

Caribbean Council Newsletter

3 December 2007

Issue 55



your window to the Caribbean



Caribbean Overseas Territories in a changing world – what lies ahead?

Lord Foulkes, Chairman of CBBC, chaired a seminar which was jointly held with the Institute for the Study of the Americas, assessing the practical issues facing the Overseas Territories (OTs) as they look ahead. Presentations were made by panellists: Peter Clegg, University of the West of England; Gert Oostindie, KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies in Leiden; Justin Daniel, University of the French Antilles and French Guyane, Martinique and Frank Savage, Former Governor of the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat, and OT Adviser to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The presentations examined the very different constitutional relationships which exist between the different non-independent territories in the Caribbean and the metropolitan governments in Europe. They concluded however that in all of the relationships there exists an essential tension whereby the Overseas Territories wish to obtain the maximum amount of autonomy they can, without actually becoming sovereign independent states. The non-independent Caribbean generally enjoys high GDP per capita, a good standard of life guaranteed by good governance, and the right to an EU passport and residence if they wish; there is little wish to lose these benefits. There are differing levels of budgetary support from the metropolitan countries to the non-independent Caribbean, with the French DOM receiving the greatest amount of support, and the UK overseas territories receiving no direct budgetary support, other than Montserrat.

There was some discussion over to what extent the high GDPs in these countries was evenly distributed and how support from the EU had pushed up living standards but had also made these islands very uncompetitive regionally in terms of their labour costs and dollar / euro economies. Commentators also discussed the strategic values of the Overseas Territories in the Caribbean for the EU member states and agreed that they were generally of no particular strategic value, with the exception of the French DOM which reflected a French desire to maintain a presence in the Americas.



Christmas Members Event 2007

11 December 2007, 5.30pm – 7.30pm

La Bodeguita del Medio Cuban Grill & Mojito Bar, 47 Kensington Court, London

Forming the finale to a successful 2007 seminar series, the Cuba Initiative's last event of the year will be a Christmas Party.

The Cuba Initiative has teamed up with La Bodeguita del Medio restaurant in Kensington to offer members a fun evening filled with cocktails, Cuban food and music.

The party will begin with a Mojito cocktail at 5.30pm and at 6pm guests will be shown how to make the perfect Christmas rum cocktail. The cocktail demonstration will be followed by a chef at the Bodeguita team at 6.30pm who will be demonstrating how to make a special Cuban seafood dish. Once the demonstrations are over, guests will be free to enjoy some more Mojitos while listening to the Cuban band 'Gala.'

Canapés will be served during the party but anyone wishing to stay on will be able to book a table to have a meal specially designed for the Cuba Initiative. Further details will be sent out to those attending.

Please note that this event is members only. Numbers are limited for this party and so anyone who would like to attend should reply as soon as possible to stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org



CBBC Meeting with the CARICOM High Commissioners

The CBBC will hold its next meeting with the CARICOM High Commissioners in London on 10 December. Following the last meeting in October, it was decided that another meeting should be convened before Christmas following the recent appointment of Barry Humphreys as the new Chairman of the CBBC. On the agenda for the meeting is the forward programme of CBBC events for 2008 and the UK Caribbean Government to Government Forum that will take place in London in April 2008. *Any CBBC members who would like to put forward comments or issues for the agenda should contact Stephanie Whittle* stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org

Events Diary

3/5 December 2007

31st Miami Conference on the Caribbean Basin, Miami

10/14 December 2007

Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management, Barbados

11 December 2007

Cuba Initiative Christmas Party

12 December 2007

The Scientific Revolution
Professor Luis Alberto Montero-Cabrera, Presidente del Consejo Científico, Universidad de La Habana, London

13/14 December 2007

Caribbean Sales & Marketing Strategy Conference, Puerto Rico

13/15 January 2008

Caribbean Marketplace, Bahamas

21/22 January 2008

Platts Caribbean Energy: Regional Energy Policies, carbon and renewable Alternatives, Attracting Investment, Florida

For information on any of the above events contact admin@caribbean-council.org

This newsletter is sponsored by:



Virgin Atlantic is now the largest non-stop scheduled airline between the UK and the Caribbean, following at 20% increase in capacity during Winter 2006/7. Between October 2006 and March 2007, Virgin Atlantic expects to carry over 350,000 passengers on its Caribbean routes. Services from London Gatwick to the Caribbean began in 1998, with flights to Barbados, St. Lucia and Antigua. Since then Grenada, Tobago, Havana and Montego Bay in Jamaica have been added to the network. Barbados and St. Lucia are also served from Manchester.



The Caribbean Hotel Association Education Foundation (CHAEF) receives donation from the Caribbean Foundation

The Caribbean Foundation has donated £1000.00 to the CHAEF to help fund hospitality and tourism scholarships for Caribbean people working in the industry. The Caribbean Foundation is the UK registered charity to which the Caribbean Council remits any profit it makes each year. Its charity status is based upon its educational activity, and as such it provides funds to a variety of individuals and organisations to support further education, training, educational events and research. The donation to the CHAEF recognises tourism as one of the leading industries in the region with a substantial requirement for staff training at all levels. *Further information about the Caribbean Foundation can be found at <http://www.caribbean-council.org/caribbeanfoundation/>*



The Scientific Revolution - "Scientific research in Cuba highlights and future prospects: A view by a Cuban scientist"

Professor Luis Alberto Montero-Cabrera, Presidente del Consejo Científico, Universidad de La Habana
Wednesday 12th December 2007, 7.00pm, London Metropolitan University

The next event of the International Institute for the Study of Cuba series is a talk by Professor Luis Montero-Cabrera. Professor Montero is an award-winning and internationally renowned physical chemist whose research into the quantum molecular processes in the retina has broken new ground in the understanding of the chemistry and physics of vision. He has published 125 articles and held visiting professorships at universities throughout the world. Most recently he taught at the Dep. de Química Física Aplicada, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain; the Institut für Organische Chemie in Bremen, Bremen, Germany, and the Institute of Chemical Sciences and Engineering (ISIC), EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland. As Chairman of the Scientific Council of the University of Havana he is uniquely placed to be able to explain the achievements of Cuban scientific research and its prospect for future development. *For further details please contact admin@cupastudies.org*