



The Antigua and Barbuda High Commission

Official Newsletter - Issue 136 -- September/October 2009

High Commissioner Dr Carl Roberts and Mrs Roberts attend the launch at Buckingham Palace of the Queen's Baton Relay for the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games



(above) The Queen inserts her message into the baton

(below) Young Indian athlete carries the baton on the first leg of its epic journey



President of the Commonwealth Games Federation (Mr Michael Fennell, OJ CD), H.E. Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil (Hon. President of India), Mr Suresh Kalmadi (MP GOI) participated in the Launch of the Queen's Baton Relay 2010 Delhi at Buckingham Palace on Thursday, 29 October 2009.

The Queen's Baton Relay is one of the great traditions of the Commonwealth Games. It symbolises the gathering of people from across the Commonwealth at a four yearly festival of sport and culture. Queen's Baton Relays have been the curtain raiser to every games since Cardiff Wales, in 1958.

The Baton will traverse the length and breadth of the Commonwealth for 240 days, visiting all of the other 70 nations.

The Baton will arrive in Antigua and Barbuda on Friday 12 March 2010

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A MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY DR CARL ROBERTS, HIGH COMMISSIONER



The Celebration of Nationhood

In my last message I spoke about the “Green Shoots of Nationalism” and left in the minds of my many readers several searching questions on which to ponder.

As I write this message the celebration of the 28th anniversary of independence for the nation of Antigua and Barbuda is just around the corner. The celebrations will begin on the 25th October at home with the traditional National Church Service at Spring Gardens Moravian Church and culminate on the 2nd November with the National Day Parade at the Antigua Recreation Ground, this to be followed by the traditional Food Fair on Independence Avenue.

Many of us will not be present at these events, so how do we join in

our Nation’s “Celebration of Nationhood” – or “Coming of Age”. In the United Kingdom there are two events which occupy the calendar. These are:

- The Evensong Service at Westminster Abbey on the 30th October 2009
- The Antigua and Barbuda National Association 28th Anniversary of Independence Church Service at St. Matthias Church, Wordsworth Road, Stoke Newington

These are annual events in London and yet many Antiguan and Barbudan living in this area never bother to attend. Is it out of lack of interest or lack of awareness? I have asked

myself every time I notice the low numbers of citizens and friends of Antigua and Barbuda who take the time to attend. The church should be filled to capacity with the more of the ten thousand citizens and well wishers in the UK who love Antigua and Barbuda. Are you doing your own celebrations elsewhere alone or with others? Do you sing our national and patriotic songs so that our younger generations will recognise and remember them in time to come? We would like to be a part of your celebration of Nationhood if possible. Please do let us know what you are doing in your areas.

A few days ago I had an enlightened discussion with a bright young Antiguan and Barbudan. He bemoaned the lack of National Pride among the citizens of our country who reside in this part of the world and the apathy or apprehension in getting together to identify as such. He wondered what we can do to

change all this. He claimed that the young people do not feel connected with many of the events and even to the homeland. This left me with a very sad feeling. These are the persons we expect to carry the torch of our nation’s pride and joy in the future. We must change this situation.

I know that in more recent times we have been forced to recoil from yet another negative and damaging headliner about our country. We shudder when someone in passing utter that demeaning old phrase “only in Antigua”. It is time that we dismantle these pedestals and build new solid pillars on which we can build the shining platform to celebrate our resurging nationhood. Shed the cloak of shame, acknowledge where we have faltered and seek the firmer ground of uprightness that God alone can help us reach.

Let us and our leaders turn to him for guidance and blessing at this juncture in our history and let us yield our will to his directions. We know that he stands ready with open arms to receive us. Let us therefore set aside that which divides us and march boldly as one nation under God’s tender protection to reposition our Nation in the eyes of the World and more so in proud minds of our fellow citizens. Let us celebrate our nationhood as one who has just been rescued and has received the forgiveness deserving of a new start – a new life dedicated to service to others and to country. Let the words of our national anthem be our motto and let us route out “fear, hate and poverty” so that each endeavouring, all will achieve in this nation of ours. Then the theme of this year’s “Celebration of Nationhood” which is “One Family ----Reviving Our National Pride” will be brought to fruition now and in the years ahead.

**H.E. Dr Carl Roberts
High Commissioner**

Presentation at the Commonwealth Foundation Twenty-Sixth Induction Programme

8 - 11 September 2009

H.E. Dr. Carl B. Roberts

“The Commonwealth: Main Facts and a Critical Viewpoint”

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commonwealth as we know it today is celebrating its 60th anniversary. However the initial concept of the “Commonwealth of Nations” first emerged in 1884 when Lord Rosebury, a British politician, used the phrase to describe the growing family of “Dominions” during his visit to Australia.

Formative Years

The formation of the modern Commonwealth required perhaps a different understanding of the Commonwealth of Nations to that which was first articulated by Lord Rosebury. Though many of the early members of this new group were once dependents of Britain, this unique association called for all member countries to be “freely and equally associated”. This concept was readily accepted by the Commonwealth Prime Ministers when they met in London in 1949 and adopted as the “London Declaration”. That then was the beginnings of the reconstituted Modern Commonwealth.

As the membership of the Commonwealth continued to increase, several countries joined without any historical or administrative association with the British Empire. This required all members to acknowledge the British Monarch as Head of the Commonwealth even though the member state maybe a republic. With the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, HRH was immediately recognised and acknowledged its Chief Patron or Head.

The modern Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 53 countries that support each other and work together towards shared goals in democracy and political and economic development. The world’s largest, smallest, richest and poorest countries make up the Commonwealth which is home to two billion citizens of all faiths and ethnicities (about 30% of the world’s population) – over half of whom are 25 or under. Member countries span six continents and oceans from Africa (18) to Asia (8), the Americas (2), the Caribbean (12), Europe (3) and the South Pacific (10).

Beyond the ties of history, language and institutions, it is the association’s values which unite its members: democracy, freedom, peace, the rule of law and the importance of providing an opportunity for all. These values were agreed and set down by all Commonwealth Heads of Government at two of their biennial meetings (known as CHOGMs) in Singapore in 1971 and reaffirmed twenty years later in Harare (1991).

At government level, the shared values are protected by the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG), a rotating group of nine Foreign Ministers, which assesses the nature of any infringement and recommends measures for collective action from member countries. It has the authority to suspend or even recommend to Heads of Government that a member country be expelled. When member countries have been suspended the Commonwealth continues to do everything possible to bring them back into the fold. While CMAG represents one aspect of the Commonwealth’s commitment to democratic principles, many more discreet interventions are made through ‘good offices’ work, where specially appointed representatives conduct quiet diplomacy as part of efforts to prevent or resolve conflicts and build dialogue and democratic structures.

As well as Heads of Government, ministers responsible for education, environment, civil society, finance, foreign affairs, gender affairs, health law, tourism and youth also meet

regularly. This ensures that Commonwealth policies and programmes represent views of the members and gives governments a better understanding of each other’s goals in an increasingly globalised world.

Constituent Parts

There are three intergovernmental organisations in the association: the Commonwealth Secretariat (which executes plans agreed by Commonwealth Heads of Government through technical assistance, advice and policy development); the Commonwealth Foundation (which helps civil society organisations promote democracy, development and cultural understanding) and the Commonwealth of Learning (which encourages the development and sharing of open learning and distance education). Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is still the Head of the Commonwealth and His Excellency Mr. Kamalesh Sharma, current Secretary-General, is the principal global advocate for the Commonwealth and Chief Executive of the Secretariat.

Citizen-to-citizen links are as important to the Commonwealth as the contacts between member governments. Its worldwide network of around 90 professional and advocacy organisations, most of which bear its name, continues to grow with a third of these based outside the UK. They work at local, national, regional or international levels and play crucial roles in policy, political or social aspects of Commonwealth life. One such organisation is the Commonwealth Games Federation, which manages the four-yearly multi-sport event.

Commonwealth countries work together in a spirit of co-operation, partnership and understanding. This openness and flexibility are integral to the Commonwealth’s effectiveness. Emphasis on equality has helped it play leading roles in decolonisation, combating racism and advancing sustainable development in poorer countries.

This support network of countries and organisations is involved in a diverse

Minister Lovell heads delegation to IMF/World Bank Meetings

Minister of Finance and the Economy, the Honourable Harold Lovell, attended the annual general meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Istanbul, Turkey from 4th to 7th October, 2009.

Among the issues discussed at the meetings were poverty reduction and economic management, and post-crisis growth in developing countries.

The IMF/World Bank annual meetings provide a forum for the 186-member grouping, comprising both developing and developed countries, to address social and economic issues that affect their populations. Also participating in these meetings were various donor agencies and private sector organizations that took the opportunity to interact with delegations from the various member countries.

The team held bilateral meetings with the senior management of the IMF, including the Deputy Managing Director, Mr. Murilo Portugal and officials from the Western Hemisphere Department.

Minister Lovell along with his Caribbean counterparts also met the First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund and President Robert Zoellick of the World Bank.

The Antigua and Barbuda delegation continued a full day of meetings on Monday 5th October with the Caribbean Country Director of the World Bank, Ms. Yvonne Tsikata. During this meeting, Minister Lovell and his delegation discussed the areas in which the World Bank may provide assistance to Antigua and Barbuda as it seeks to respond to the

challenges of the global economic crisis. Minister Lovell indicated that of particular importance to Antigua and Barbuda would be assistance in the area of public sector transformation and social protection and social safety nets. Ms. Tsikata pointed out that it was critical to adjust to ensure economic stability in order to encourage investment inflows and growth. Both parties agreed that while adjustment is essential; there must be some mechanism for providing the appropriate social protection and economic stimulus. The World Bank official said the International Finance Corporation (IFC), one of the Bank's member agencies, is working on identifying ways to assist the tourism sector in the Caribbean region.

Ms. Tsikata indicated that the World Bank would be pleased to provide whatever assistance it could to Antigua and Barbuda. In this regard, she advised that a team from the Bank would be visiting Antigua and Barbuda during the week of October 19th to commence discussions on how that institution could help with public sector transformation and social protection.

On the afternoon of Monday 5th October, Minister Lovell and his team attended the annual meeting of the Canada, Ireland and Caribbean Constituency. The focus of discussions at this meeting was the increased presence of the IFC in the Caribbean region and the work being done by the Corporation to finalize and identify resources for the implementation of a Caribbean Tourism Crisis Facility (CTCF). The IFC has already approached donors such as the European Union and Canada to provide financial support for this initiative and continues to seek financial support in conjunction with the Caribbean Development Bank. The objective of the Facility will be to provide investment and advisory support for tourism properties. The CTCF is intended to address the immediate challenges caused by the global economic crisis by providing resources to recapitalize and



**The Honourable Harold Lovell
Minister of Finance and the Economy**

restructure viable tourism properties. The intent of this is to ensure the continued operation of these properties and to avoid further unemployment and possible negative effects on the financial systems in the region.

The CTCF will also address the development and sustainability challenges that face the tourism sector in the Caribbean. The focus in this area will be on increasing competitiveness in the region, improving management and marketing, enhancing training in the sector, and strengthening small and medium properties. A critical issue for the sustainability of the sector is the degree to which linkages can be made between tourism and other sectors of the economy. The CTCF will therefore focus on creating and/or strengthening linkages between tourism and other sectors such as agriculture and local manufacturers.

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*48th Antigua Charter
Yacht Show
7th to 12th December 2009*

Commonwealth Association for Science Technology And Mathematics Education (CASTME)

Initiatives for Commonwealth Year of Science and Technology

1. WESTMINSTER CASTME Scholarships for taught Masters in CASTME subjects for a member of the Commonwealth
2. CEY Project
3. Electronic newsletter
4. Yearbook
5. Generators for teachers

CASTME Scholarship

The CASTME Scholarship is an annual award to study a Masters degree at the University of Westminster in London

The scholarship is competitive and we anticipate high numbers of applications.

The scholarship consists of payment of Tuition fees at the University of Westminster, accommodation, flights, visa costs, an arrivals allowance, (for suitable clothing) a book allowance and a living allowance of £400 per month, consisting

of £250 cash and £150 food allowance. The value of this award is c. £25,000.

The successful candidate will need to demonstrate how the skills and knowledge they will gain from the course will further CASTME's aims (www.castme.org) and the millennium development goals <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

In particular the candidates will need to show how this award will enable them to enhance the teaching of Science, Technology or Mathematics in their home country.

Candidates must be nationals of a developing commonwealth country. <http://www.thecommonwealth.org/Internal/142227/members/>

The successful candidate will be required to return home immediately on completion of their degree. They will be expected to be active members of CASTME in their home country.

Further criteria for the award are, academic excellence (candidates should hold a minimum of an upper second class honours degree, or equivalent) and financial need. Your referee for the application should be a person of standing who is able to comment on your financial status.

All applicants for this award must first be holding the offer of a place (conditional or unconditional) on a Masters programme at

the University of Westminster www.westminster.ac.uk

The deadline for applications to be received is 1st July of the year in which you wish to study.

The decision of the awarding panel is final and no correspondence will be entered into with unsuccessful candidates.

Attempts to lobby CASTME or the University of Westminster will render your application invalid.

There is a WESTMINSTER CASTME Scholarship established in Antigua and Mauritius and the above one for the whole Commonwealth.

CEY PROJECT TALKING SCIENCE

EMERGENT SCIENCE WITH PARENTS, CARERS, PLAY and EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES

The CEY project (CASTME Early Years) is an initiative developed by Dr (Lady) Sue Dale Tunnicliffe, of CASTME, which is the Commonwealth Association of Science Technology and Mathematics Educators, one of the affiliates of the Commonwealth Foundation. It is one of the initiatives to mark the Commonwealth Year of Science and Technology 2010.

Commonwealth Fair 2009

The Commonwealth Countries League (CCL) in Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Commonwealth held the annual Commonwealth Fair on Saturday 17th October 2009 at the Kensington Town Hall in London.

Exotic Food from the Commonwealth - Antigua included, handicrafts, music and dancing was the order of the day.

The Antigua and Barbuda High Commission, as usual, took part with the assistance of the women of the Antigua and Barbuda Association who prepared tasty Antiguan food.

Susie's Hot Sauce was the main feature of the day as Rosie McMaster was on hand at the stall to help with the promotion of her product. We also sold - Antigua Rum, sugar cakes, peanut sugar cakes, fudge and guava cheese, among other things.

Mrs Pauline Roberts would like to thank all those who participated in the fair including Mrs Manners and her team, Mrs Molly Richards and the Antiguan and Barbudans who bought goods, all



Mrs Pauline Roberts, wife of High Commissioner Dr Carl Roberts

helped to make the Antigua and Barbuda stall a success.



GRAYS GREEN OUTREACH CENTER

*Prime Minister Constituency Grays Hill Mall Road Website: outreach@yahoo.com
St. John's Antigua
Telephone #562-7366*

9th September, 2009

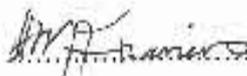
Re: Grays Green Outreach Community Center

To whom it may concern:

Under the auspices of the Honourable Prime Minister, Baldwin Spencer, the Grays Green Outreach Committee represented by Senator the Honourable Hazlyn Mason-Francis and Ms. Annette Greenaway is spearheading a massive fund raising drive.

The object of this project is to raise \$80,000.00 in order to purchase a piece of land which has already been identified as available and suitable for our purpose to erect a community center and library for the youth in the area. We intend to complete this land purchase by the end of this year.

It is in the spirit of patriotism and community-mindedness that we hereby solicit your assistance by way of donation to help us raise the above mentioned amount. We take this opportunity to thank you for past assistance and trust that you will continue to help us in all our efforts to uplift our community. Thank you in advance for your generous donation.

.....

Senator The Hon. Hazlyn Mason-Francis M.B.F.
Ms. Annette Greenaway
The Hon. Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister

Andrew Thomas Esq - Becomes Justice of the Peace (Magistrate)

Andrew Thomas Esq JP became a Magistrate on Thursday 24 September 2009 at Snaresbrook Crown Court. He was 'Sworn In' as a Justice of the Peace for Redbridge having been appointed by the Right Honourable Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, Jack Straw MP.

Andrew has lived in Wanstead for 14 years. He is very happily married to Dawn, also of Antiguan parentage for 19 years, who is the strength and soul of the family. They have two wonderful children Justin 22 and Andrea 17. Andrew's parents David and Keturah are from the villages of Urlings and Bolans in Antigua.

Andrew was a firefighter for 18 years at Homerton Fire Station in Hackney where he learnt his trade enjoying working and serving the community, however as the children got older and not as demanding he listened to his wife's advice to follow his aspirations to pursue his career as an officer

within the fire service. Subsequently, after much studying and training courses he rose to a Watch Manager serving over 22 years. He is currently on the Command and Control Unit at Edmonton Fire Station.

As a Justice of the Peace (Magistrate) Andrew will be dealing with many of the crimes that affect our communities.

Magistrates play a very important part of the judicial system making decisions which have a direct impact on the accused appearing in court and by extension their families and victims of the offences that they have committed and the wider community.

This is a very daunting prospect so thankfully he will sit with two other Justices of the Peace and together they will decide in each case whether

to find the accused guilty or not of the alleged crime.

As Justices of the Peace find an offender to be guilty, (or if the offender has already pleaded guilty), they are also responsible for deciding what sentence to impose. This can be anything from a fine or community order to a custodial sentence of up to two years.

Andrew applied to become a Justice of the Peace because he wanted to be part of a system that administers justice fairly and without impartiality and which provides, what he think is a great service to the community. Also, Andrew feels as a person of colour with an opportunity to be a role model for people in the black community. He may be able to make a difference to the lives of young people coming before the courts before it is too late to prevent them graduating into more serious crime. It is also his vision to encourage more people from minority groups to become part of the magistracy where we are still very much under-represented.



Andrew Thomas JP with Lord Radcliffe



Andrew Thomas JP and family

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range of work, from helping trade negotiations, building the small business sector and encouraging women entrepreneurs to supporting the quality and quantity of teachers, and increasing an understanding of HIV/AIDS.

As well as working with each other, member countries and organisations have also built alliances outside the Commonwealth. Commonwealth ideas have been taken up by the World Bank on Small States, by the World Health Organization on the migration of doctors and nurses, by the International Labour Organization on the migration of teachers. Its support and expertise have been enlisted by the European Union (EU) and the African Union on building governance in Africa, and by the EU and the Pacific Islands Forum on building governance in the Pacific.

Description of Structure

The Commonwealth Secretariat is headed by the Commonwealth Secretary-General who is appointed by Heads of Government for a maximum of two four-year terms. The two Deputy Secretaries-General - who serve for a maximum of two three-year terms – support the Secretary-General in the management and executive direction of the Secretariat.

The Secretariat has 12 divisions and units which carry out programmes of work based on mandates set by Commonwealth Heads of Government at their biennial summit. The responsibility for delivering these programmes rests with specific divisions and units. The Secretariat currently employs around 275 full time staff from around three quarters of its 53 member states.

The **Commonwealth Foundation** is an intergovernmental organisation headquartered in Marlborough House, which is resourced by and reports to Commonwealth governments, and also guided by Commonwealth values and priorities. Its mandate is to strengthen civil society in the achievement of Commonwealth priorities - democracy and good governance, respect for human rights and gender equality, poverty eradication and sustainable, people-

centred development, and to promote arts and culture.

The Commonwealth Foundation was established by Heads of Governments in 1965 with membership being open to all members of the Commonwealth and currently stands at 46 governments. Associate Membership, which is open to associated states or overseas territories of member governments, has been granted to Gibraltar. 2005 saw celebrations for the Foundation's 40th Anniversary.

The Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) was established in 1971, and is the principal means for providing technical assistance to Commonwealth countries. It is a mutual and voluntary fund and members contribute resources according to their ability and draw on them according to their needs.

Funding

We have all heard of the well accepted statement that it takes money to make things happen. Indeed it takes contributions from each member state to enable the Commonwealth organisations to deliver on their plans and objectives.

The Commonwealth derives its funding from three sources of contributions:

- There is the assessed scale of contribution which determines what a member state contributes towards the annual budget for the Commonwealth Secretariat.
- There are voluntary donations to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation.
- Separate contributions to the Commonwealth Foundation and the Commonwealth Youth Programme.

The assessed scale for contributions to the Commonwealth Secretariat first appeared in 1965. The scale was revised in 1989 and at that time several intermediate rates of contribution (caps, ceiling and floor) were introduced. These have made the model very inflexible and distorted and not easily adjusted to the current member ranking in the UN rate of

contribution. The failure to adjust the assessed rate of contribution since 1989 means that the assessed contribution scale, no longer appropriately reflects members' economic ranking in today's world.

What I have just described above, paints the picture of the Commonwealth which anyone can see through the various sources on the internet, in printed publications and government files. Unfortunately the challenges facing us today are putting pressure on the concept of shared values and testing the effectiveness of this unique institution. Critics have now begun to question the role of the Commonwealth and its ability to respond to the varied global challenges. Is the Commonwealth really "unique" and perhaps better suited to addressing some of the world's challenges than other organisations out there? Has it outlived its usefulness? Is it trying to do too much? Is it doing more that it was originally conceived to do? Are the member states still passionate about the original values today as the founders were back in 1949?

In response let me quote from the review of the "Commonwealth roles in Global Challenges":

- "The Commonwealth transcends races, cultures and differing levels of economic development, to encompass member states from every continent... That flexibility has been continually undervalued.... We should be exploring ways in which it can be revitalized. The Commonwealth is unique. It is time for a period of renewal that makes it great as well" Sir Malcolm Rifkind
- "The challenge is to find a global grouping that shares values, instincts and institutions. In this regards, the Commonwealth is a forgotten treasure".

As a member of the Commonwealth since 1981, Antiguan and Barbudan citizens looked to that organisation for the fulfilment of a promise of free and fair elections. We had heard of the role that the organisation played

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In addition to its efforts in relation to the tourism sectors, the IFC will also seek to increase the number of projects and interventions in the Caribbean in areas such as the financial sector and infrastructure development. The IFC representative informed participants that the institution had provided about US\$1.5

billion in funding for more than 74 investment and technical assistance projects in the Caribbean between 2000 and 2009. Among these projects is a US\$30 million Offshore Education Financing project with the American University of Antigua.

Minister Lovell views this initiative by the IFC as timely and necessary, and

anticipates that Antigua and Barbuda and the rest of the region have an opportunity to benefit from this facility and the increased presence of the IFC in the region.

The other members of the delegation were Financial Secretary, Whitfield Harris Jr. and Policy Co-Coordinator, Rasona Davis.

National child protection policy for Antigua and Barbuda

A consultancy team from the Children’s Legal Centre of London, recently visited Antigua and Barbuda to assist with a project that will see the development of a National Child Protection Policy for Antigua and Barbuda.

The Citizen Welfare Division (CWD) within the Ministry of Social Transformation, along with the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) spearheaded the initiative..

Chief Welfare Officer at the CWD Faustina Jarvis said UNICEF is providing technical and financial



support for the project.

Whilst on the island the consultancy team carried out a series of interviews and obtained reports from key

stakeholders.

The group also met the National Child Protection Reform Committee (CRC) which advocates for systematic reform.

“The role of this multidisciplinary committee (CRC) is to drive the process of formulation, of a comprehensive policy and legislation, relative to child rights and protection, which is guaranteed by the CRC.” Jarvis said.

The consultancy team also paid a courtesy call on state officials including Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer.

Source: www.caribarena.com

Theme for this year’s Independence:

*“Antigua and Barbuda - One Family,
Reviving our National Pride”*

*1st November 2009
Celebrating Antigua and
Barbuda’s 28th
Anniversary of
Independence*

PM Spencer Expresses Sadness on the Passing of Sir Sydney Leopold Sylvanus Walling K.C.N., M.B.E., O.B.E., O.M.

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda the Hon. W. Baldwin Spencer has expressed sadness at the passing of Sir Sydney L. S. Walling K.C.N., M.B.E., O.B.E., O.M., at the age of 102.

Prime Minister Spencer in a statement noted that Sir Sydney's over fifty years in the field of cricket, music and the public service contributed greatly to the development of sports in Antigua and Barbuda. "Sir Sydney stands out as an exemplar of what the public service can produce. He was a true champion of his time and will always be remembered as an honourable man dedicated to service to his fellow men and his country Antigua and Barbuda."



"Sir Sydney's work over the years has positively shaped the lives of many Antiguan and Barbudans. He will always remain as an inspiration to those who want to give service to their country. To his family, please accept my sympathies and that of my family and be comforted that Sir Sydney lived a full and noble life touching the

lives of many in a positive manner. He will be missed dearly."

Further, upon the Prime Minister's recommendation the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has accorded Sir Sydney an Official Funeral in honour of his contributions to Antigua and Barbuda.

Over the past years, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has honoured Sir Sydney by awarding him a knighthood, the naming of a prominent road in our country to his honour and the establishment of a stand at the Antigua Recreation Ground (ARG) (the West Indies Cricket Board Stand) - all attributed to his invaluable contribution to the nation.

Dollar Barrel Season Is Here

Despite the country's economic woes, the annual relief of the importation of a barrel worth of goods for \$1 will be continued.

News from the Ministry of Finance indicate that the Dollar Barrel Initiative, now in its sixth year, will run as usual, from November 15 to the end of the year.

Meantime, Port Manager Agatha Dublin said arrangements for the anticipated influx of barrels is the same as in previous years.

An information board will be placed outside the gate, indicating which vessels will be off-loading on relevant days.

This, Dublin said, is to avoid long queues.

Similarly to last year, as well, senior citizens, 60 years and over, will get a "fast pass." Two pieces of government- issued identification are required to enter the facility.

However, in response to heightened security measures, several new protocols will be in place, the port manager said.

"If persons are in possession of high visibility clothing, it is recommended that these be worn when visiting the port."

Additionally, users of the facility are being reminded that certain dangerous goods, to include guns and knives, are not permitted and "we have enforced random security inspection at the gate for persons entering the facility."

"We encourage everyone to read the port's publication, How to Clear Your Goods posted at Gates 1 and 2," Dublin said.

By Observer News

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in monitoring elections around the world and yearned for similar efforts in our country. To us the Commonwealth represented the best grouping of states of like minded citizens for countries within the G8, the G77, developed and developing states, from among the rich and poorest and hence an institution to which we felt somewhat more comfortable to which to turn in our time of need.

We therefore looked to the Commonwealth to stand out and speak up for small and vulnerable states in this world of new economic liberalisation based on supposed market forces in which the voices of the underprivileged seems so easily ignored. We also hoped that it would use its unique composition to prevent the diminished opportunities for meaningful participation for LDC's and SIDS's in international trade so that we all can become less dependent on handouts and aid.

In the area of good governance, we see the Commonwealth, not as a supranational police organisation but as a "Older and more experienced Brother" in the family providing appropriate guidance without trampling on the indigenous rights of the local people, helping to increase the involvement of civil society in the development and growth of our country, helping us to build the necessary capacity to sustain the development so that eventually we would be able to stand on our own two

feet, helping us to draft the right laws and regulations to better sustain the rights of our people and the involvement of all citizens irrespective of colour, gender or religion.

In this we are reminded of three clauses in the documentation of the Commonwealth. When I repeat them, you may be able to call them to mind:

First:
"The special strength of the Commonwealth lies in the combination of the diversity of its members with their shared inheritance in language, culture and the rule of law".

Second:
"We Pledge the Commonwealth and our countries to work with renewed vigour, concentrating especially in....."

A stable international economic framework within which growth can be achieved".

Both of these you would, I dare say, recognise as coming from the Harare Declaration 1995.

The third:
"We fully commit ourselves to an effective, equitable, rules-based multilateral trading system, developed under the auspices of the World Trade Organisation, to support pro-poor development and democracy".

This came from the Abuja Communiqué, December 2003.

Yes, the Commonwealth is unique and the world requires models like this organisation to increase "human happiness and decrease human misery". Stakeholders within the Commonwealth family extend down to the grassroots and the active involvement of Civil Society Organisations enable solutions that spring from shared basic principles and problem-specific strategies of "ground-level directness and simplicity".

To many of the smaller nations of the world, the Commonwealth is still a valuable organisation. An organ that amplifies our whisper into the vibrant shout that seems to be needed in this world to gain the necessary attention. The Commonwealth therefore still has tremendous influence which can be drawn on in many areas. It needs proper funding and more focus. But that is a subject of another talk.

We are therefore calling on the Commonwealth to remove any residual vestiges of colonial association and stand up as a proud modern organisation looking to advance the development of a family of growing states in this rapidly changing world. Our voice can be as strong as the combined voices of the entire family. Let us shout so that we may be all heard.

Thank you.

**H.E Dr Carl B. Roberts
 High Commissioner**

**Ms. Chalene Roberts
 completes Post-graduate
 diploma with First Class
 Honours**

Congratulations are in order for Ms Chalene Roberts, daughter of the High Commissioner of Antigua and Barbuda H.E. Dr. Carl Roberts and his wife Mrs. Pauline Roberts, for completing a Post-graduate diploma in Accounting with First Class Honours from the Dublin Institute of Technology in the Republic of Ireland. Ms. Roberts has also commenced employment as an Associate within the Asset Management department of

Price Waterhouse Coopers, the largest international professional services firm, and will continue to pursue the ACA accounting qualification with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland. "It is an exciting time for me, having started work only a week ago and with my graduation being on my 26th birthday. It makes for a wonderful birthday present. But I could not have done it alone, so I just want to take this opportunity to say thank you to my parents, brothers, friends and family for all the support they've given me during the journey to my chosen career".



Ms. Chalene Roberts

Susie's Hot Sauce on show in Puerto Rico

Antigua's hot sauce maven, Rosie McMaster represented at the recent Expo Caguas in Puerto Rico, which ran from September 30 to October 2. This came on the heels of her September showing at the Hot and Spicy Food Festival in Toronto.

McMaster, who recently made the Queen's Birthday Honours list, reported, "I presented our sauce to the Honourable Dr Denzil Douglas, Prime Minister of St Kitts-Nevis ... as well as the Deputy Mayor of Caguas, Puerto Rico. I will continue my journey with the help of my heavenly father."

Caguas, according to its website, typically attracts in excess of 100 exhibitors from Puerto Rico, South and

Central America, and the Caribbean. It's an opportunity to promote trade between the regions mentioned. The programme of conferences, workshops, and all-day exhibitions was held at the Caguas Fine Arts Centre in Puerto Rico.

Dr Douglas was there, according to the schedule, as the keynote speaker at the opening night dinner, his presentation followed a presentation near the end of the day on business opportunities in the Eastern Caribbean. Other sessions looked at telecommunications, green technologies, and challenges and opportunities in the construction industry.

Susie's, representing Antigua at this event, is the country's premier hot sauce.



Dr Denzil Douglas, Prime Minister of St Kitts/Nevis receives Susies Pepper Sauce from Mrs Rosie McMaster

The soon to be 50-year-old award winning brand started by McMaster's mom, Susannah Tonge, includes a range of products from the President Obama edition to Burning Desire.

Mrs Rosie McMaster was recently in London, England to receive her MBE from Her Majesty The Queen. During her brief stay she attended the Commonwealth Fair on Saturday 17th October where Susie's Hot Sauce was on display. Justin Thomas, a recent addition to the staff of the High Commission interviewed her for a short history of the persons behind Susie's Hot sauce:-

**Mrs Susannah R Tonge
Sunrise May 21st 1917
Sunset December 1st 1990
Upper North Street, St Johns,
Antigua**

As a child, Susannah Samuel attended Sweetes Primary School (Cana) and then proceeded to become a teacher at Sweetes Public School. After leaving the teaching profession, Susannah trained and became a nurse.

Taking her skills with her, Susannah then opened her own boarding house at her home. The boarding house was for students of her friends but mainly for the Royal Antigua and Barbuda police force personnel. At times Susie's boarding house would have police officers from neighbouring island visit, but no matter how near or far her visitors came from, she was referred to as Aunt Susie.

Susie provided 3 meals per day for a fee of 270EC\$ per month; a bargain compared to 10EC\$ per meal elsewhere.

1. What was it like as a child growing up in a house of business?

Seeing my mother doing multiple activities was stimulating. Sometimes there were 30 people eating at once, early mornings and late nights, always delivered with the highest standards. However, my mother never complained about tiredness. Watching my mother work made me want to become a professional, efficient achiever that could be responsible and independent from an early age. She stressed a deliverance of a joyful service which included qualities of efficiency, honesty and courtesy, and to smile naturally from the heart.

2. Were your parents keen on education?

Yes, I spent most of my school days on the gallery in the books without parties and picnics. I was alone! My mother was very strict and made sure I read my Bible, which later helped me dramatically in my life. Because my mother was a teacher, she made it imperative that I was well educated and I do believe it led to me writing good poetry and being successful.

3. What was the inspiration behind the sauce?

My mother was the main provider for the family and had to work hard. She had a thirst to excel even though the boarding house was doing well. She told me that it was whilst she was rolling flour in the back yard that she asked God how to make extra money to ease her financial situation. In response she heard a voice telling her to make pepper sauce.

4. Why is the sauce called Susie's?

The pepper sauce is named after Susannah Tonge, my mother. The first bottle was made from her kitchen in the summer of 1960.

5. Was it your choice to continue the name

Not originally. When I was young I wanted to become a lawyer, but my mother deterred me when she said "lawyers pickney nuh come out good!" This saying stuck with me and so I went into the travel industry after I graduated from school in 1965. My first job was at Bryson's Travel Agency until 1971, where I took a break and then returned in 1974 until 1982.

Due to the fire in our house in 1972, my mother went to America to work. I was required to keep the Hot Sauce going until she returned in 1978.

6. Have you always been a fan of pepper?

From as far back as I can remember I was around pepper. My mother is responsible for my tolerance to pepper as she would always ask me to taste her food to see if it tasted good. This led to me acquiring a taste for pepper and I soon got used to the heat.

7. How did you become national and then global?

When we first started in 1960, the most popular pepper sauce in Antigua was Moore's. But shortly after our introduction, Susie's became a favourite and took over Mr Moore's market share. Tourists come to Antigua and take Susie's Pepper Sauce back with them to their countries. Soon after their supply is finished they will write to us asking for more. Countries include Italy, India,

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AOSIS Leaders declare 'Island survival' the benchmark for a new climate deal

Leaders of the world's island states have demanded that the new post-2012 international climate agreement guarantee their countries' livelihood and survival by ensuring that global warming be kept well below 1.5 degrees Celsius (°C).

In a Declaration adopted on 21 September 2009 in New York at the 'Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Summit on Climate Change', leaders and ministers of the 42-member negotiating group expressed grave concern that climate poses the most serious threat to our survival and viability, and disappointment at the current slow pace and lack of resolve in international climate talks.

AOSIS Leaders heard that current targets from industrialised countries add up to emission cuts of only 11 to 18 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020, which would put the world on a path to 3°C or more in temperature rise. Current targets are about one third of the 45% cuts by 2020 required to keep global warming and associated losses and damage – already estimated at \$125 billion annually – under control.

Recent science indicates that 3°C of warming will result in substantial loss of the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets, resulting in one or even two metres of sea-level rise by the end of the century. The UN's High Commissioner for Refugees has already warned that some particularly low-lying island states are 'very likely to become entirely uninhabitable'.

Prime Minister Tillman Thomas of Grenada, the Caribbean island state which currently holds the

AOSIS Chairmanship, called the current targets "unacceptable", adding that no state or group of states has the right to condemn another to the tragedy of statelessness.

"Our people are already suffering devastating impacts and losses at the current 0.8 degrees Celsius (°C) of warming – coastal erosion, coral bleaching, salty drinking water, flooding, and more intense cyclones and hurricanes," said President Nasheed of the Maldives. "Should we, leaders of the most vulnerable and exposed countries, be asking our people to sign onto significantly greater degrees of misery and livelihood insecurity, essentially becoming climate change guinea pigs? The limit must be 1.5°C to stay alive!"

Today's 'AOSIS Declaration on Climate Change' calls on the international community to ensure that the Copenhagen climate agreement peak global emissions by 2015, with a subsequent fall to 85 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050.

The AOSIS 1.5°C target and associated goal of stabilising atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations at 350 parts per million is supported by the Group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), a total of about 80 countries that represent more than 40% of the U.N. membership. The targets are below the 2°C and 450ppm promoted by many industrialised countries and some developing countries, which are based on now-outdated science. Recent economic studies show the tighter targets are feasible, requiring investments of less than 2% of global GDP by 2010. Tighter targets would also send a positive carbon price signal to the markets to drive the development of clean energy technologies needed for

the transition to low-carbon economies.

Speaking at a press conference following adoption of the Declaration, Prime Minister Marcus Stephens of Nauru took a swipe at recent suggestions that talks on a new post-climate deal should be allowed to drag into next year. "Seventeen years after signing the Framework Convention on Climate Change, we are still waiting for emissions to peak. We cannot allow domestic politics and self-interest to delay what we already know to be essential. Further delayed action will escalate the cost of adaptation well beyond our economic capacity", said Prime Minister Stephens.

AOSIS leaders also stressed that the provision of finance for adaptation by small island states and other vulnerable countries 'must be an urgent and immediate global priority', and that the new global deal must include a comprehensive insurance facility to address the now-inevitable loss and damage to fall on vulnerable countries as a result of climate. "Climate change is already delivering damage not of our making. Our countries need adaptation funding urgently – not in 2020, not in 2030, but now", said President Nasheed.

"The Secretary-General's Climate Change Summit tomorrow is a unique opportunity to up the tempo and head towards Copenhagen with a true sense of urgency and purpose," said Prime Minister Thomas of Grenada. "World leaders must mandate their negotiators to deliver a deal in December, full of the ambition and scale of commitment necessary to address the challenge of our generation".

**PRIME MINISTER
THE HON. BALDWIN SPENCER
28th ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE MESSAGE
1ST NOVEMBER, 2009**

**Fellow Antiguan and Barbudans;
Residents and Visitors:**

I greet you with warm wishes as we celebrate the 28th Anniversary of Antigua and Barbuda's Independence.

I also greet you in the name of the One who showers us daily with His Blessings and gives us strength, enriches us with faith and empowers us with loyalty.

Today we must give thanks to our Creator for his faithful love and His wonderful deeds to Antigua and Barbuda.

It is my hope that today, everyday and always, that as a nation we remember to sing songs of Thanksgiving to our God for His Grace and Mercy.

Our celebration of Independence gives us the opportunity to reflect on our history as a people. To reflect on where we have come from as a nation and the struggles of those who have gone on before us, with their work paving the way for us to aspire and achieve great things as a people and as a nation.

Today we acknowledge with gratitude those who are being honoured this Independence for their outstanding contributions to the building of this nation of Antigua and Barbuda. On behalf of the Government and people of this great country, I congratulate all of our honourees and wish God's continued blessing on each one.

As we celebrate under the theme, "Antigua and Barbuda – One Family Reviving our National Pride," let us all realize that national pride is not a mere emotion; it is a call to action; a call to national service. Like faith, a profession of national pride which is not accompanied by tangible action is dead – it is nothing more than platitude and rhetoric. May the shining examples set by the honourees past and present motivate all of us to strive to be better citizens and true patriots.

**My Fellow Antiguan and Barbudans;
Residents and Friends of Antigua and Barbuda:**

As we celebrate our nation's 28th Anniversary of Political Independence, our nation is being tested by the worst

economic crisis since the Great Depression. In the face of these unprecedented challenges, the words of our national anthem ring true. It is indeed imperative that we all **gird our loins and join the battle.**

Steering the ship of state through these turbulent waters is not for the faint of heart; all hands are required on deck; there is no room for spectators. In fact, I challenge all citizens and residents to take to heart the words of author John Renesch who boldly stated **"Democracy is a team sport; it is not like going to a ballgame where you sit passively and decide if you like the players and evaluate their abilities after watching the game. We are the players, we are the team, in a democratic nation or a democratic world."**

You might hasten to state that these problems are the responsibility of your government to solve. Indeed, you have elected us to serve and to take responsibility for the stewardship of this blessed country. However, each and every Antiguan and Barbudan and all those who have chosen to call this land their home – whether on a permanent or temporary basis - must join forces to address the challenges that come in the form of this global economic crisis that has thrust itself upon our pristine shores and is threatening to reek untold damage on our economy if we do not act and act now.

Citizens and Residents:

One of the quintessential elements of independence is the willingness and ability to make difficult decisions provided that such decisions are in the best interests of the country. As a responsible and independent government, having fully assessed the challenges presented by the global economic crisis and the debt burden and having engaged in widespread consultations, we have decided to present a fiscal consolidation programme to the IMF in an effort to secure technical and financial assistance in implementing the policies and measures identified in our National Economic and Social Transformation Plan.

I wish to say to you the citizens and residents of this nation, that the programme we will embark upon with the

assistance of the IMF is not an IMF dictated programme. It is our programme. It is a programme conceptualized by an independent and responsible Antigua and Barbuda.

A few weeks ago, IMF representatives visited Antigua and we have agreed in principle on the parameters of the Fiscal Consolidation Programme, however there is still the need for some fine-tuning so that the targets presented by the government and endorsed by the Fund are manageable and attainable. The IMF will therefore return shortly to conclude arrangements.

As we move forward as a nation, we will encounter many challenges. That is an inevitable element in any process of growth and development. As parents we have seen our children struggle to overcome increasingly difficult challenges. However, we know that we cannot – and should not – shield them from these challenges. We know that in overcoming life's challenges, they grow stronger; they become more independent. The growth of our nation is no different. Therefore, as your Chief Servant, I call on each and every citizen and resident to renew your commitment to this fair land; to renew your national pride; to renew your commitment to becoming a part of the solution.

Citizens and Residents, Brothers and Sisters:

Prepare yourself to answer the call to action! Your government will present in further detail the contents of the country's Fiscal Consolidation Programme during the new parliamentary session on November 30th when the Budget Speech will be presented.

Our nation has survived serious crises and we have overcome momentous challenges. Whatever the challenges ahead, we shall overcome. Your government is fully prepared to face the challenges. We face them with a positive outlook and with the determination to overcome them. If we work as a family – it can be achieved.

**My Fellow Antiguan and Barbudans;
Residents and Friends of Antigua and Barbuda:**

Of recent times, Antigua and Barbuda

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Minister Lovell attends the African Banker Awards held in Istanbul, Turkey

Honourable Minister of Finance, Harold Lovell attended the African Banker awards ceremony and gala dinner at the swanky Four Seasons Hotel on the Bosphorus in Istanbul, on 6th October.

Minister Lovell and delegation were invited by Lorraine Samuel, an Antiguan national resident in the UK who is the Senior Client Services Manager with BusinessinAfrica Events, the founding partners and

organisers of the awards with I C Events.

Africa's top bankers, Ministers of Finance, Governors of Central Banks and Industry leaders came together on the final evening of the IMF/WB meetings to recognize and celebrate the continent's successes in banking. Bankers from Nigeria, Morocco, Kenya, Angola, South Africa, Togo, Ghana, Mali and Chad, representing North, South, East, West and Central Africa, were amongst the nominees of this year's African Banker Awards making this truly a pan-African gathering of champions.

Keynote speeches at the awards were delivered by Oby Ezekwesili: Vice President, World Bank Africa Region, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, MD, World Bank and Tim Turner, Director: Private Sector, African Development Bank.

Dr Youssef Boutros-Ghali of Egypt was awarded Best Finance Minister of the year.

Lorraine, who served as a banker for 16 years with



Minister Harold Lovell chats with Lorraine Samuel at the Awards Dinner

Barclays Bank in Antigua and London, presented the award for Best Investment Bank, Best Private Equity fund to Citidel.

Lorraine then arranged for Minister Lovell to be interviewed by Reuters, who were onsite as media partners for the Awards.

In addition to the African Banker Awards and attending the IMF/WB meetings, whilst in Istanbul, BusinessinAfrica Events and IC Publications launched the African Development Banks Global Trade Liquidity Program's First transaction with Standard Bank, South Africa.



Lorraine presenting the award for Best Investment Banker Best Private Equity Fund to Citidel

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has been gripped by a spate of unsolved crimes. With these developments and with security being uppermost in our minds, your Government will redouble its efforts to strengthen law enforcement and enhance security in our state.

The law officials in partnership with the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force will step up the frequency and intensity of street patrols, stop and search and the removal of illegal tint from motor vehicles.

I wish to commend those officers who are working diligently to ensure that there is a reduction in crime in our state. I urge all officers to go the extra mile in their call of duty.

My government at the same time recognizes that we, the members of the

various communities, can do much more in addressing this unwelcome development. We call on citizens and residents to become our brother's keeper; to recreate the community spirit which was a feature of village life in decades gone by. Look out for your neighbour and report to the authorities each and every unusual occurrence within your communities. If we work as one, we will certainly record a marked decrease in the incidence of crime.

My Fellow Antiguan and Barbudans; Residents and Friends of Antigua and Barbuda:

Our celebration of Independence is equally twinned with securing a bright future for our nation's young people. Your government, now more than ever, remains committed to the welfare of every child in this nation. It is my government's

intention to remain focused in ensuring that all citizens of this nation have access to the necessary educational opportunities to enable them to realize their full potential and to become functional and contributing members of society.

The quality of the education that is obtained and each student's commitment to diligently pursue such opportunities will determine the measure of their contribution and ultimately, the amount of economic development that will take place in this country.

We also remain committed to ensuring that the Early Childhood sector is fully developed. Much time and effort are spent in ensuring that the education received by our children is one of quality. With the assistance of UNICEF Antigua and Barbuda has been able to publish our

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Promoting women's roles in the sciences

Promoting women's role in the sciences cannot be separated from the global challenges of increasing access to education and gender equality.

This was the argument advanced by the Secretariat's Social Transformation Programmes Division (STPD) Director, Dr Caroline Pontefract, as she addressed science experts on the theme 'Addressing the challenges: a global gender perspective on the role of education in science' at the Institute of Physics (IoP) on September 22.

Speaking at the third Elizabeth Johnson Memorial lecture, Dr Pontefract highlighted that science is about everyone and the world they live in and should be a tool for empowering individuals and nations. In today's global climate, education and the equal participation of women and men in the sciences are key to achieving equitable, socio-economic development.

Dr Pontefract stressed some of the major issues affecting female participation in the sciences and education across the Commonwealth including: socio-cultural attitudes, access to schools, poverty, government policies and financial support.

She was joined by University of London Institute of Education Science Education tutor and Trustee of the

Commonwealth Association for Science, Technology and Maths Educators (CASTME), Dr Sue Dale Tunnicliffe (The Lady Tunnicliffe), who advocated early year and lifelong learning and everyday science.

The Lady Tunnicliffe shared positive initiatives from across Commonwealth countries on engaging communities, in particular women, with science: from empowering mothers to teach pre-school children about science, to how science can provide solutions in everyday life such as filtering water using saris.

She told the audience that the starting point for the learning of science and engineering is at this early age and occurs in the immediate environment of the child with the people with whom s/he spend their time. These places are where they live and the immediate environment outside. In these locations children witness everyday activities such as cooking, cleaning, washing, various activities with materials such as textiles, wood, clay, as well as identifying and being involved with basic life processes such as moving, breaching, eating excreting and the human activities associated with the life processes and beyond. Children are immersed in their environment, built, human constructed or natural such as their village or neighbouring biological phenomena which all; contain various amounts of technology and bio-diversity from a simple cooking vessel being used on an open fire to mobile phones; from natural vegetation to manicured garden. Moreover, the natural environment is of comprised from physical, geological and

biological and features of this such as rocks, plants, water courses may be observed. Additionally the culture and particular uses of science and technology by the community with whom eh children live are evident and noticed.

Lady Tunnicliffe talked about Holy Trinity School Barbuda as an example of how teachers use what the children see everyday to open up their learning about science ad technology.

The Elizabeth Johnson Memorial lecture is held every two years in honour of Betty Johnson (1936- 2003), the highly respected physicist who worked to encourage women into science. She was instrumental in establishing the Daphne Jackson Trust in 1992, which implements a fellowship scheme for women who want to return to a career in science or engineering.

Participants at the lecture included the sister of Elizabeth Johnson, Ruth Adatia, members of the IoP and the Institute of Education, representatives from Commonwealth Associations, academia and organisations promoting women in science and the High Commissioners from Antigua and Barbuda.

STPD leads and implements the Secretariat's Human Development agenda, working with governments and other stakeholders to address issues and challenges in education and health for a world where women and men are equal partners, with equal opportunities and equality of outcomes.

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been granted this privilege.

Already, the Antigua State College delivers courses for the 1st and 2nd year Bachelor degree programme for the University of the West Indies. Efforts can be made to have the final year courses taught here. Even if the University of the West Indies remains the degree granting institution, citizens of Antigua and Barbuda will be able to remain at home and earn a degree. The same can be done for the degree in Nursing.

Efforts such as these are what make a country and its people great. It gives us reason to be proud to be an Antiguan and Barbudan.

My Fellow Antiguan and Barbudans; Residents and Friends of Antigua and Barbuda:

Our relationship with the outside world must be one that will be of benefit to our nation's development.

With this in mind, my government's foreign policy has always been and will continue to be about meeting long-term challenges and dealing with the unexpected.

This is particularly true at this time when the international community is faced with various crises, growing insecurity and tangible threats at the global level, thereby putting my government's foreign policy to a very severe test.

Ever mindful that this generation of Antiguan and Barbudans is living through the fastest ever period of change in our twin-island history, my government has sought to ensure that the consistent objective of our foreign policy was and remains better lives and livelihoods for our people and rapid and inclusive economic development of the nation.

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Japan, and Australia, Switzerland, to name a few.

8. How many different varieties are there?

We have 5 spicy flavours and 5 fruity flavours in our collection. We also have Pepper Jellies which are spicy sweets made from the islands fruits and a new Herring Relish.

9. Which is your favourite of the varieties?

They are all fantastic, but if I have to



Antigua and Barbuda's stall at the Commonwealth Fair

choose one, it has to be the original. Another favourite is The Calypso, which was the first Pepper Sauce that was made after my mother passed.

10. What new products are in the pipeline?

My smoked herring, which will be marketed in a conservative way. We also have juices, cakes, and other sauces expected to reach the market soon, but I

TOURISM STAKEHOLDERS MEET WITH MINISTRY OF FINANCE OFFICIALS

Minister of Finance, the Economy and Public Administration, the Honourable Harold Lovell, has assured stakeholders in the tourism industry that while the results might not be visible to the onlooker, the government has in fact already reduced expenditure by 19 percent.

The minister was responding to concerns expressed at today's

think the Salsa will be the next thing to take large popularity.

11. What should we look out for?

We have recently had a business plan drawn up to construct a Susie's Complex. We want it to have a Pepper Park that will resemble a tropical garden, a deli, gift shop and villas. The complex will also be the location where the manufacturing will take place. Tours will be available in and around both the complex and my home. We are also trying to launch Susie's Pepper Skin, which is our clothing design.

12. You have done well enough for your activities to be honoured by the queen. How did you feel when you heard of this?

Well you have to be recommended by someone in your home country so that you can be put forward for an award. Governor General Dame Louise Tack highlighted what I had done and called me to see if I wanted to be put forward. I was delighted and overwhelmed.

I am a motivational speaker to help children in school before they leave, teaching them to help the elderly so that they have help when they are older themselves. I launched the Obama Sauce in respect to him and his achievements of becoming president. These are some of the things that led to my recognition.

13. How do you feel about the honour you are receiving?

I have won many awards in my career for tourism, but Susie's has given me international recognition. I receive this honour in my mother's name and only wish she could be here to see it, but deep down I believe she will be watching in spirit. The night before I came to England I went to my mother's grave to tell her about the award I was going to



Mrs Rosie McMaster (right) with Mrs Pauline Roberts, wife of High Commissioner Dr Carl Roberts at the Commonwealth Fair

receive, and that Susie's was representing Antigua and Barbuda.

14. As a successful entrepreneur, what do you think was your key ingredient?

I love my country and want to see good things.

15. What is your message to young Antiguan for future?

Go out for excellence. Live your dreams, aim beyond the skies and achieve good goals. Live a good life and good will always come back to you.

16. Is there anybody or any company that you would like to work with in the future?

I cannot think of a particular company, but I wish to make alliances with partners and investors to take Susie's to the next level and supply the world. I hate to see poverty and believe that I would be able to provide employment and become an angel of light.

17. Who has been your role model and what is your inspiration?

My mother. She had many sayings when I grew up but one that I live by up to this present day is "the world owes every man a living".

stakeholder consultation that enough was not being done to trim government spending.

Minister Lovell explained that the administration was working within a three year timeframe during which public sector reform, including rationalisation of ministries, would be undertaken.

The mainly tour operators and airline representatives attending the meeting were also perturbed about the low levels of ABST compliance and the

government's apparent unwillingness to prosecute those who collected the ABST and failed to pay the revenues over to the Inland Revenue Department.

They also expressed concern that many businesses are operating in Antigua and Barbuda and are not captured in the tax net. Minister Lovell advised the participants that revenue reform measures, including the option of prosecuting offenders who withhold ABST revenue, would be implemented under the Fiscal Consolidation Programme.

New Deputy Registrar

Ms. Tracy Samuel has been appointed as the new Deputy Registrar of the High Court of Justice which falls under the Ministry of Legal Affairs. Samuel's tenure became effective on 01st September, 2009.

Ms. Samuel, who is of Antiguan parentage, was born in England but grew up in Antigua. She attended the Foundation Mixed School (1974-1981), the Antigua Girls High School (1982-1987), and the Antigua State College (1987-1989).

Upon her completion of studies locally, Ms. Samuel attended the UWI Mona Campus (Jamaica) from 1989-1992 where she obtained the degree of BA in Library Studies. From Cave Hill Campus (Barbados) she obtained a BA in Law after completing studies from 1996-1999, then spent two

years at Norman Manley Law School from 1999-2001, completing those studies with a Certificate in Legal Education.

Ms. Samuel obtained a Masters in LLM Venture Capital (2003-2005). She was also admitted to the Role of Solicitors in the UK Law Society (2004).

Ms. Samuel was admitted to the Bar in Antigua in November, 2007.

Ms. Samuel's duties will include supervising the Registry in absence of the Registrar and any other related duties assigned by the Registrar from time to time; process probates, letters of administration, small estates, unrepresented estates; the supervision of births, deaths and marriages (including amendments, places of public worship, trade unions, newspapers, marriage officers, medical practitioners); and assisting



Ms. Tracy Samuel
Deputy Registrar

the Registrar in managing the operations of the Division of the High Court of Justice.

Changing Peoples' lives

Simon Woolley of Operation Black Vote (OBV) is delighted to hear about a graduate from the magistrates scheme, **Andrew Thomas** making it to the bench

"I've said this before and no doubt I'll say it again; sometimes fighting for race equality can, at times, seem like a thankless task.

And then, when you least expect it, you get fantastically surprised. Take this morning. I'm taking my son to school. It's his first few weeks at 'the big school' and today he is having his photo taken. So we don't want to be late.

But neither do the other 100 or so parents, so it's kind of stressful. Then I get a tap on the shoulder outside the school gates. "Simon, how you doing? I'm going to attend some of your Black History month events next week. Oh, and by the way, did your colleague Merlene tell you the good news?"

"What good news?" I reply, racking my brains as to where I know this young

man from. "Well, last week, thanks to your team at OBV, I was sworn in as one of Her Majesty's Magistrates".

I looked at the young man, and then it all come in to place... Andrew! He was on one of our schemes in 2008, and has gotten through. "Andrew", I said, wanting to hug him – my son looking at me with *that* look – ("Dad I thought we were late") – "this has completely made my day. It's great news".

I'm pleased for Andrew Thomas in so many ways. A young Black man sitting on Her Majesty's benches dispensing justice brings so much more assurance, particularly to the Black community, that justice is seen to be more equitably dispensed.

For his family it is a moment of great pride that their son is to play such an important civic role. And for the young man himself the confidence that this brings is perhaps immeasurable. Andrew said, "I am floating on cloud 9! I still can't believe that I have achieved becoming a Magistrate; it means the world to me. It's an honour and I hope to be a great role model for others in my community."

I'd like to pay tribute to Andrew, and his Magistrate mentor, Mrs Francis Niman JP – and the many other BME men and women on the schemes who are literally changing the face of our criminal justice system.

I'd also like to pay tribute to Merlene Carrington – herself a Magistrate, an OBV alumni and Project Coordinator for the Magistrates Shadowing Scheme – and Francine Fernandes who heads up OBV's Shadowing Schemes.

It is these small success stories that often make the biggest impact in our communities and wider society.

Well done Andrew, we're very proud of you."

By Simon Woolley

<http://operationblackvote.wordpress.com/2009/10/09/changing-peoples-lives/>

The Antigua and Barbuda High Commission would also like to congratulate Mr Thomas on his appointment. We wish him continued success.

World Bank visit bears fruit

In the wake of three days of meetings recently with government officials and other stakeholders, the World Bank will prepare a grant proposal reflecting the government's priorities in transforming the public sector. The intent is for the Government to access grant funding from the institutional development fund (IDF) and other sources.

Part of a potential technical assistance grant with the Bank includes a comprehensive human resource audit to uncover the current numbers, qualifications and remuneration levels of established, non-established and statutory bodies' personnel. The Bank will also assist

the Government in undertaking functional reviews and identifying measures that can increase efficiency across the administration. Particular emphasis will be placed on reclassifying the established personnel and developing an action plan for rationalizing allowances and salaries for non established personnel.

Training and capacity building will also be a central component of any arrangement between the Bank and the Government. These and other interventions through the World Bank IDF are intended to achieve the overall objective of a sustainable wage bill and a more streamlined and productive public sector that delivers quality service to the population.

The Government will have the opportunity to review the Bank's draft

proposal in the coming weeks to ensure that the document includes the most urgent priorities for Antigua and Barbuda. During the grant preparation and approval process, the Bank's team will continue to provide feedback and technical assistance to the Government from Washington through video conferences and conference calls. In this regard, several experts from the Bank engaged in discussions with a number of Government officials on Wednesday 28th October via video conference. The purpose of these discussions is to identify areas in which the Bank can assist the Government in strengthening social protection systems in Antigua and Barbuda.

DID YOU KNOW?

Antigua's Hell's Gate in the Spotlight 2009 Panorama Champions

Hell's Gate Steel Orchestra,

The Steel Pan came to Antigua by Antiguans who travelled to and from Trinidad in the early years. In 1946, the transformation of the Oil Drum to the Steel pan was done locally.

Experiments were carried out at Townsend's Blacksmith Shop and the burning of the pans was done at the Dung Heap, where fire was always available.

The name Hell's Gate was given to the band by the people of the Point Area, and chosen mainly because of the local noise and variety of rhythmic beats produced by the then instruments used.

The official naming of the band was adopted in 1947.

The first captain of the band was Eugene Weston and the first manager was Ivan Edwards. Mr. Eustace (Manning) Henry, a pioneer member, former captain, builder and tuner, along with his son, Veron Henry, the vice-captain, are presently the builders and tuners of Hell's Gate Steel Orchestra.

During the late 1940s, the steel band movement was strongly opposed by most of the aristocrats on the island of Antigua; they even went as far as to send petitions to the then Governor Lord Baldwin to outlaw steel bands in the colony.

Were it not for Governor Baldwin, who himself was a steel band enthusiast and a friend of the Grass Root People, together with the Antigua Trades and Labour Union, then headed by the Hon. Vere Cornwall Bird Sr., the steel band may have long been extinct in Antigua.

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This single-minded focus on economic development becomes all the more important in these exceedingly difficult times, when the international economy is taking a merciless beating from the global financial crisis, causing great difficulties to growing numbers of People around the world.

In particular, our relationships with the Peoples Republic of China, the Republic of Cuba and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela have proven to be beneficial to the development of our nation. Antigua and Barbuda cherishes the relationship that currently exists between us and these countries.

We will continue to promote partnerships with these and other countries in support of our development on principles of respect for sovereignty, equality and a genuine desire to effect social and economic development of all.

My Fellow Antiguan and Barbudans; Residents and Friends of Antigua and Barbuda:

Today as we celebrate, we are also being called upon to be patriotic. We are called upon to put our nation First after God.

Our patriotism must be pronounced. It must be as pronounced as the words from the Song "Antigua Land" by Edna Bridgewater, which proclaims that our country is a jewel within the Caribbean. That all of its sons and daughters should always rejoice in that which makes us great. Our patriotism must rise in honour of, and in service to our native land – Antigua and Barbuda.

Your Government today, on this Independence Day, renews its commitment to continue with an agenda that will continue to make our land and people proud. An agenda that will ensure that the interest of our people remains first in every thing that we do.

Your government renews its commitment to building a more economically vibrant and socially cohesive nation.

We can do it only with your help.

Let us move forward together to achieve a better future for all of Antigua and Barbuda.

May we all answer this call.

May we all continue to be proud Antiguan and Barbudans.

May God continue to bless you and your families.

May God continue to bless our beloved Antigua and Barbuda.

A Happy 28th Anniversary of Independence to you all.

Thank You.

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Background:

There is relatively little research on very young children and how they experience science and technology (engineering) phenomena which are features of their early play or everyday tasks and actions.

Is there a critical period for development of such concepts? Children are intuitive scientists (Gopnik, 2009).

The starting point for the learning of science and engineering is at this early age and occurs in the immediate environment of the child with the people with whom s/he spend their time. These places are where they live and the immediate environment outside. In these locations children witness everyday activities such as cooking, cleaning, washing, various activities with materials such as textiles, wood, clay, as well as identifying and being involved with basic life processes such as moving, breathing, eating, excreting and the human activities associated with the life processes and beyond. Children are immersed in their environment, built, human constructed or natural such as their village or neighbouring biological phenomena which all; contain various amounts of technology and bio-diversity from a simple cooking vessel being used on an open fire to mobile phones; from natural degradation to manicured garden. Moreover, the natural eminent is comprised of physical, geological and biological and features of this such as

rocks, plants, water courses may be observed. Additionally, the culture and particular uses of science and technology by the community with whom the children live are evident and noticed.

The starting point for science is observation. We aim to encourage their carer to share the observations and talk about such and increase their own self esteem and literacy. .

"Children, we now know, need to talk, and to experience a rich diet of spoken language in order to think and learn. Reading, writing and number may be acknowledged as curriculum 'basics' but talk is the true foundation for teach. (Alexander, page 9)

Furthermore. It is now accepted that there is an intimate link between language and thought and thus the cognitive development of a child is affected to a considerable extent by the nature, context and forms of language, which s/he hears and uses (Halliday, 1993)

As children acquire early language they begin to label phenomena. This naming is

an inherent human need (Bruner, Goodnow and Austin 1956; Markman. 1989). Additionally. Young children ask questions incessantly when given an opportunity (Tough, 1977), a behaviour which often disappears in the formal educating environment where classic triadic dialogue takes over. However, there is a move towards developing dialogue talking in classrooms (Alexander, 2008).

The CEY project seeks to encourage the parents and other carers, mostly women, and many deemed illiterate because they do not read or write or have very limited skills in these two strands of the four aspects of literacy, the others being listening and speaking. These women can listen and they can speak. They furthermore know and are familiar with the science and engineering phenomena in their lives. By helping them talk about these and identify the phenomena, actions and artefacts, and then to tell the children we maintain that we can develop science and engineering literacy in both adults and children.

A number of people and organisations have committed to develop this talking science and engineering approach through everyday life and where possible science language through play, including the Sheriff of Mumbai, Sreepur Children's Village, Bangladesh, Early Years in Mauritius, Kincaid College in Islamabad, and several schools with Foundation children and mothers with younger children at home, in England.

by The Lady Tunncliffe