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Legislation and Announcements Newsletter of Customs and Excise

"Getting it Straight - Management by Information"



St. Kitts and Nevis

Volume 2, Issue 4
April - June, 2014

New Customs Legislation ready for Parliament



The reform efforts of the Customs and Excise Department are set to be formalized with the presentation of the revised Customs (Management and Control) Bill, before the National House of Assembly.

The Bill seeks adequately address key areas of the reform efforts of Customs, both locally and regionally, as well as further harmonized department procedures with those of our CARICOM partners.

The revised legislation, when passed, will repeal the Customs (Control and Management) Act, 1992 which has been updated in the 2010 revised laws of the Federation.

The Bill which is expected to be debated in the National House of Assembly, in this quarter, contains a number of provisions that more adequately aid officers in our revenue collection, border security, trade facilitation and compliance assurance roles.

These provisions include the harmonizing the requirement of Advance Notification of passenger and cargo manifests of all

vessels and aircraft entering the federation, with the requirements of other CARICOM states.

The revised Bill will clarify the authority of the department audit the records of all importers. The bill addresses the limitations of the present legislation where it is silent on the powers of the department to demand that proper records are kept by all importers to assist in determining the accuracy of the audits.

To further facilitate, the draft legislation recommends penalties for importers who do not keep proper records or refuses Customs access to their records.

The revised legislation, when passed, will legitimize the use of Customs border security tools such as scanners, metal detectors, K-9 officers et cetera.

The roles of Customs Agents and Brokers will be expand and defined, so that is will address more clearly who is a customs brokers, ships agents, and other agents and their obligations under the law.

Added to these, the draft legislation also

provides the legal basis for the electronic submission of customs declarations and other relevant supporting documents in relation to imports and exports

The draft Bill will also be supported by regulations that give effect to the discipline of the organization and procedural recommendations.

The department has been working closely with the government legal department and Office of the Attorney General to finalise the texts and provisions of the draft bill and all regulations for passage and implementation in this quarter.

Customs Officers and the trading sector are encouraged to acquaint themselves of the provisions of the bill and the regulations in an effort to seamlessly be in compliance.

Plans are being put in place to conduct public information sessions for the general public. Additionally training sessions will be organized for Customs officers and employees of the trade sector to understand the provisions of the revised legislation over the next few months.

Pen of the Comptroller



Customs and Excise has embarked on a new period of its continued development as a facilitator of trade, a collector of state revenue and enforcer of border security. We continue to celebrate the accomplishments of our organisation made under the stewardship of those who have led with vision and distinction.

With great pride I highlight the work of Comptroller Rodney Harris, who has been a champion of institutional reform and staff development over the last five years. Under his watch, the department accomplished key organi-

sational goals that have readied us to face the future with confidence and with purpose.

The department thanks Comptroller Harris for being the steady hand at the helm during the global economic downturn. He gave direction and motivation at a time when our staff and the nation needed it most.

I extend best wishes to Comptroller Harris in this new phase of his life; may you be blessed with long life, success and prosperity.

The future of our department promises to be as exciting and rewarding as the times that we can reminisce on with pride. For although the global, regional and domestic challenges continue to grow in complexity, I am confident that as a team, we possess the abilities and competencies to deliver quality service on behalf of the government and people of this nation.

Our successes thus far must not be viewed as trophies but as the scaffolding that readies us for further advancement. Until we are rated as and maintain a first world ranking in trade facilitation, ease of doing business and trading goods across borders, we must work with passion and purpose to facilitate the manufacturing, trade and travel sectors.

I offer you my commitment to give no less than is needed to direct the affairs of this department and its staff. I pray for vision that I may lead rightly but most of all I pray for the support of my colleagues and officers to convert vision into action.

Over the next two quarters, our reform efforts as a department will focus on the passage of the revised Customs Act which is modeled after the draft CARICOM Bill. In addition, regulations are being drafted that would seek to enhance the overall image of and discipline within the department.

Work is progressing smoothly in the implementation of the ASYCUDA World programme and September roll out deadline is a strong possibility.

In order to fully prepare ourselves, I implore all officers learn more of the processes, ask questions of the functional and technical teams that have been created as the readiness of each officer, contributed to the holistic preparation of the department.

With your help, I know that the best days are still ahead. Together we will aspire and together we will achieve.

Your Customs. A Culture of Training.



The Culture of training continues at Customs much to the benefit of our officers and the trading public.

In January, six officers travelled to REDTRC, Jamaica and successfully passed the Narcotics Investigations Course. An additional six also attended the Intelligence Gathering and Analysis Course at REDTRAC. And Five Officers completed the Basic Seamanship Course facilitated by the St. Kitts

and Nevis Defence Force (Coast Guard).

In February, the 21 Officers pursued the 10th CCLEC Junior Officer Basic Training Course., along with four officers from Montserrat. Twenty-seven officers completed the Valuation Policy Development Course put on by the Caribbean Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC).

In March, twenty officers participated in the selectivity management training facilitated by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) the developers of ASYCUDA World . Six officers travelled to REDTRAC Jamaica, and successfully completed the Precursor Chemicals Course.

A total of 123 Officers were trained in the first quarter of 2014.

Projected second quarter training include ASYCUDA World Manifest Training as well

as K-9 training in April; Techniques of Investigation and Peer to Peer Workshop in May; and Techniques of Financial Investigation Course at REDTRAC, Jamaica in June.

The Training Department invites all officers to identify areas of training in which they may have interest. Effort will be made to source or develop training modules to facilitate such training in the in the interest of staff development.

The department also commends the officers for the quality of their performances in local and overseas training efforts. The reports we continue to receive are heartening and we encourage our officers to keep up the good work.

Please send your suggestions and ideas to training@skncustoms.com

The idea of Barbados: most conservative and progressive island



by *Prime Minister, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves*
St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Barbados is an idea which has, over time, become manifest in reality. The idea of Barbados encompasses more than a nation-state or a national community. To be sure, it flows from a national community which has been in ownership, not residence, of an especial or particular landscape and seascape.

Still, it is more than this; and it assumes a veritable autonomy as a category beyond the community. The Barbadian diaspora, scattered overseas, has come to draw from this “specialness” known as the idea of Barbados.

This idea acknowledges that Barbados is unique, *sui generis*, of its own kind. It is connected to — nay, derived from — the physical and historical condition of Barbados, yet transcends it.

The unique “idea of Barbados” does not, and cannot, make Barbados immune from the universal “laws” of history, society or political economy. Indeed, the idea of Barbados has been fashioned through a parallelogram of historical forces and contemporary circumstances, global and regional, which have shaped and conditioned the home-grown evolutions, adaptations, alterations, and changes.

More than any other Caribbean society, with the possible exception of Cuba, Barbados has arrived at a place where its uniqueness represents a model of governance, political

economy, way of life, and social order, which invites emulation elsewhere in the Caribbean and further afield, albeit with appropriate amendments. Barbados’ high quality governance and level of human development have been a marvel to objective observers, including reputable international agencies.

On a wide range of governance and developmental indices, Barbados is in the top rank globally; indeed, overall, it is a developing country with developed nations’ governance and human development attainments. All this is extraordinary for a country of 166 square miles and a quarter million people, which is less than 200 years removed from slavery and less than 50 years as an independent nation!

I make bold to say that other CARICOM member states aspire to being an “idea”, but none has quite achieved that status. Jamaica is a brand, but not an idea. Rastafarianism, Bob Marley, Usain Bolt and Sandals have helped to shape the Jamaican brand, a marketing tool to attract visitors, but it is not a transcendental idea that infuses the body politic and society to consolidated progressive achievements, nationally.

Trinidad is an incomplete national formation with immense possibilities but constrained by a bundle of limitations, including rising lawlessness.

Guyana’s natural condition is still untamed, but a nation that possesses enormous potential. The member states of the OECS in one way or another, consciously or unconsciously, aspire to the Barbados “model” of a maturing social democracy.

“Successful” British colonies such as Bermuda and the British Virgin Islands are, in many ways, artificial societies. The French overseas territories of Martinique and Guadeloupe are subsidised enclaves in the region, in search of a Caribbean identity. Puerto Rico is a Caribbean outpost of the American empire, a confused and inchoate territory with an ill-defined future.

This idea of Barbados is not coterminous with a narrow chauvinism, island nationalism or a jaundiced arrogance, though some within and without Barbados may mistake or confuse these with the uplifting “idea”

itself. The “idea of Barbados” has saved Barbados in the past and will surely enable Barbados to meet successfully its current economic challenges brought on largely, though not exclusively, by the prolonged global economic slow-down from 2008, and continuing.

Barbados is at once the most conservative and the most progressive society in the Caribbean, bar none! It extols continuity yet engineers, and embraces, change. It is the only Caribbean country that has had, since conquest and settlement, unbroken representative government, albeit on a restrictive franchise until universal adult suffrage in 1946.

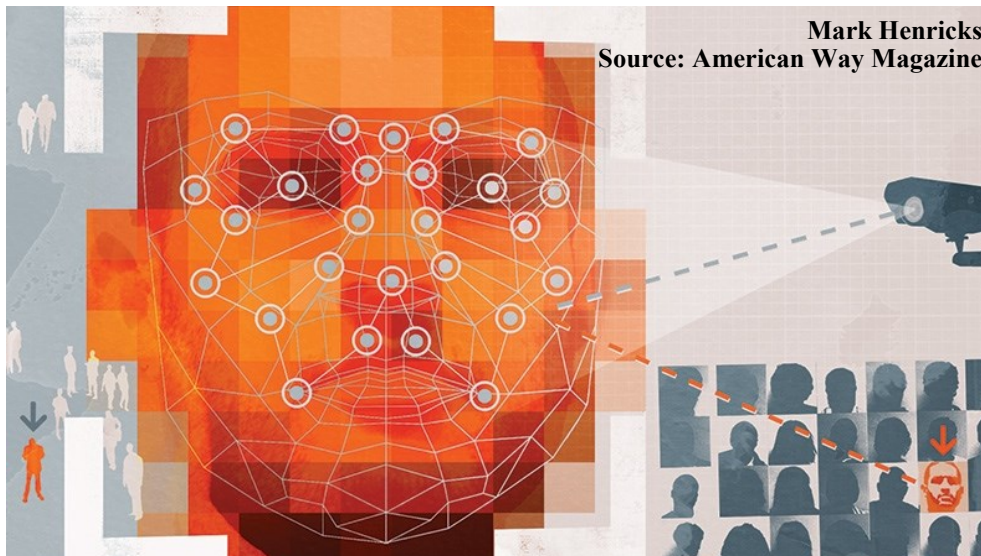
It is the first Caribbean country to have attained mass adult literacy, universal primary and secondary education, and “free” university education. It is the first Caribbean country to have transformed its economy from sugar to tourism, international financial services, and other services. Very early it embraced the Caribbean Court of Justice and cut its judicial umbilical cord with the British Privy Council, yet it values its connection with the British Crown.

Barbados is possessed of “a starved Anglicanism”, to use Gordon Lewis’ telling phrase, but is more relaxed, informally, about homosexuality than any other Caribbean society. It places a premium on the maintenance of law and order, yet zealously guards individual rights and freedoms. And the list goes on!

In Barbados, there is an invisible “genius of the people” which is the foundation of the idea of Barbados. Modern social scientists refer to this social foundation as “social capital” but it is more than this. I find the category of “social capital” an inadequate proxy for the grounded common sense of Barbadians, their social solidarity, their ability to enhance their capacity to come to terms with their condition and environment, and to address in an efficacious way any set of challenges that arise. Other Caribbean societies, including St Vincent and

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This Machine Never Forgets a Face



Mark Henricks
Source: American Way Magazine

Sure, everyone enjoys tagging their friends in pictures. But do you know what FACIAL-RECOGNITION SOFTWARE really means — or where it can lead?

When investigators on an episode of CSI: Crime Scene Investigation fed a photograph of a missing man into a computer, the system identified him in less time than it would take most of us to stammer “And what was your name again?” to a vaguely familiar-looking person who greeted us at a party like a long-lost friend. Of course, that’s TV.

In the real world, facial-recognition technology still cannot really match a random picture against a world of individual countenances. But it will before long, and not just for criminal investigations. Retailers, financial institutions and other businesses are already installing systems that automatically identify people to some extent using just their faces. In some cases, this is to provide better individualized customer service. In others, it’s to provide more effective, targeted advertising.

“It’s here, and it’s happening faster than we might believe,” says Alessandro Acquisti, a Heinz College at Carnegie Mellon University associate professor who researches privacy implications of facial recognition. To find out what could be done with off-the-shelf facial-recognition software and cloud-based computing power of the sort anyone can get, Acquisti and a team took photos of strangers from an online dating site that used pseudonyms to protect identities.

They were able to match one out of 10 to

photos from searchable Facebook profiles. A similar test using offline photos taken of students with a webcam identified one out of three faces.

Facial recognition works by analyzing a digital photo of a face and converting it into data points — distance between the eyes, skin color and the like. An algorithm compares these points against a database of existing scans to identify the person. Identification isn’t as accurate as DNA or fingerprints — people tend to look alike — but it’s much easier to snap photos than fingerprint someone or obtain DNA samples. And almost all of us already have digital photos on file at driver’s license bureaus, if not dating sites.

Before you start wearing a hoodie, cap and shades like a high-stakes poker player, consider that Acquisti’s experiment wasn’t quite real-world. The webcam photos were all of students at one university. That geographical restriction simplified the problem dramatically. “If we had tried to do it nationwide (United States), we would have had to deal with databases of hundreds of millions, if not billions, of images,” Acquisti says. And that’s not feasible for existing technology.

But facial-recognition software is getting more powerful all the time, while meanwhile, a somewhat more limited form of facial recognition is already widely used. Facebook has employed it since December 2010. When users of the billion-member social-media platform post a photo, the network’s tag-suggestion feature presents

When users of the billion-member social-media platform post a photo, the network’s tag-suggestion feature presents them with a list of Facebook friends who appear to be in the picture. That’s facial recognition in action. Some digital signs use facial recognition to overcome people’s tendency to ignore most advertising because the messages lack interest or relevance. An Intel Corp. system, for instance, scans faces of people who look at a sign and gives advertisers key information such as their age, gender and how long it held their attention. That helps fine-tune messages to sell more products and services.

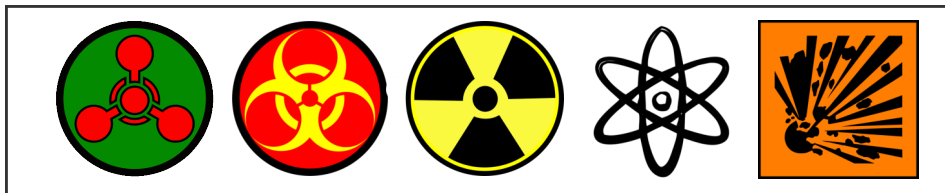
The technique worked particularly well when combined with gamification for one client, says Jose Avalos, Intel’s director of visual retail. “On average, for more than a million consumers, the attention span went from three to seven seconds to over two minutes,” Avalos says. The company’s facial-detection solutions are employed by casinos, fast-food restaurants, motorcycle makers and other businesses.

It’s important to note that facial detection as employed by Intel and others for digital signs, store shelves and similar uses is not full-fledged facial recognition. While it can discern age, gender, how long a person looks at a sign or which product on a shelf gets most of a shopper’s attention, facial detection can’t connect a face to an individual person. These systems are also typically designed to delete scans of faces without saving the data, further protecting privacy.

And with facial recognition, that’s the big issue: privacy. There’s no doubt businesses want it, and the technology for it is advancing rapidly. But because of privacy concerns, will consumers go along? In surveys, about half are OK with the prospect of having their faces automatically connected to their electronic identities. The other half, however, are seriously put off by “the creepiness -factor,” says Brian Mennecke, a management-information-systems associate professor

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CBRNe, more than a threat to regional development



Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear and explosive (CBRNe) materials are a threat to human safety and the security of nations.

CBRNe is the name given to weapons of mass destruction (WMD) when they are in the control of non-state actors. Their usage is often to bring about mass casualty or fear in the country or wreak against targeted groups or economic sectors.

Chemical agents are man-made toxic substances that incapacitate, injure, or kill by affecting the skin, eyes, lungs, blood or nerves. They bring about blisters and burns, cause asphyxiation (suffocation) or paralyzes the central nervous system.

Chemical agents are weaponised by through the deliberate combination of two or more precursors. Technical know how brings about the desired reaction rate - explosion, combustion or corrosion.

Biological agents are pathogenic micro-organisms and or toxins used to cause death or injury to humans, plants or animals. They are easy to conceal and small doses can be highly effective.

Biological agents can be transmitted through direct contact with source bacteria, through aerosols and through vectors (carriers which transmit infections from one host to another).

Radioactive and Nuclear agents are often well protected. However, a number of medical and industrial machinery do contain moderate to high levels of radiation. The day to day control and disposal of these instruments are indispensable to health and safety.

In some parts of the world weaponised nuclear and radioactive agents are smuggled across state borders, much to the health risk of the handlers and those exposed.

Finally, explosive devices can be made from common household or industrial items. From garden fertilizer, petroleum jelly, sugar, acetone and hydrogen peroxide, these are products that customs officers see processed on a regular basis.

Interpol, in collaboration with the WCO, has put together a list of 14 CBRNe precursors under the Global Shield Programme along with their HS Codes and a listing of their common use.

The premise of Global Shield is that the import of these products, by manufacturing and service operations in order to carry out their legitimate, should be monitored by Customs and Excise. Once into the domestic space, chemical precursors especially those of an industrial nature, should be monitored for correct storage and use as declared.

The development and use of risk management tools will aid Customs agencies in recognizing trends and analyzing their implications. For more information visit: www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/enforcement-and-compliance/activities-and-programmes/programme-global-shield.aspx

This Machine Never Forgets a Face (Continued from pg.4)

and facial-recognition researcher at Iowa State University.

“It’s the idea that somebody’s watching you,” Mennecke says. Even if we’re used to giving out addresses, birth dates and other identifying information, many of us are not OK with the prospect of being identified by a stranger who, say, snaps our picture with a smartphone and, in seconds, connects to a database containing all kinds of personal information about us. Yet that is what Acquisti’s team did in a third experiment, when they were able to obtain valid Social Security numbers for students and online daters identified solely through facial recognition.

To overcome the creepiness barrier, Mennecke says, most businesses will only use facial recognition on people who explicitly opt in for it. But user opt-in may be interpreted loosely. For example, a smartphone app

called SceneTap, for bar hoppers, employs facial detection to determine the number, age and gender of patrons in nightspots in more than a dozen cities across the United States. People who have the free app use it to plan where to spend the evening.

Bars that use SceneTap are supposed to put stickers by the front door telling patrons they are being scanned. But how many think to check?

As businesses find ways to use facial recognition for marketing, the technology is expected to become nearly ubiquitous. And, as the CSI episode suggested, criminal investigations will be involved. Facial recognition is a central part of the Next Generation Identification (NGI) program that the FBI is rolling out on a multiyear plan. On the other side of the equation, laws restricting facial recognition are

also likely. Already in Europe, privacy regulations mean - Facebook can’t employ its tag-suggestion feature there.

To avoid similar U.S. limits, businesses will probably emphasize self-policing, like automatic scan deletion in face-detecting digital signage, and restrict real recognition to people who opt in to get loyalty points or other incentives.

Will facial recognition become so effective and commonplace that you won’t have to remember people’s names at parties, because your phone will do it for you? Maybe. But even face-detecting signs are relatively rare at this point, according to Intel’s Avalos. “It’s still the early days,” he says. “In fact, I’d say most of the industry doesn’t even know about the technology today.” But you — whoever you are — do.

Pictorial Highlights



CCLEC Class of 2014



Customs & Excise

of First Quarter



Day, 2014

Caribbean PMs seek reparations for slave trade

Leaders of Caribbean nations have unanimously adopted a broad plan on seeking reparations from European nations for the lingering ill-effects of the Atlantic slave trade.

A UK human rights law firm hired by the CARICOM group of nations said that prime ministers had authorised a ten-point plan that would seek a formal apology and debt cancellation from former colonial powers such as Britain, France and the Netherlands.

The decision came at a closed meeting in St. Vincent & the Grenadines. According to the Leigh Day law firm, the Caribbean Community also wants reparations to repair the persisting “psychological trauma” from the days of plantation slavery.

The community is also seeking assistance to boost the region’s technological know-how since the Caribbean was denied participation in Europe’s industrialisation and confined to producing and exporting raw materials such as sugar.

The plan further demands European aid in strengthening the region’s public health, educational and cultural institutions such as museums and research centres.

It is also pushing for the creation of a “repatriation programme”, including legal and diplomatic assistance from European governments, to potentially resettle members of the Rastafarian spiritual movement in Africa.

Repatriation to Africa has long been a central belief of Rastafari, a melding of Old Testament teachings and Pan-Africanism whose followers have long sought reparations.

The law firm’s Martyn Day called the plan a “fair set of demands on the governments whose countries grew rich at the expense of those regions whose human wealth was stolen from them”.

Mr. Day said a forthcoming meeting in London between Caribbean and European officials “will enable our clients to quickly gauge whether or not their concerns are being taken seriously”. It was not immediately clear when the meeting to seek a negotiated settlement would take place.

The idea of the countries that benefited from slavery paying some form of reparations has been a decades-long quest but only recently has it gained serious momentum in the Caribbean.

CARICOM announced last July it intended to seek reparations for slavery and the genocide

of native peoples and created the Caribbean Reparations Commission to push the issue.

It then hired Leigh Day, which waged a successful fight for an award compensation of £19.9 million for surviving Kenyans who were tortured by the British colonial government during the Mau Mau rebellion of the 1950s and 1960s.

The commission’s chairman, Hilary Beckles, an academic who has written several books on the history of Caribbean slavery, said he was “very pleased” the political leaders adopted the plan.

In 2007, then prime minister Tony Blair expressed regret for the “unbearable suffering” caused by the Britains role in slavery but made no formal apology. In 2010, then French president Nicolas Sarkozy also acknowledged the “wounds of colonisation”.

The Caribbean Reparations Commission has said that far more needed to be done for the descendants of slaves on struggling islands, saying it sees the “persistent racial victimisation of the descendants of slavery and genocide as the root cause of their suffering today”.

Trade facilitation workshop for Latin American and Caribbean countries

An UNCTAD workshop in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic from 3 to 7 March 2014 gathered senior government officials and the private sector to draft trade facilitation project proposals addressing technical assistance needs linked to implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. Participants were from the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua and Paraguay and included officials from ministries of trade, agriculture and health and customs.

The event followed on from a series of regional workshops UNCTAD conducted as part of its support to developing countries in the negotiations leading up to the agreement of the WTO Bali package last December.

With the Bali accord in place, donors and international organizations are now

expected to focus on how to assist developing and least developed countries to implement its various provisions.

In his opening speech, **Mr. Gregorio Lora Arias**, Counselor of the Director General of Customs in the Dominican Republic, said, “The WTO trade facilitation agreement will raise the competitiveness of our economies”.

For five days, 20 participants elaborated and drafted trade facilitation project proposals to address their technical assistance needs in areas such as test procedures, border agency cooperation, single window systems (enabling cross-border traders to submit regulatory documents at a single location or entity) and other risk management methods.

In addition, there was a technical visit to the Port of Haina under the auspices of the Dominican Customs Department.

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A special session with donor agencies also was held to examine how different development partners could be approached for technical assistance.

During the past two years, UNCTAD's Trade Facilitation Section has supported the drafting of national trade facilitation implementation plans in 30 developing and least developed countries and organized several regional training sessions on how to obtain technical and financial support for implementing actions required to ensure full compliance with the provisions of the WTO agreement. UNCTAD has more than 40 years of experience in the area of trade facilitation.

The Caribbean's Location is it's Future

by David Jessop

Courtesy: www.caribbean-council.org

Until relatively recently, almost all Caribbean economic thinking has been focused on the encouragement of investment onshore, with the emphasis on commodities, manufacturing, tourism, financial services and artisanal industries such as fisheries.

This has been, with some notable exceptions such as financial services, where immediate opportunity lay.

However, now that technology is changing rapidly, preference in trade is all but over, economic globalisation is a reality, and international trade is again growing after the setback of the 2007/8 global financial crisis, there is a pressing need to explore in a much broader way, leveraging the importance of the Caribbean's physical location. So much so that the promotion of future opportunity in the Caribbean may lie not in advertising what is onshore but, in the broadest sense, creating international awareness of the external market opportunities that arise from its strategic location.

It is an approach that recognises the limitations of the Caribbean's size, resource and geography, does not look back, accepts globalisation, and understands that there are practical limits to Caribbean notions of sovereignty. It pragmatically accepts that the Caribbean's future role is as a facilitator for others, whether they be tourists, overseas investors or, for example, those who see the islands as a location for a business related to another part of the world, rather than foremost as a national opportunity in a domestic economy.

This is a message that much of the region's private sector and particularly small Island governments have yet to embrace. It is not necessarily attractive. It implies that the Caribbean economy of the future has to be more strategic in its global thinking, less protectionist and defensive, and become skills and knowledge based. It also requires governments to focus relentlessly on education at tertiary and higher levels, and to build skills for tomorrow that will enhance the region's location at the maritime crossroads of the Americas.

It requires too a reversal in the way that most of us think about the Caribbean. It suggests looking outwards and a turn to face the sea. It argues for recognition that the largely unrealised potential that most Caribbean nations have to resolve their alarming economic problems lies in placing much greater emphasis on encouraging others into their physical location, or the seas that surround, in order to stimulate externally led future growth.

As is now well understood, the Caribbean commands access to the widened Panama Canal and is at a north-south, east-west intersection for international shipping. This offers the region multiple opportunities for the creation of transshipment ports linked to development zones for manufacturing, the assembly of finished items and other services for nations like China and Brazil, which are seeking new tariff-free ways to access markets in the Americas and Europe.

It is the Caribbean sea too that offers the potential to develop new ports and industries linked to the road and rail routes that may open up areas within Brazil and the Amazon Basin or help facilitate links across the Central American Isthmus to the Pacific; and which is the space that enables not just the regional and international movement of goods and services – legal and illegal – but also provides the access that brings the largest number of visitors to the region, the cruise ships.

It is also the seas that surround the island Caribbean that provides the sought after environment that encourages and enables tourism, tourism investment and tourism led growth. There is also, as this column has pointed out before, opportunity beneath the Caribbean Sea for others with advanced technologies to exploit.

Rapid progress in undersea technologies is facilitating a growing interest in moving gas and electricity between islands through pipelines and cabling in ways that may reduce energy costs for manufacturers and consumers in order to make the Caribbean more competitive in what it produces.

The technology to drill and recover oil and gas from huge depths now exists and potentially on or beneath the sea's bed there lies great wealth in the form of minerals and possibly rare earths.

All of which is to say nothing of fisheries which for the most part remain a small scale artisan occupation or the realm of nations that sometimes illegally operate within Caribbean nation's economic zones.

Despite this, there has been no holistic accounting or mapping of the economic and physical resource that exists within the Caribbean Basin's economic zones or that may exist in the seas beyond.

Accepting that the Caribbean is at a global crossroads is not something the region is well prepared for as it carries with it new responsibilities and costs. Encouraging greater use of the Caribbean Sea will require national, regional and international consideration as it touches issues that include physical security, policing, the environment, food and energy security, sovereignty, defence, sea level change and issues from maritime security to the environmental interdependence of Caribbean eco- systems. It also encompasses changing inter-regional and geopolitical relationships if recovery of offshore oil or gas were to occur in the three Guianas, the Bahamas or Cuba.

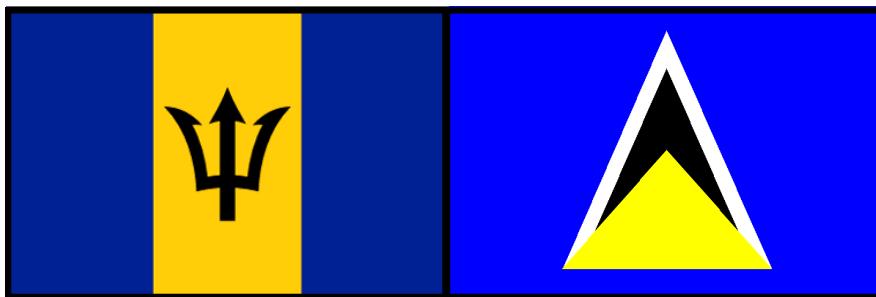
As the Caribbean struggles to find new ways to generate growth and greater consideration is given to making use of the seas, there is strong case for reorienting thinking to recognise that it is the region's location that represents its future.

A few days ago in Barbados, in a form of recognition of the growing importance of the Caribbean Sea, a conference took place on maritime security.

Understandably, much of the focus was on the actions required to stem the flow of narcotics and guns through the region and the implications of the rapidly changing economic significance of the Caribbean as a transit point for goods and as a location for sources of energy.

However, reading the remarks made by those who spoke, it is clear that their enemies, the narcotics traffickers, have been the quickest to fully appreciate and exploit the strategic and economic potential of the Caribbean region's location. It begs the question why it has taken so long for some Caribbean governments to do the same.

Barbados will not engage in 'trade war' with St Lucia



BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, April 23, 2014, CMC—Barbados says it will use the May 6-10 Council of Trade and Economic Development (COTED) to iron out a possible trade dispute with St. Lucia, International Business Minister, Donville Inniss, has said.

St. Lucia has announced the imposition of a 70 per cent tax on Barbadian goods effective May 1 and local authorities there must be open and frank discussions on the matter.

But Castries has in the past pointed to a 2012 CORED decision which allows for Caribbean Community (CARICOM) lesser developed countries (LDC) to implement the duty on products from the region's more developed countries.

Barbados has not issued an official complaint on the matter but Inniss

maintained that his government will not allow the situation to escalate into a trade war.

“The approach we’ve taken is to engage in quiet diplomacy and dialogue with our colleagues in St. Lucia around this particular issue of their decision, to exercise their right under article 164 of the Treaty of Chaguaramus, to adjust the rates of duties on these items upwards.

“We have pretty much gathered what statistical information we needed to gather at my ministry’s that end and we’ve had early talks with the ministry of foreign trade around the matter. What I do not wish to see happen is any all out trade war going between Barbados and St. Lucia or Barbados and our friends in the OECS. I firmly believe that these matters can be resolved in large measure by having frank talks with each other across the oceans,” he added.

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Inniss said that the Freundel Stuart government will raise the issue at the upcoming COTED meeting scheduled for Guyana next month.

“I expect that there will be a sizable delegation from Barbados going to that meeting at which these issues will be formally discussed.”

“But prior to the meeting, we are not waiting to on the meeting in Guyana, prior to the meeting there are meetings going on internally with the private sector who are affected as well as with the officials between St. Lucia and Barbados.

“Now remember that today is St. Lucia we don’t know who else it will be tomorrow, I wish to ensure that we are able to nip these issues in the bud by having conversations with one another initially and let’s hope that that works well for us,” Inniss said.

The idea of Barbados con’t from page 3

the Grenadines, display such qualities; Barbados seems to have them to an extraordinary degree.

There is an undoubted Barbadian sensibility that informs or shapes the individual and collective responses of the Barbadian people. Many other Caribbean nationals perceive this, quite wrongly, as a sense of “Bajan superiority”. It is not that; it is an attribute of quiet assurance, a manifestation of the virtue of self-mastery. That is the well-spring of a civil, and civilized, people steeped in progressive values, but on the bedrock of core values lodged in the social consciousness.

More than any other Caribbean nationals, they appreciate that a progressive society is not built on leisure, pleasure and nice time, but on hard, smart, productive effort. All this is part of the idea of Barbados.

I have observed that, generally speaking, the best and brightest of Barbados enter its Public Service whether in the Civil Service, the teaching service, the judiciary or politics. At the leadership levels Barbados has been blessed by brilliant and grounded personalities such as Grantley Adams, Errol Barrow, Tom Adams, Bernard St John, Henry Forde, Richie Haynes, Erskine Sandiford, Owen Arthur, David Thompson, Freundel Stuart and Mia Mottley. Surely, this constellation constitutes and abundance of riches over a 60-year period.

Of this galaxy, I am of the considered opinion that Errol Barrow is the greatest leader that our CARICOM region has thrown up since universal adult suffrage. In national and regional impact and influence, Barrow

compares with Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore. This high quality leadership over a sustained period is a manifestation, and a buttress, of the idea of Barbados.

In the complex and competitive modern global circumstances, the nurturing of continued quality leadership is an awesome challenge for Barbados. The idea of Barbados is in danger of being undermined if the political system fails to renew and replenish, on an ongoing basis, its leadership stock from the best and brightest of Barbados.

I am satisfied that the “idea of Barbados” in tandem with a mature regionalism in

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Humour - All in a day's work

World Cup Fever



A man had great tickets for the World Cup Final. As he sits down, another man comes down and asks if anyone is sitting in the empty seat next to him. "No," he says. "The seat is empty."

"This is incredible!" says the other man. "Who in their right mind would have a seat like this for the World Cup Final, the biggest sporting event, and not use it?"

"Well, actually, the seat belongs to me. My wife was supposed to come with me, but she passed away. This is the first World Cup we haven't been to together since we got married."

"Oh ... I'm sorry to hear that. That's terrible. But couldn't you find someone else, a friend or relative, or even a neighbour to take the seat?"

The man shakes his head. "No. They're all at the funeral."

Space Trivia



A ship got its bottom ripped at sea and was taking in much water. So the Captain evacuated the ship until he and three of his crew were the only persons left and a lifeboat . One of the crew was a Trini, one a Bajan, and the third a Jamaican.

Knowing the lifeboat could only take three persons, the captain decided that he and two crewmates will be saved.

So he decided to ask some questions and the first one who was wrong would have to swim.

"Trini, what was the greatest disaster at sea? - The sinking of the Titanic. Came the response - "Correct!"

"Bajan, how many people were on board?" - 2800 people came the response. "Correct."

"Yardie, name them!"

See and Blind

A bank robber, holding up a bank in Charlestown, pulled out a gun and shouted: "Everybody lie dung on de grung or ah shoot you."

When everyone had complied, he then prompted the tellers to fill his bag with money.

When they were finished, the robber said to one man on ground: "Hey you! You see a robbery here today?"

"Yes! Ah see every ting" came the response. So he shot the man dead and turned to the man lying beside him.

"Hey you! Yousee a robbery here today?"

"No Sah!" came the reply, "I don't see nutt'n but ask me wife, she does see ebery ting."

Fun at Customs - Crossword

E S H A Q U A N A J T V A D N A H S E L
 R C A F E T Y A E S T T I K T S H I G O
 A H E N O T R I S N E L T R E B I V B F
 S A T Z E N A V L A Y J U O A N E H A Z
 F R O A E H T R K C E I F O N T Y E L Y
 G L T E R S L E E N D E D R I E V A I N
 P E A O J D V J E E R A R M U S T O L U
 N A R J A E C L S G O E Z E N V A G A J
 O E R U N D R N T A H M T X A O J R M P
 N T E C N A T I A P X O F R V A T H A E
 A P S A H H E K O C R E A D A I T P E D
 Z T T C Y A P T V I I H V E J E R V I E
 I K N R O N S T S V C N W Z D A L V A N
 R J O N A I K F H A L D O I G Y J E R G
 E N M E R T O N E N I P I T J O A N N E
 H U R H T R Y A N E F R J R B M O N T N
 S T C G D L V J E Z T G A I C I N U J E
 B S K E R S H A G H O R V E Y K H O X V
 O S U M S A R E O T N A G Y S H E R Z I
 W E S R T U G F R E P T R I S H N E L S

MONTSERRAT
 JERVIAN
 ORISFORD
 DEDRIE
 LILAMAE
NEVIS
 CLIFTON
 THYRON
 CHRISTOPHER
 SHAQUAN
ST. KITTS
 JOANNE
 IAN
 ALVANEZ
 THEA
 NAJAE
 KENYA
 KIMOY
 DJAVAN
 KERSHA
 CHARLENE
 LE SHANDA
 JUNICIA
 TRISHNEL
 VIBERT
 ERASMUS
 SHERIZAN
 TONICA

The idea of Barbados con't from page 10

CARICOM is the vehicle through which Barbados will successfully meet its current and prospective economic challenges. The idea of Barbados is a shared experience of Barbadians; it belongs to them. However, this shared experience must become a conscious expression and a fully articulated language for action.

It is the frame of reference for continuity and change, orderly governance and profound alterations in the political

economy to accommodate the circumstances at hand. The maturing regional matrices and an alive internationalism provide the context, space, and nexus for the full flowering of the "idea of Barbados".

The query for Barbados is this: can the socio-economic model initiated by Errol Barrow, perfected by subsequent governments, and which came to maturation under Owen Arthur, be sustained in a period of prolonged global economic slowdown and continued economic uncertainty? If the

answer is "Yes", a temporizing wait-and-see attitude or approach may be in order. If the answer is "No", alterations and adaptations appropriate to the condition are clearly necessary and desirable.

In St Vincent and the Grenadines, and I suspect in Barbados, a temporizing or wait-and-see is out of the question.

Read more at: <http://www.barbadostoday.bb/2014/04/03/the-idea-of-barbados/>



April

- 3 - Denicia Jeffers
- 9 - Nigel Claxton
- 10 - Petrona Thomas
- 12 - Darren Caines
- 14 - Kelman Matthew
- 15 - Ernesto Thomas
- 16 - Mildred Martin
- 21 - Calvin Powell
- 21 - Amal Pemberton
- 21 - Otis French
- 23 - Nadrine Daniel
- 23 - Khirmack Browne
- 24 - Cephus Whittaker
- 26 - Mervyn Woodley
- 27 - Aaron Parris
- 29 - Calvin Mitchum

May

- 5 - Trishnel Warner
- 5 - Kennefer Caines
- 6 - Ivor Wrensford
- 10 - Jabari Trotman
- 12 - Donna De Silva
- 12 - Lazarno James
- 14 - Derrick Fyfield
- 14 - Vonrick Morton
- 16 - Nakita Henry

May

- 19 - Oswald Patrick
- 20 - Desroy Daniel
- 20 - Curtly Mills
- 20 - Ferris Charles
- 20 - Laurecia Williams
- 23 - Kennedy De Silva
- 24 - Ozbert Fance
- 29 - Tavo Sargeant

June

- 1 - Joshura Taylor
- 2 - Jamalje Muzine
- 4 - Clement Duporte
- 4 - Shacquille Edwards
- 4 - Samuel Rhyner
- 6 - Junie Jones
- 8 - Joanne Eddy
- 12 - Cliburn Jeffers
- 14 - Fostina Archibald
- 14 - Cedona Johnson
- 17 - Vanda Martin
- 17 - Nashorn Maynard
- 24 - Glenville Woodley
- 26 - Felix Antuan
- 26 - La Jaune O'Garro
- 28 - Safiya Crossman
- 28 - Roniesia Gumbs