the Commonwealth

KENSINGTON TOWN HALL
Hornton Street
London W8 7NX

GALA EVENING

Friday, 7 November 2008
6.30 pm - 9.00 pm

Ticket: £20 per person

GRAND RAFFLE DRAW

Saturday, 3.45 pm

FAIR DAY

Saturday, 8 November 2008
10.30 am – 4.30 pm

Ticket: £5.00 per adult
£3.00 per child below 16

Advance Family Ticket: £10.00
(admits 2 adults and 2 children)

Advance Adult Ticket: £8.00
(admits 2 adults)

TICKETS/ENQUIRIES:

Jania 0207 2229342

Sui Chin 0207 6028966

e-mail commonwealthfair2008@yahoo.co.uk

website www.ccl-int.org.uk

Proceeds of the Fair support The Commonwealth Countries League Education Fund (Registered Charity No. 1048908) which sponsors the secondary education of disadvantaged girls in Commonwealth countries.

Task Force To Assess Hotel Properties

All forty-five registered hotel properties in Antigua and Barbuda will be subject to a safety and security assessment, as early as next month.

This development comes as a result of a decision by the Ministry of Tourism to form a top-level Security and Safety Task Force to conduct an audit on all existing tourism accommodations in Antigua and Barbuda, after a recent security breach at one of the island's hotel properties.

The forty-five properties will be inspected based on a comprehensive safety and security checklist. The checklist has been created with inputs from the task force, chaired by Director General of Tourism Corthwright Marshall and consisting of members from the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, the Fire Department,

the National Office of Disaster Services, Central Board of Health, Office of National Drug Control Policy, EMS, the Development Control Authority, the Antigua Hotel and Tourist Association and the Ministry of Tourism.

"Following the review of the hotel accommodations, the task force will make specific recommendations to the individual properties and call for certain actions that hotels can take to improve on the general safety and security of their guests", said the Director General of Tourism.

"Minimum guidelines, by which future hotel developments will be required to adhere to before operation, will also be set."

Completion of the audit is of priority to the Ministry of Tourism and to ensure the timely finish of the audit, the island has been divided into three zones with

three teams designated to visit the hotels within those zones.

The audit is being supervised by Captain Pennyfeather of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence force.

Upon completion of the security audit at these hotels an audit of other properties frequented by visitors such as guest houses and condos will be done.



Tourism Gets Boost

Antigua and Barbuda's tourism industry will get a boost with the introduction of a American Airline non-stop service from Miami.

A press release noted "American will begin flying the Miami-Antigua route on Nov. 20, 2008, using Boeing 737-800 aircraft configured with 16 seats in First Class and 132 seats in the Main Cabin.



The new service from Miami complements existing flights to Antigua from San Juan, Puerto Rico, offered by American and its regional affiliate, American Eagle."

"We are very excited to add Antigua to American Airlines extensive list of destinations served nonstop from Miami," Peter J. Dolara, American's Senior Vice President -- Miami,

Caribbean and Latin America is quoted as saying.

He added "It's the perfect place for a relaxing getaway. And now, it's just a convenient nonstop flight away from South Florida on American Airlines, as well as a convenient connecting flight from dozens of other destinations via our Miami hub."

"Antigua entices visitors with wonderful scenery, beautiful beaches, numerous activities, and warm, friendly people," said the Hon. Harold Lovell, Antigua's Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation.

"We look forward to the start of American's nonstop service from Miami and the opportunity it offers to showcase the many things that make Antigua such a special place for residents and visitors alike.

We are confident that once visitors experience Antigua, they will want to return again and again."

ABSSB Introduces its New Social Security Cards

The Antigua and Barbuda Social Security Board has begun issuing its new registration cards in the former World Cup building.

The new Social Security card has the additional feature of the contributor's photo and is equipped with special security features that will make duplication almost impossible.

This comes at a time when security concerns make photo identification critical when conducting business. The new Social Security card will be issued in phases and at present only first time registrants are being processed.

Antiguans by birth require a passport or a birth certificate with a photo I.D. for registration. Nationals by naturalization require a valid passport. Non-nationals require a valid passport and a valid work permit.

In addition to these documents persons are asked to present their marriage or divorce certificate where applicable.

Persons who are already in possession of a Social Security card will be advised at a later date when new cards will be issued.



Mangoes Galore

Mango Festival is a juicy hit once again for all attending, but the scenery of Christian Valley could not be overlooked either.

"Very idyllic, peaceful, very nice and fruitful too," were Marva Christian's words to describe the mountains encircling the orchards of Christian Valley.

She also enjoyed the variety of mangos and the innovative products made from the fruit.

It was Christian's third year attending the annual festival and she said every year there is something new and exciting that's offered.

"Each year it gets better and each year somebody comes

up with something new. I just hope it gets better and better every year. It is a good idea," she said.

While people were walking around the grounds with bags full of mangos, Robby Breadner could be found sitting under a tree escaping the sun's heat, while his five-year-old son Che, was eager to taste mango ice cream.

For Breadner, the festival is a time to meet new people and spend quality time with his family.

"So far it's been terrific. There's a lot of munchies, drinks and mango. This year we're going to do some things with the kids and it should be lots of fun," he said.

For the second year attendee, his favourite aspect of the Mango Festival is test tasting the vast variety of mango dishes and beverages. "Trying different things made of mango, but really it's about relaxing and usually we bump into people we know and we've already made a few new friends already."

His little boy, Che says the mango ice cream is his favourable attraction of the festival, but it has to be in a cone. "I like mangofest because I like mangos and they're so yummy and I like to eat mango ice cream. I like to eat it in cones too because I never eat

ice cream in cone," the five-year-old said with his dad chuckling in the background.

With all the attendees eager to sink their teeth into the juicy mangos and filling their bags full of the fruit, there wasn't a shortage of the mouth watering mango at Christian Valley said Jim McComas chairman of the Friends of Christian Valley.

"It's been a great year for mangos, we've got plenty of mangos for everybody," he said.

McComas' said the idea to start the Mango Festival came into fruition when a decision was concluded that everyone would benefit and enjoy a day of relaxation while enjoying some mangos.

"This is an asset that all Antiguans should enjoy and have as apart of their lives. What we've been trying to do each year with Mango Festival is to get people to be able to see what we have up here...the beautiful fruit trees and mango trees and get more awareness of the fact that this is something that is owned by the Antiguans and is something special."

This was the third annual Mango Festival. It started on August 16 and ended on August 17.

(Source: Antigua Observer)

Invitation

to

Westminster Abbey to celebrate Antigua and Barbuda's Independence

On Friday 31st October 2008

Westminster Abbey will dedicate

Evensong

at

4:45 pm

in Celebration of the 27th Anniversary

of

Antigua and Barbuda's Independence

**Nationals and friends of Antigua and Barbuda are invited
to attend the service**

New Industry Provides Jobs

Plans are well advanced for the next stage of the development of Antigua and Barbuda's newest industry, Medical Transcription. Medical transcription is the process through which the voice dictation of a medical professional is converted to an electronic text format.

According to Senator Lenworth Johnson, Chairman of Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority, the next stage are two job fairs or informational to recruit persons for training.

The first of these will be in Barbuda at the Mc Chesney George High School on August 18, followed by a similar

event at the Multipurpose Conference Centre on August 19th and 20th.

The event in Barbuda starts at 9:00 a.m. and includes an opening ceremony to be followed by an informational/job fair which provides information about job opportunities, the training and the next steps.

An important feature will be an address by a recent graduate in Medical Transcription from Barbados. Later in the day a team from Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority will conduct screening tests and interview persons who are interested in pursuing a Medical Transcription Career.

Antigua will host its job fairs/informational on August 19.

This includes three informational sessions at 10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. The next day, applicants will be evaluated using an online screening solution and interviews.

Senator Johnson noted that multiple sessions are being held in Antigua to ensure access to a wide cross section of people including those currently employed and considering a career change or a second job.

It is also a great career, good pay and you also acquire a skill in great demand.

The ABIA has indicated it intends to recruit about 150 persons for the first year of Medical Transcription training. This includes 120 full time students and at least 30 online students.

Window Replacement Project at Museum Near Completion

The window replacement project being undertaken by the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda's board of directors has now entered its final stages.

Speaking with Agnes Meeker, member of the museum's board and the person spearheading the project, the Antigua Sun learned that all of the upstairs windows had already been replaced and that the downstairs would be completed shortly after the shipment of windows arrive from St. Kitts.

According to Meeker, there was a two-week delay, due to what appears to be a slight miscalculation in the number of windows that had to be made.

Originally the board had put out an order for 54 windows, each of which is larger than a standard home's front door, however, when reviewing the building once more, another window was discovered and so the order had to be increased.

Still, Meeker said that the project should be finished sometime in the near future.

There is, however, one other hindrance to the project; the board is between \$30,000 and \$40,000 short on funding. Fortunately, the funds are supposedly secure and the board is hoping for the

individuals that pledged money to the project to deliver on their promises. They are also hoping for the government to provide some assistance.

The remaining funds are important to the venture because the board has put down a 50 per cent deposit on the downstairs windows and the rest of the money is due once they arrive in Antigua.

Meeker also said that throughout the course of the endeavour, the public had been very supportive. In fact, she said the whole effort was made possible through public contributions. This generosity enabled the board to raise \$220,000 in a very short space of time.

When asked about the reason behind the undertaking, Meeker told the SUN that the project was taken up due to concerns about the age of the windows, general safety and, even more so, hurricane safety.

Since the building itself was constructed centuries ago and the windows, while not quite as old as that, were rotting to the point that glass panes were beginning to fall out, the board felt it was time to replace them. Should a hurricane strike, the old windows to the east and north of the building would probably have been blown in.

As a result, the exhibits would have been more vulnerable to damage from



National Museum

wind, water and any debris that may happen to find its way inside.

The cost for repairs to the building and exhibits would then have been added expenses, as new windows would then have to be purchased.

Meeker projects the new windows should be good for at least another 20 years, but she also expressed hopes for them to last for 50 years or longer.

The project is being undertaken and managed by the museum's board of directors. (source: Antigua Sun)



HAPPY 40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY LORD AND LADY TUNNICLIFFE

Friends of Antigua and Barbuda, Lord and Lady Tunnicliffe, recently celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary (40 years). His Excellency and Mrs Roberts attended the couple's anniversary luncheon.



(Pictured left to right) Mrs Pauline Roberts, Lord and Lady Tunnicliffe and H.E. Dr Carl Roberts

Lady Tunnicliffe has assisted schools in Antigua and Barbuda with books and other educational materials. She has given her time and energy to source suitable books and equipment, particularly for those students with an aptitude for science. Most commendable is her recent acquisition of books for the men and women at Her Majesty's prison.

During her long association with the pupils and teachers in Antigua and Barbuda, she has positively influenced many young people, with her motivational talks throughout the schools.

Williams Attends Talks in China

Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Winston Williams participated in the Fourth meeting of Commonwealth Sport Ministers held in China.

Williams and his counterparts discussed matters which will influence the future development of sport across the Commonwealth, and maintain the framework of support and cooperation which has developed between the 53 countries and 18 territories of the Commonwealth.

According to a press release, the ministers:

--Supported more Youth engagement and involvement with the work of CABOS and sport in general. Noted the progress on the hosting of the Commonwealth Youth Games (CYG) in Pune, India from 12th to 18th October 2008, and the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, India from 1st to 14th October 2010.

--Acknowledged, and agreed to consider, the following policy recommendations adopted by Commonwealth Youth Ministers in Colombo in April 2008.

--Youth policies should include universal access to sport education in schools, in curricular and extra curricular time. This should include the necessary knowledge to ensure that young people understand the need for an active and healthy lifestyle.

--Youth policies should ensure that all teachers and coaches are supported with professional development opportunities to ensure that they are equipped to deliver high quality programmes that provide a positive experience for young people.



The Government is Committed to Revitalising Sports

--Youth policies should provide sport activity guidelines for community providers, including sports federations, so that they can complement and supplement provision in schools.
 --Youth policies should be founded on research to determine the most important factors influencing participation of youth with special needs, and they should develop customized national strategies and programmes to address these issues.

--Youth policies should include specific provisions to prevent the physical, psychological and sexual exploitation of young people participating in sport.

--Youth policies should ensure that young people have a voice in shaping youth sport strategies, and that they are meaningfully involved in the implementation of any action plans.

--Youth policies should include provision for community play environments that are safe, clean, accessible, and that encourage enjoyable physical activity. Moreover, they should promote sport which is affordable - needing less infrastructure and more community participation. They should also promote sport as an investment in national development, using sport exchange programmes at local and regional levels to engage young people in team building, leadership and healthy living, thus fostering tolerance, understanding and cooperation.

--Youth sports policies should recognize the power of sport for development, and should target programmes at those groups that can most benefit from intervention, and which are least likely to have access to other opportunities.

--Youth policies should draw together key departments at national and local level – education, health, sport, gender, culture, law and order, social inclusion – to ensure an integrated youth sport strategy.

Newcomers must earn the right to stay in the UK

Foreign nationals wishing to become British citizens will have to earn the right to stay, the Government announced.

The tough new approach will require all migrants to speak English and obey the law if they want to gain citizenship and stay permanently in Britain, while speeding up the path to citizenship for those who contribute to the community.

The reforms are at the centre of a sweeping overhaul of all immigration laws dating back to 1971 and confirm new modern laws reserving full access to benefits and social housing will be reserved for citizens and permanent residents.

Foreign nationals who commit serious offences will face automatic consideration for deportation - and even minor offences will delay access to citizenship by up to three years.

Public support for the proposals was confirmed by new Home Office polling released today. A Mori poll carried out for the Home Office revealed that:

- 70 per cent of the public think that newcomers should earn the right to stay in Britain;
- 83 per cent think that immigrants in Britain should be made to learn English; and
- 69 per cent agree that newcomers should be penalised on the path to citizenship if they don't obey Britain's laws.

Home Secretary Jacqui Smith said:

"In recent months we have listened to people across Britain and the message is clear - they want those who want to make Britain their home to speak English, to work hard, and to earn the right to stay here.

"We are making the biggest changes to our immigration system for a generation, and part of that is making sure those who stay in the UK make a positive impact on their local community."

The draft Immigration and Citizenship Bill published today replaces ten Acts of Parliament and enshrines into law the Government's biggest ever shake-up of the immigration system. The key measures are:

Strong borders

1. new powers for frontline UKBA officers at foreign ports and airports to cancel visas.
2. bringing customs and immigration powers at the border into the 21st century, consolidating and strengthening civil penalties for bringing passengers without the right papers and clandestine entrants to the UK.

Selective migration

3. the Bill proposes a clear legal duty on migrants to ensure they have permission to be in the UK, for example under our new points system.
4. the Bill introduces a single, streamlined power of expulsion for those without permission.

Earning the right to stay

5. migrants will now have to earn their right to stay in the UK.
6. automatic bans on returns with new powers to exclude offenders and powers to require those who are expelled to repay costs to taxpayers if we allow them to come back.

Playing by the rules

7. the Bill gives a new power to require large 'bail bonds' for those awaiting decisions or expulsion, part of a tough menu of conditions for "Immigration bail" as an alternative to detention.
8. confirming tough measures to prevent organised illegal immigration by attacking illegal working with civil penalties for employers who do not make the necessary checks.

9. simplifying our appeals system to cut red-tape; ensuring that the system is properly sensitive to the needs of vulnerable groups: honouring our international obligations to refugees and ensuring the UKBA safeguards and promotes the welfare of children.

Managing any local impacts

10. full access to benefits for citizens and permanent residents, with migrants contributing a little extra to the cost of local services.

The Home Office confirmed that newcomers will have to pay a little extra before they become citizens to create a fund of tens of millions of pounds a year to help police, schools, councils and local health services to use the money to deal with the short-term pressures of migration in their areas.

Border and Immigration Minister Liam Byrne said:

"Britain is not anti-foreigner, we're a welcoming, tolerant place. But we do expect newcomers to sign up to a deal if they want to stay and build a life in Britain.

"The public overwhelmingly supports the idea of newcomers earning their right to stay. Today we show how we'll make these ideas law, hand in hand with our new points system for selective migration, like the one that's worked so well in Australia."

These changes are part of the biggest shake-up to the immigration system for a generation, and to make sure these changes stick today's Bill will see the currently complex immigration laws replaced by one simplified piece of legislation. By updating the law, and getting rid of any room for misinterpretation, the UK Border Agency can cut red tape and accelerate the speed of its work.

(Source: www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk)

An Old WTO for a New World?

By Aileen Kwa

The Doha Round negotiations at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) collapsed unceremoniously on Tuesday 29th July, on the 9th day of the mini-Ministerial.

Commercial Interests Versus Livelihood Concerns

The issue that led to the breakdown of talks – the Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) – has to do with

small farmers' livelihoods in the developing world. However, it should be noted that there were gaping differences on a whole host of other issues that were yet to be discussed in detail, such as cotton and US' subsidies in that sector, as well as several issues in the industrial tariffs negotiations.

The difference in views on the SSM was not only between the US versus India and China. In fact, a hundred developing countries did not accept the figures which WTO's Director General Pascal Lamy had produced on the 5th day of the negotiations. These countries – the G33 coalition of 46 countries; the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP); the

African Group; and the Small and Vulnerable Economies (SVEs), produced an alternative set of numbers on Sunday the 27th.

The wrangle between the US and India / China was highlighted simply because the negotiations were taking place mainly only amongst 7 players (US, EC, Japan, Australia, India, Brazil and China or the G7). The other selected Ministers who had been invited to Geneva were excluded from those negotiations and were waiting in the corridors. Hence, it appeared that India and China were alone disagreeing with the US.

Continue on page 17

Continued from page 16

The Special Safeguard Mechanism is meant to address agricultural import surges. In order to protect the domestic sector from injury, a country would be able to implement an additional tariff to stem the import surge.

Amongst several problematic constraints in the Lamy figures for the hundred developing countries was the suggested trigger of 140% i.e. a country must have a 40% increase in imports compared to a preceding three-year period before the SSM can be invoked. Developing countries were asking for a 5 or at most 10% import increase. A 40% import increase before action can be taken is likely to be too late. The import surge could already have wiped out the country's producers. However, the US, plus a few other countries with agricultural exporting interests, were immovable.

On the last two days of the talks, other possible options were proposed in the G7 which India accepted, but the US did not. US wanted a weak SSM to ensure that the Round would provide them access to developing countries' agricultural markets.

The battle was thus between the commercial interests in agricultural exporting countries, and the livelihoods of subsistence farmers in India, China, Africa, Asia and elsewhere.

What happened in the area of the SSM, however, was echoed in several other issues also. The commercial interests of some were seen as more pressing than the measures developing countries wanted in order to minimize the threats of unemployment and deindustrialisation. If talks had not collapsed over the SSM, there was a real chance they would have done so in the area of the non-agricultural market access (NAMA) negotiations, or in cotton, where consensus was not even on the horizon.

In sum, when developing countries asked for their development concerns to be taken on board, their requests were frustrated at every turn. Conversely, the package on the table would have offered the US and EU special treatment. They would have been able to retain all of their agricultural subsidies, only shifting them to different subsidy categories, and they would also have cut industrial tariffs by a smaller percentage - about 30%, whilst developing countries were to cut tariffs by about 58%.

Doha Collapse – No Loss for the Poor

Will the poor suffer from the collapse of the Doha talks? The collapse was in fact a victory for the poor. That key developing countries were able to stand by their principles and the interests of the poor in their countries (in this case, arguing for an effective SSM) and not be bullied into submission, was an act of courage.

A replay of the Uruguay Round was also avoided. In the Uruguay Round, it was only after signing on the dotted line that developing countries, after the establishment of the WTO, started to question the fundamental imbalances that are central to those agreements. If the Doha package had been agreed to, these imbalances would have been locked in and deepened, not eliminated or even reduced.

At the heart of this Doha collapse is the differing opinion on liberalization and its relation to development. Developed countries say that liberalization will bring about development, hence the collapse of the Round is a blow for the poor. Never mind that their own policies – such as their fifty year protection of agriculture and textiles – have differed from what they preach. In contrast, the fight over the SSM illustrates a more nuanced approach taken by most developing countries. India, Indonesia, China and African countries were saying that markets and trade need to be carefully regulated. A flexible approach to trade policy is critical in order to respond to the development challenges of the day.

The world is at a very different place it used to be when the WTO was formed in 1995. Then, the Washington Consensus was still at an all-time high. It has fallen several times from its pedestal since. Many African countries, for instance, despite implementing structural adjustment policies to the letter, have deindustrialised in the last twenty years. The Doha collapse is another blow to the crumbling Consensus from Washington.

The WTO, with liberalization at its core, is at cross roads. It can attempt to amble on its way, paying no heed to the experiential realities of the majority of its members, or it can take this opportunity to acknowledge that the dynamic journey of development requires a system that allows for diversity, flexibility and change. Binding a country's trade policy, and liberalizing according to a standard formula, cannot provide for this

dynamism. In fact, liberalization as an end in itself need not and should not be at the centre. When it is of benefit, countries can always liberalise their trade.

What requires regulation at the multilateral level is countries' responsibility for their actions on people outside their borders. This is where there is a huge gap in terms of global governance. Elections are nationally-based. However, countries' actions can destroy other countries' industries, create unemployment and poverty. Some call this regulation of countries' extra-territorial responsibility, or in plain words, doing no harm to others. An example of this would be a system that disallows countries to export directly or indirectly subsidized agricultural products. The current WTO fails miserably in this regard. Internally, countries should be allowed to explore a diversity of trade policies – in as far as they are not harmful to others outside.

The WTO has also not been faithful to its own mandate, which says that parties to the agreement recognize that their relations in the field of trade and economic endeavour should be conducted with a view to raising standards of living, ensuring full employment and a large and steadily growing volume of real income and effective demand...".

Rather than the liberalization of trade, the WTO should have as its bottom-line the attainment of the above benchmarks. To crown it all, we are being challenged by climate change, high oil and food prices, and increasing water stress. Our adaptation and mitigation strategies will have far-reaching implications on how we produce food, organize our industries and economies, and how, as well as how much we trade internationally. Our sights should be on having low carbon economies and adjusting our production and trade accordingly.

Our new world is already asserting itself. We are moving rapidly away from a unipolar or bipolar world, towards one with multiple centers of economic and political powers, again with implications for our production and trade. Can the WTO respond effectively, and if not, might it then fade into the shadows?

Aileen Kwa is the Coordinator of the Trade for Development Programme at the South Centre.

She can be contacted at: kwa@southcentre.org

New Format For Sailing Week 2009

The Stanford Antigua Sailing Week continues to attract the top racing boats from around the world to the Caribbean to compete for the prestigious Lord Nelson's Trophy. Following on from a successful 2008 edition a new Race Committee was appointed to review the event and chart the way forward.

The outcome is an exciting new format for 2009 that should appeal to all competitors of the Stanford Antigua Sailing Week from the bareboat charterer to the maxi yacht skipper.

The 2009 edition will sail off a day earlier for the racing and cruising fleets on Saturday April 25th rather than the traditional Sunday start. There will then follow full 5 days of racing to culminate on Thursday April 30th.

The bareboat fleet will start their regatta on Sunday finishing on Friday.

Both divisions will race 6 days rather than the previous 5 days.

The regatta for the racing boats will comprise a challenging combination of short inshore and longer off shore races giving all a chance to excel. The traditional Round the Island Race for the "Yachting World Trophy" will now be completed in one day rather than the traditional two.

Redonda an island dependency of Antigua and Barbuda situated 40 miles offshore will once again see racing boats encircling its rocky coast line as the "Round Redonda Race" is reintroduced after many many years. With three distance races, the prologue "Guadeloupe to Antigua Race", the "Round the Island Race" and the "Round Redonda Race", the organizers will be creating a regatta within the regatta with the "Antigua Ocean Series".

Special prizes and records will be established for each of these three races and an overall prize. Larger yachts not wanting to compete in the shorter inshore races will be allowed



to enter the Ocean Series and compete for these prestigious trophies.

Antigua is throwing out a challenge to the world's top maxis to be the first to establish records for these two new races.

Both the racing Division A and the Cruising/bareboats Division B will race on new in shore courses around the southern and western coastlines of the picturesque island of Antigua.

The constant trade winds and the turquoise seas of the Caribbean guarantee some of the best sailing conditions in the world.

Strict new rules for foreign students

The British Government has announced that foreign students hoping to come to the UK to study will have to meet strict new criteria,

The Home Office has published proposals for much tighter rules for foreign students - and the universities and colleges hosting them - under the student tier of its new Points Based System.

All colleges and universities that want to recruit foreign students will now need a licence to do so and will have to take greater responsibility for their international students, helping Government crack down on bogus colleges who abuse the system.

For the first time education providers face a ban on bringing over international students if they fail to follow strict new rules - including alerting the UK Border Agency (UKBA) if students fail to enrol.

Students will also face stringent new criteria if they want to study in the UK, ensuring only those who benefit Britain

can come. Before they can study here, foreign students must:

- be sponsored by a UKBA-licensed education institution;
- prove that they have the means to support themselves and their families while studying here; and
- supply their fingerprints.

Stricter rules on work placements for students will also ensure that the UK's labour market is protected.

Border and Immigration Minister Liam Byrne said "All those who come to Britain must play by the rules. It is right that foreign students wanting to take advantage of our world-class universities and colleges must meet strict criteria."

"By locking people to one identity with ID cards, alongside a tough new sponsorship system, we will know exactly who is coming here to study and crack down on bogus colleges," he added.

Visas will only be granted to students who show a proven track record in education and are applying for a

course that meets a minimum level of qualification.

They must also be able to demonstrate they can financially support themselves and any of their dependants.

Students on courses for longer than 12 months will have to show they have sufficient funds to pay their first year of fees, plus £9,600 to cover their first year in the UK.

Students wishing to bring their dependants with them will need to show they have a further £535 per month for each person they bring.

In recognition of the many economic and cultural benefits that these students bring to the UK, earlier this year the Government announced a special visa category allowing successful international students who have graduated from a British university to work in the UK for up to two years.

(Source: www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk)



Making Waves In China

Beijing - Kareem Valentine has quite a reputation among the 2,000 inhabitants of the Antiguan village of Seaview Farm in St George's Parish.

And it is more than likely that come August 19, when the 15-year-old returns to his Caribbean paradise, his reputation will have grown even more.

After all, not many people get to swim against the likes of world record holder Eamon Sullivan and Olympic 100m freestyle champion Alain Bernard and return to Antigua as an Olympian.

Well, if truth be told, Valentine did not exactly swim against Sullivan and Bernard, but he did participate in the same event as the two.

The one-man Antiguan swimming team at the Beijing Olympics entered the 50m freestyle on a wild card system, which allows developing countries that have no expensive training facilities to compete at the Olympics.

And if there is a country for which the wildcard system was made, it is Antigua and Barbuda.

The country has no public swimming pool, let alone an Olympic-size pool and Valentine trains in the Atlantic ocean. In fact, swimming in the 50m freestyle on Thursday was the first time-ever that he participated in a swimming competition in a proper pool.

He was more than happy with his performance, even though his time of 31.23 seconds was nearly ten seconds behind the fastest time in the heats posted by Amaury Leveaux, who swam an Olympic record in 21.46.

Valentine's time saw him finish 96 out of 97, he did, however, manage to beat Stany Kempompo Ngangola from the Democratic Republic of Congo, who was swimming in his heat.

'I feel really excited, I achieved my goal. I used to do a 34, now I managed a 32, so I am really happy. I believe I could do a lot better. I would like to do a 22 at some stage,' he said.

Back in his village, his achievements have left not only his parents very happy, the entire village is proud that they have an Olympian in their midst.

'I feel really happy to be an Olympian,' he said proudly after his swim.

The teenager, who started swimming aged eight and who was also a promising tennis player, but gave that up to concentrate on swimming, dismisses those who say that the Olympics should only be open for those who succeed in achieving the qualifying times.

'There will always be people who want to try their best at the Olympics and there should be space for them. I will now try to make it in four years again and then have a faster time.'

His manager and coach Bruce Williamson

said that he had been able to swim in a few pools before coming to Beijing.

'Some of the hotels on the island have pools and we beg them to let us use them. At times they do and at least he had a few chances to swim in a proper pool. The problem is they have no starting blocks, so he is not used to jumping in from such a height.'

Neto Baptiste, who is a sports writer for the Antigua Sun, said that Valentine's Olympic swim had caused quite a sensation not only in Seaview Farm, but also throughout the country.

'It was shown live on TV and you could say that it caused quite a ripple. For somebody to come from such a small village and then become an Olympian, that is something special,' he said by telephone from the Antiguan capital of St John's.

South African Roeland Schoeman, who won bronze in the 50m freestyle in Athens in comfortably won his heat in a time of 21.76, said he believed it was a good idea to have the likes of Valentine competing.

'I think the Olympic ideals are fostered on their ability to compete, irrespective of where you are from and I think that spirit is important.

'It is amazing to see their faces and to see them in the warm up. They have a chance to compete against the best in the world and be amongst the best in the world and they will certainly take something from this. Probably this will live longer in their hearts than it will in ours.'

This could be a story in their village or their city for years and years to come and in this regard it is cool to see.'

Valentine would certainly agree and the next time he goes to the beach at Long Bay and goes through his paces - possibly training for London 2012 - it is likely that even more people will stand and watch their own Olympian and his reputation will grow even more. (Source: www.monstersandcritics.com)

THE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA HIGH COMMISSION SALUTES OUR ATHLETES WHO GAVE THEIR BEST AT THE 2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS!

THOUGH ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA WON NO MEDALS, OUR ATHLETES MADE US PROUD!

OUR 2008 OLYMPIANS ARE: KAREEM VALENTINE (MEN'S 50M FREESTYLE) BRENDON CHRISTIAN, (MEN'S 200M) JAMES GRAYMAN, (MEN'S HIGH JUMP) SONIA WILLIAMS, (WOMEN'S 100M) DANIEL BAILEY (MEN'S 100M)

HISTORY 101: BETTY'S HOPE

Betty's Hope was Antigua's pioneer sugar plantation, founded about 1650. It is now in ruin, as so many other West Indian sugar estates.

The founder of Betty's Hope was Governor Keynell, whose widow inherited the estate upon his death in 1663, but was forced to flee Antigua during the French occupation in 1666.

When Antigua was reoccupied by the British, Parliament annulled all land claims of those who had fled or been disloyal to the Crown prior to the French occupation. Instead, in 1674, Betty's Hope was granted to the Codrington family, then residing in Barbados.

Under the Codrington ownership, lasting until 1944, Betty's Hope was soon transformed into one of the most efficient large-scale sugar estates in Antigua. From 1689 to 1704, two successive Christopher Codringtons served as Governors General of the Leeward Islands, and later heirs continued to be among the most influential and prosperous planters throughout the colonial era.

Like other large plantations, Betty's Hope was an agricultural as well as an industrial enterprise, and home to a large number of people. Supervised by a handful of European managers, hundreds of Africans lived out their lives on this and similar plantations, first as slaves, then as labourers after emancipation in 1834.

Enduring the hardship of cultivating and processing the sugar under exhausting conditions, they developed great skills as craftsmen, boilers and distillers which gave Betty's Hope its reputation for excellence lasting to this day.

The twin windmills at Betty's Hope worked together to crush the large volume of sugar cane grown.



The Twin Windmill Towers

The windmills of the early eighteenth century, used three vertical iron rollers; an inefficient system that required two men to feed the machine. Each cane stalk had to be crushed twice to extract as much juice as possible. At best, this system extracted only 60% of the juice.

By the early 1800s, a new system that employed three horizontally positioned rollers was introduced. This mechanism was more efficient, required only one cane feeder, and extracted about 80% of the juice from the cane. The machine installed in this mill dates to the mid-1850s and is similar to the earlier models.

With a steady wind, working from sunrise until well into the night, each mill could crush 60—70 cartloads of cane, or about 2 acres per day.

The juice dripped into a tank beneath the mill and was later then piped through an underground conduit to the boiling house. The pressed stalks, called "*bagasse*" were tossed out into the mill yard to dry before being used as fuel in the boiling and distilling furnaces.

The tall, narrow opening, or "*exchange slit*" on the north side of the mill was needed for changing the central drive shaft.

A lantern was kept in the small fireplace for use when milling at night. The Restored Mill bears the original date of 1737 on a plaque above the main entrance. It also denotes that the mill was built by Richard Buckley.

With an average trade wind, such a mill could grind about 200 tons of cane to produce 5,500 gallons of syrup in a week. This would have given about 12 tons of sugar crystals. The sails would have revolved four times a minute or six to seven in a stiff breeze while driving the crushing rollers.

Canes were brought in through the main entrance and the squeezed pulp (*begasse*, used as fuel) was tossed out through the other opening to the right. There is a fireplace high up inside. This gave light and warmth during night shifts. The "*bosun*" was in charge of the mill and the orders for starting and stopping the mill were "*Turn her out*" & "*Turn her in!*"
(Source: Antigua and Barbuda Museum)



The Restored Mill

For more information on Antigua and Barbuda's history, be sure to check out the Antigua and Barbuda Museum at www.antiguamuseums.org