At the recently concluded 104th Session of the ILC, the Conference adopted a new, historic labour standard, Recommendation No. 204 concerning the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy on 12 June 2015. This is the first international labour standard specifically aimed at tackling the informal economy. The Recommendation, which contains 12 guiding principles based on successful country initiatives, good practices and experiences, is expected to help hundreds of millions of workers move into the formal economy.

Held in Geneva on 1-13 June, the ILC brought together nearly 4,500 delegates from 169 ILO member States, including 160 ministers.

Broad agreement was reached on the importance of SMEs in achieving decent and productive employment, and that the ILO should maintain its current portfolio of interventions focusing on: entrepreneurship development and access to finance; an enabling environment for enterprise development; improvement of productivity and working conditions; value chain development; and promotion of cooperative enterprises.

The ILC’s Committee for the Recurrent Discussion on Social Protection (Labour Protection) identified key ILO priorities for action such as: ratification and effective implementation of international labour standards; knowledge building; technical cooperation; capacity building; monitoring and impact evaluation; and the exchange of good practices.

The future of work centenary initiative was also discussed at the Conference. This initiative will focus on four major areas: work and society; decent jobs for all; the organization of work and production; and the governance of work. ILO Director-General, Mr Guy Ryder is of the view that this initiative will link up with important international processes such as the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the follow-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Paris from 30 November-11 December 2015.

Other important events which took place at the ILC were the admission of the Cook Islands as the ILO’s 186th member State, and Niger became the first country to ratify the 2014 ILO Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention 1930 (No. 29). The World of Work Summit, examined the implications of climate change for workers, enterprises and communities The Summit was addressed by the President of France, François Hollande; the President of Panama, Juan Carlos Varela; and Kailash Satyarthi, 2014 Nobel Peace Prize co-Laureate and President of the Global March against Child Labour. In a video message recorded for the Summit, award-winning musician, Pharrell Williams, called on governments, employers and workers to ensure that green, decent jobs are at the top of the agenda at the Climate Change Conference in December.
The Bahamas: The Hon. D. Shane Gibson, M.P., J.P., Minister of Labour and National Insurance and Minister of the Public Service, expressed thanks to Mr Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General, for his visit to the Bahamas in March 2015 to attend the 9th ILO Caribbean Ministers of Labour Meeting. During his visit, the DG witnessed the signing of the National Tripartite Council Act 2014 by Her Excellency Dame Margaret Pindling, Governor General of the Bahamas. Minister Gibson reported that this Act came into force on 19 April 2015, with the first official meeting of the National Tripartite Council held on 1 June 2015. The Minister further informed the Conference that the Bahamas was the first country in the region to pass the disabilities legislation, namely the “Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities) Act”, in July 2014. Minister Gibson also announced that the Inter-American Development Bank, in conjunction with the Government of the Bahamas have committed $20m towards training and capacity building programmes to reduce youth unemployment. He stated that his country is actively participating in the regional initiative to accelerate the rate of elimination of child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Barbados: Senator Dr the Hon. Esther Byer-Suckoo, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Human Resource Development, reported to the 104th Session of the ILC, that Barbados has set itself the goal of becoming the most environmentally advanced green country in Latin America and the Caribbean. According to the Minister “the implementation of renewable energy solutions offers Barbados an opportunity to restructure the economy. This in turn will support the creation of job opportunities and economic expansion in areas which did not exist before. For us this is the future of work and is in line with the post-2015 development agenda.” Having already taken steps towards boosting the renewable energy sector, Minister Byer-Suckoo expressed the Government’s interest in receiving technical support from the ILO to develop a Green Jobs Programme in Barbados, which would be the first in the Caribbean sub-region. Furthermore, the Minister highlighted that “Barbados is on record as stating to the Caribbean Community, that it is willing to assist other Small Island Developing States in advancing their Green Economies.”

Jamaica: The Hon. Derrick Kellier, C.D., M.P., Minister of Labour and Social Security, renewed the country’s commitment to the fundamental principles of the ILO and the Decent Work Agenda. Minister Kellier reported that despite the economic challenges faced by Jamaica in recent times, the country had made significant gains in moving to stabilize the economy and promote sustainable growth and development. The importance of labour and employment has been fully reflected in Jamaica’s strategies and policies, such as the launch of a Labour Market Reform Commission in April 2015, which will be responsible for making recommendations on modernizing Jamaica’s labour market.

Minister Kellier also highlighted the collaboration between the Ministry and the ILO to provide skills training workshops in the St James area, to stimulate growth in Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs). In Jamaica the informal sector is responsible for over 50% of GDP; therefore the aim of this pilot project is to formalize the informal economy to provide greater social protection. The intention is to replicate this project across other areas of the country, using the practical experiences and valuable lessons learned from the initial pilot.

Jamaica is seeking to address youth unemployment by aligning its efforts with the ILO’s global intervention framework of the Work4Youth global project. Minister Kellier stated that the Ministry of Labour and Social Security had devised a Social Intervention Programme (SIP) for promoting decent work and employability for young people through training, apprenticeship and entrepreneurship in micro, small and medium size enterprises. He requested further support from the ILO in dealing with high levels of youth unemployment in the form of training and greater technical assistance. He further informed the Conference that Jamaica is committed to ratifying the landmark Domestic Workers Convention (No. 189) with a review of the current legislative framework underway, to ensure Jamaica’s alignment with the Convention.

Other Delegations:

Other Caribbean States/territories in attendance at the 104th Session of the ILC were Saint Kitts and Nevis, Curacao and Sint Maarten.
Suriname: The Hon. Michael Miskin, Minister of Labour, Technological Development and Environment, Suriname, reported that the Minimum Wage Act, National Pension Benefits Act and National Health Insurance Act have all been put into effect since the last ILC. These acts provide a social protection floor for all workers and regulate the informal economy. The Minister informed the Conference that the implementation of Suriname’s Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP), signed on 5 January 2015, had already commenced with a tripartite workshop on the Creation of an Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises and the formation of a committee to monitor progress. Suriname, with assistance from the ILO, will undertake further activities outlined in the DWCP including: the modernization of labour legislation; the strengthening of the execution capacity of the Labour Inspectorate; the improvement of data collection systems in order to keep labour market data up-to-date; labour market surveys to identify the informal sector in order to transform these sources of economic activity to the formal sector; and the strengthening of social dialogue. In addition, Suriname has committed to ratification of three remaining core ILO conventions: Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138); Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100); and Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111).

Trinidad and Tobago: Ms Cecilia Greaves-Smith, Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development, Trinidad and Tobago, reiterated the country’s commitment to the promotion of the ILO’s Decent Work Agenda (DWA). With support from the ILO, Trinidad and Tobago has been working to achieve the strategic objectives of the DWA including activities such as the: development of a draft Green Enterprises Development Policy for MSEs and cooperatives; establishment of a Social Dialogue Task Force; proposed amendments to labour legislation; revision and implementation of the HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy; development of a Labour Migration Policy; strengthening labour administration systems to improve levels of social protection; and implementation of an MSE policy aimed at creating quality jobs and sustainable enterprises. Ms Greaves-Smith reaffirmed Trinidad and Tobago’s “support for the efforts of the ILO in seeking to place labour as one of the central planks” of the sustainable development goals in the post-2015 development agenda. She urged that once the agenda is adopted, the ILO and all its constituents “must seize this window of opportunity and work assiduously to advance the labour dimension of development policy.” Trinidad and Tobago welcomed the inclusion of discussions on the impact of climate change on labour markets at the 104th ILC, as this non-traditional labour issue (discussed at this year’s World of Work Summit), is increasingly affecting the economies of Caribbean Small Island Developing States. Continued support for the ILO’s Regional Initiative: Latin America and the Caribbean free of Child Labour was also expressed.

For more information on the ILC please visit: www.ilo.org/ilc
Brussels Study Tour launches CEC and CCL activities under ILO-EU Project

As part of a Project funded by the European Union1 representatives from the Caribbean regional employers’ and workers’ organizations met with officials from the European Economic and Social Council, the over-arching body of social partners in the European Union (EU), as part of a study tour to Brussels which took place from 26-28 May 2015, to gain insights into good practice on effective social dialogue. The group comprised members of the respective executive boards of the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) and the Caribbean Employers’ Confederation (CEC) as well as ILO senior specialists Ms Anne Knowles and Ms Paula Robinson.

Members of the executive boards of the CEC and CCL met with their respective counterparts in Business Europe and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), to ascertain strategies and methods of achieving an effective voice on a regional platform. At the national level the employers’ group visited the Federation of Belgian Employers and CCL representatives met with the three major Belgian trade union centres and discussed how best to formulate national policy and open avenues for collaboration at a regional level. In this regard, Mr David Massiah, CCL President, remarked: “The opportunity to observe and experience the workings of social dialogue in another jurisdiction will surely go a long way in encouraging the Caribbean social partners to support and promote an effective social dialogue system in our region. The CCL is very confident that these engagements with the social partners organizations in Brussels will surely help to deepen and strengthen the regional integration movement.”

The Project aims to strengthen the capacity of CEC and CCL so that they can make substantive contributions to regional economic and social policymaking as well as fulfil their obligations with respect to the Economic Partnership Agreement. One area of focus necessary for the successful implementation of the project will be the establishment of a regional social dialogue mechanism at the level of CARICOM as well as deepening national social dialogue processes. Indeed this will entail not only collaboration between the social partners but will necessitate the strong support of Governments.

“CEC sees this study tour as an important step in building our capacity and expertise to create effective social dialogue, improve policymaking, and deepen cooperation and integration within our region. Our European partners have been working at this for decades and we will be using this opportunity to benefit from their experience.” stated Mr Wayne Chen, CEC President.

Caribbean employers’ and workers’ representatives also met representatives of the European Commission’s International Cooperation and Development Department (DEVCO), and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) during the study tour.

1 The Project funded by the European Union is entitled: “Challenges to CARIFORUM Labour, Private Sector and Employers to fulﬁll their Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Obligations: Caribbean Employers’ Confederation and the Caribbean Congress of Labour Component of the Support to Facilitate Participation of CARIFORUM Civil Society in Regional Development and Integration Process.”

CEC and CCL sign MOU on legislative agenda

While in Belgium on a visit to study social dialogue mechanisms in the European Union and obtain first-hand information on their operation from the European social partners, the CEC and CCL study group also visited the ILO Office Brussels. During this visit they used the opportunity to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on collaboration to work together on a legislative agenda which addresses concerns expressed and related to the implementation of an integrated regional market economy as envisaged in the CSME.

CEC and CCL have agreed to identify areas where common legislative and regulatory principles, having regional application, are essential. The MOU sets out a common agenda which includes the formulation in legislation principles facilitating the operation of business and the free movement of labour within the CARICOM space.

The two regional organizations have also agreed to uphold and advocate for the principles enshrined in ILO Fundamental Conventions addressing the elimination of child labour, forced labour, discrimination, and the right to freedom of association and to bargain collectively.

Witnessing the signing of the MOU, Ms Claire Courtelle, Director, ILO Office for the European Union and Benelux countries, said “Social partners have a key role to play in strengthening regional integration processes and it is just great to see that in the Caribbean workers’ and employers’ organizations are committed to working together on issues of utmost importance for the future of the region. This could set an example for other parts of the world.”
Jamaica launches Labour Market Reform Commission

Over the last three decades, there have been ongoing discussions on the need for labour market reform in Jamaica. Comprehensive reform has become necessary to stimulate employment and prepare the labour market for today’s challenges. A labour market reform was also a condition of a recent agreement between the Government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for an Extended Fund Facility.

After extensive consultations with the social partners and civil society groups about priorities and further steps, the Government established a Labour Market Reform Commission. This is a tripartite plus forum, which consists of a chairperson, 18 members from four different ministries (Labour and Social Security; Industry, Investment and Commerce; Education; and Finance and Planning), the private sector, trade unions and academia. Of these, four members are women and one a Youth representative.

Minister of Labour and Social Security, the Hon. Derrick Kellier, asked the members to aid the Government in advancing social and economic reforms and the growth agenda. He instructed the new Commission to focus on five key thematic areas which had been identified previously in consultations with the social partners and civil society: Education and Training; Productivity, Technology and Innovation; Labour Policies and Legislation; Social Protection; Industrial Relations (institutions, customs and practices). He urged the members to become change agents, and pointed out that the Commission was given two years to conclude its work and deliver a final report to the Government.

Mr Rainer Pritzer, Senior Specialist for Social Dialogue and Labour Administration, represented the ILO Office for the Caribbean at the launch of the Labour Market Reform Commission in Kingston, Jamaica on 15 April 2015. During the opening ceremony, Mr Pritzer referred to past and ongoing ILO assistance to Jamaica and clarified the Decent Work Agenda and the need for coherent policy-making, in which the new Labour Market Reform Commission could play a vital part.


The five United Nations Country Teams (UNCT) covered by the ILO Office for the Caribbean have embarked on the development of a joint Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDF). The UN MSDF will cover Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and OECS countries.

Ms Dagmar Walter, Officer-in-Charge, ILO Office for the Caribbean, attended a UN MSDF roll-out Workshop for Caribbean UNCT members held in Barbados on 26-28 May 2015. The aim of the UN MSDF is to sharpen the UN’s national and regional assistance in the Caribbean, making it ‘fit for purpose’ in the post-2015 Development Agenda.

A Common Multi-Country Assessment is being undertaken, building on work that had already been completed with the countries with respect to the SIDS Conference in 2014 as well as consultations for the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. The Assessment will guide the prioritization of outcomes and provide the grounds for stakeholder consultations at national level, where national implementation plans will be jointly developed.

It is the aim to have the UN MSDF completed by the end of March 2016. The priority for the ILO is to contribute to the Common Multi-Country Assessment and to make sure that constituents can take part in the national consultations. This process does not take away from the ILO’s Decent Work Country Programmes or direct engagement and planning with its constituents. It allows for further opportunities to address coherently the constituents’ needs, building on joint UN responses where identified.
Caribbean Employers’ Organizations hold Forum to develop policy positions

Thirty two representatives from 19 Employers’ Organizations from the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean participated in a regional Forum entitled “Facilitating Participation of CARIFORUM Civil Society in Regional Development and Integration Processes”. The Forum was held at the Accra Beach Resort in Barbados, 22-24 June 2015.

The activity was part of the European Union (EU)-funded Project, supported by the International Labour Organization (ILO). The objective of the three-year programme is to strengthen the capacity of the Caribbean Employers’ Confederation (CEC) to play a greater role in regional policy making, and to ensure CEC can effectively lobby advocacy strategies on behalf of its members – Employers’ Organisations at the national level.

At the opening the Minister of Labour, Social Security and Human Resource Development for Barbados; Sen. Dr. the Hon. Dr. Esther Byer-Suckoo summed up the meeting by saying “The mood of the forum was positive and optimistic. But more importantly, the firm commitment by the national organizations to doing the hard and sustained work augurs well for employers having a more influential voice in our region’s integration and development.”

For more information on this event please visit: www.iolo.org/caribbean/events-and-meetings/WCMS_377040

Training of tripartite constituents by ILO Research Department

Representatives from three Employers’ Organisations in the Caribbean subregion were selected to participate in the Internship Course on Labour and Social Policies for Decent Work (organized biennially in English), by the ILO’s Research Department on 21-29 May 2015 in Geneva. Mr Igmar Reyes, Executive Director, Aruba Trade and Industry Association; Mr Calvin Husbands, Labour Management Advisor, Barbados Employers’ Confederation; and Ms Leontiena Jones, Industrial Relations Officer, Employers’ Consultative Association of Trinidad and Tobago all took part in the nine-day programme.

In addition to an introduction to the ILO, its organs, programmes and functioning, the course dealt with economic and social policies to promote decent and productive work for women and men in a global economy. The course also stimulated a cross-national exchange of views and experiences among ILO constituents as regards policies and lessons learned with respect to the ILO’s work on the global financial and economic crisis.

Ms Anne Knowles, ILO Senior Specialist, Employers’ Activities, said, “it is very pleasing that three representatives were selected from the Caribbean given that the course was open to only eight representatives from English-speaking Employers’ Organisations internationally. It demonstrates the potential that exists within Employers’ Organisations in the region to produce future leaders as well as ensuring that international matters are better understood and are thus able to be incorporated into programmes of assistance to enterprises at the national level.”
Caribbean Employers’ Confederation holds Annual General Meeting

The Caribbean Employers’ Confederation (CEC) held its 55th Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, 23 June 2015 at the Accra Beach Hotel, Barbados.

The work of the organization during the period May 2014 to May 2015 was reviewed by the President, Mr. Wayne Chen. Continued emphasis was placed on the strengthening of the working relationships with the International Labour Organization (ILO) at the international and subregional levels, the International Organization of Employers (IOE), and other regional and international organizations.

The CEC continues to build on its relationship with the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) as it seeks the wider involvement of the two groups in the workings of CARICOM. A major achievement in this area in the review period has been the finalizing of a project funded by the European Union to strengthen the capacity of both organisations to undertake this role.

“The promotion of Social Dialogue in the wider membership continues to be a strong focus of the work of the CEC, in conjunction with the ILO. These efforts will continue as we seek to reap the benefits of this collaborative approach to taking the development of the Caribbean region forward.” he said.

The meeting also addressed the challenges faced by the member organizations to strengthen their structures to ensure they remain viable, responsive and relevant in the rapidly changing business environment and to heighten their role in advocacy on key business issues for the benefit of the wider community; these matters were given specific attention during the just concluded Employers’ Organizations Forum.

The Board of Directors for the 2015-2017 term is headed by Mr. Wayne Chen, a Past President of the Jamaica Employers’ Federation (JEF). He is supported by:

• Mr Ferdinand Welzijn, 1st Vice President, (President, Suriname Trade & Industries Association (VSB));
• Mr Vern Gill, 2nd Vice President (President, Saint Lucia Employers’ Federation);
• Mr Francis Emmanuel, Director (Trustee, Dominica Employers’ Federation);
• Mr Raymond Eytle, Director (Director, Jamaica Employers’ Federation);
• Ms Joyce Martin, Director (Executive Secretary, Antigua and Barbuda Employers’ Federation);
• Mr Ruben McSween, Director (Board Member, Employers’ Consultative Association, Trinidad and Tobago);
• Mr Tony Walcott, Director (Executive Director, Barbados Employers’ Confederation); and
• Ms Linda Besson, Executive Secretary/Treasurer (Former Executive Director, Employers’ Consultative Association of Trinidad and Tobago).

ILO continues work on formalization of the informal economy in Jamaica by introducing cooperative concepts

The ILO conducted a technical Workshop on cooperatives on 17-19 June 2015, in Montego Bay, as a means of contributing to the formalization of the informal economy in Jamaica. Many of the participants had been beneficiaries of previous training on enterprise skills development which introduced elements of how to start and improve a business for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This latest Workshop introduced participants to cooperative tools and cooperative management. It is expected that by using the cooperative model, participants can operate businesses which will create jobs for themselves and others, in particular the marginalized youths and women of the communities of Granville and Garlands/Horseguard in the Parish of St. James, where the ILO’s pilot Project is currently focused.

Twenty participants were in attendance, ranging from 24–60 years of age, and operating SMEs in areas such as farming, carpentry, taxi operators, mechanics, craft producers and barbers.

Areas covered during the Workshop included:

• The ILO and cooperatives;
• The cooperative principles;
• Rules governing cooperatives;
• Cooperatives in Jamaica;
• Cooperatives as a business, comparison with other forms of business;
• Business idea and business planning;
• Marketing the cooperative business;
• Financial planning for cooperatives; and
• Legal and regulatory aspects of cooperatives.

Many of the participants expressed appreciation for the information received and for the cooperative concept, principles and practices taught. They conveyed that on completion of the training they would approach the Department of Cooperatives and Friendly Societies in Jamaica for further assistance in forming their own cooperatives.
There are at least 27 million youth in Latin America and the Caribbean who work in conditions of informality. “Youth unemployment is very high in the region, but it’s just the tip of the iceberg that hides the wider problem of a lack of opportunities for those who are just starting their productive lives,” said Elizabeth Tinoco, ILO Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Over the period 20-24 April, the ILO Regional Office in Lima, Peru, hosted a regional Meeting on “Youth Employment and Informality – What Works for Youths”. The meeting brought together representatives of governments, employers and workers from the region to discuss policies to address the problem of informality and youth employment. ILO experts from Africa and Asia also attended. The ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean was represented by Mr. Kelvin Sergeant, Specialist for Sustainable Enterprise Development and Job Creation.

In a report prepared for the Meeting, it was noted that six out of 10 jobs available to young people are in the informal economy. In general, these jobs are of poor quality, low productivity and offer low wages, therefore youth are lacking stability, career prospects and social protection.

Most of these informal jobs for youth are generated in the informal economy, very often in small and micro enterprises that are not part of the formal economy. But informal conditions also affect 32 per cent of young workers in formal enterprises.

In Latin America and the Caribbean there are also more than 20 million young people who are not in education, employment or training.

Informality refers to economic activities that operate outside of the formal reach of the law or those that, while operating within the formal reach of the law, are not subject to application or enforcement of the law in practice. The informal economy also results from laws which discourage compliance because they are inappropriate, burdensome or impose excessive costs, according to the ILO.

More specifically, in the case of the Caribbean, in some countries, the informal sector is above 50 per cent.

The report of the meeting highlighted three areas in which labour informality in the region can be addressed:

- Measures and incentives to create the conditions for the development of formal jobs, including subsidies for business development and programmes to expand youth employment and promote skills;
- Initiatives aimed at formalizing informal jobs and work units, including regularization schemes, labour inspection, and support to the formalisation of micro enterprises with low productivity; and
- Strategies to expand the coverage of social protection to informal workers, such as unemployment benefits, health insurance and maternity protection.

For further information please visit: www.ilo.org/global/docs/WCMS_245916/

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**Meeting labour market demands through education and training**

The Second International Conference on Higher Education and Training was hosted by the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT), 15-17 April 2015, at the Hyatt Regency, Port of Spain, Trinidad. The Conference provided a forum for higher education students, academic staff, administrators, quality assurance professionals, government officials, industry specialists and members of the public to share international best practices, present research findings, and review recent developments impacting higher education.

In a session themed “Meeting the Labour Market Demands: Increasing Relevance in Education and Training”, Ms Kanae Tada, Junior Professional Officer, Skills Training, Employment and Labour Market Policies, ILO Office for the Caribbean, delivered a presentation on work-based learning programmes for young people in the Caribbean. Ms Tada introduced a study that she is conducting, on work-based learning and its effectiveness in the transition to employment for young people, across nine Caribbean countries.

Ms Tada explained how work-based learning programmes such as internships, apprenticeships and on-the-job training programmes can mitigate youth employment. She further highlighted the design and methodology of her research.
ILO leads sustainability discussion at the Forum on the Future of the Caribbean

The “Forum on the Future of the Caribbean” was held on 5-7 May 2015 in Trinidad. The ILO was one of several partners, including the University of the West Indies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), that collaborated to host the 3-day event.

The Forum brought together political leaders, academia, private sector leaders, young shapers, civil society and policymakers to engage in discussions on new approaches to Caribbean development challenges under the theme of: “Disruptive Thinking. Bold Action. Practical Outcomes”.

In her keynote address Ms Amina J. Mohammed, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary General on Post-2015 Development Planning, spoke on the topic “The Caribbean in Post-2015 Development Planning”. She stated, “This year offers a unique opportunity for global leaders and people to set the world on the path to a universal, transformative and integrated agenda that leaves no one behind. Never before has the world had the unique opportunity to address such a complex agenda in a single year”. In concluding, Ms. Mohammed said, “It is of vital importance that the special challenges in the Caribbean and the specific proposals to address them are reflected in discussions and included in the new agenda.”

Mr Giovanni Di Cola, Special Advisor of the Multilateral Cooperation Department, ILO Geneva, moderated a session on "Taking Action for Sustainable Outcomes: Pillars for Sustainability". The panel discussion included contributions from Dr. Didacus Jules, Director-General of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS); Professor Patricia Mohammed, Professor of Gender and Cultural Studies and Head of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, University of the West Indies; the Hon. Alexander Yanez, Vice Minister for Latin America and the Caribbean, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; and Mr Luis Alejandro Sauce Navarro, Petrocaribe Main Advisor. The Hon. Clarice Modeste, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Grenada, also participated at the invitation of the Hon. Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

During his intervention, Mr di Cola reiterated that “Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) have paved the way for national priorities to be connected with global priorities”. He highlighted that existing strategic plans from ACS, OECS and CARICOM all contain clear references to the Samoa Pathway (the outcome document from The Third International UN Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Samoa, September 2014), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) debate, and financing for development.

A paper entitled “Caribbean Convergence” written by Mr David C. Anyanwu was prepared for the Forum, following extensive consultation with Minister Winston Dookeran and in collaboration with Mr Giovanni di Cola. The paper is available on the Forum website.

Discussions continue online: www.caribbeanfutureforum.com

Labour Diplomacy course

Professor W. Andy Knight, Director of The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean announced a new module in Labour Diplomacy in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), to enable greater engagement of social partners in political processes. The module will run from 14-18 September 2015 at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. For more information please contact the Academy via email at: DiplomaticAcademy@sta.uwi.edu or visit: www.sta.uwi.edu/iir/academy.asp

Update on INDEPENDENT EVALUATION

ILO’s Decent Work Country Programmes, strategies and actions in the Caribbean (2010-15)

Following the article in the Jan-Mar 2015 issue of ILO Caribbean Newslink on the Independent Evaluation, the desk and field reviews have now been completed. The evaluation team visited Barbados, Guyana, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, a number of interviews were conducted with stakeholders via Skype. A follow-up survey, equally important for the evaluation results, has been transmitted electronically. At this point the evaluation report is being drafted. The Office and evaluation team wish to thank the constituents and partners for their participation in this engaging phase of the evaluation and appreciate the time spent and insights offered.

For more information, please visit: www.ilo.org/caribbean
Caribbean countries join in building a culture of prevention on occupational safety and health (OSH)

Events were held around the Caribbean to mark the annual World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 28 April, amidst renewed efforts by the ILO to emphasize that “Building a culture of prevention on OSH” requires the commitment of key stakeholders. This year, some countries celebrated a National Safety Week (Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago) while others had one-off activities. The following is a synopsis of some of the activities that took place.

**Antigua and Barbuda**

The Ministry of National Security and Labour hosted an OSH Conference in commemoration of the ILO’s World Day for Safety and Health at Work.

**Barbados**

Barbados Light and Power Company (BL&P) hosted an OSH Seminar, during which representatives from BL&P, Massy Stores, the Barbados Employers’ Confederation (BEC), Sol Group, and the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Human Resource Development, shared experiences, plans and systems they have put in place to address issues surrounding occupational safety and health. During her address, Minister of Labour, Dr. the Hon. Esther Byer-Suckoo expressed concern about “a culture of recklessness” which she sees taking root in Barbados. The Seminar provided the opportunity for participants to share how safety was being administered within their organizations.

**Dominica**

The Dominica Employers’ Federation (DEF) formally launched the island’s first OSH Institute on Tuesday 28 April 2015, on the occasion of World Day for Safety and Health at Work. The Institute will focus on five key areas that will expand the body of knowledge in OSH and improve safety consciousness within the organization and the country. It will also seek to create a library that will be beneficial to its membership and the general public thereby creating an income stream for the Federation. The Federation plans to deliver OSH training workshops and consultancies under the OSH Institute of Dominica and use it as a vehicle for capacity building at the enterprise, industry and national levels. The OSH Institute will function as a specialized agency of the Dominica Employers’ Federation. The launch was part of a three-day occupational safety and health training delivered by the DEF in collaboration with the ILO targeting the construction industry in Dominica.

**Grenada**

The Department of Labour, Grenada, and the social partners conducted several activities to disseminate OSH information, including exhibitions and participation in radio talk shows.

**Guyana**

The Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security in collaboration with other social partners organized a health walk in Georgetown, a Workshop in Region # 4 and a job fair in Linden, Region #10, to commemorate this year’s Safeday. The purpose of the activities were to:

- Sensitize workers through educational sessions in building and sustaining cultures to prevent workplace accidents;
- Understand the roles and responsibilities of workers and employers;
- Initiate collaboration among employers, unions and the government in fostering and promoting safety and health at the workplace; and
- Give open employment/training and business opportunity to the skilled and unskilled workforce in Region # 10.

**Jamaica**

The Ministry of Labour and Social Security will test its Worker Safety Passport Programme during a student housing expansion project at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. The signing of the Agreement for the pilot project coincided with activities to mark World Occupational Safety and Health Day, under the theme: “Join in Building a Culture of Prevention on Occupational Safety and Health”. The Programme will target construction workers during the initial implementation phase. The passport provides specifications on the holder’s competence in occupational safety and health procedures and requires five hours of training administered by the Ministry prior to certification.

**Montserrat**

The World Day marked the start of the annual Workers’ Week which culminated on Labour Day. Workers from the public and private sector took part in a Labour Day walk and rally on 4 May, dressed in T-shirts bearing the theme “Occupational Safety and Health: Building a Culture of Prevention” and carrying signs such as “Wear proper shoes and avoid slips and falls”; “Wear protective gear it saves lives”; and “Cover the sockets prevent electrical shock”. The event was led by the Hon. Paul Lewis, Minister of Communication, Works, Energy and Labour. He challenged the employees and employers present to make safety a priority, saying that it benefits everybody, stating “Safety first, prevention foremost!” The crowd was also addressed by the Labour Commissioner Rudolph Christopher; Presidents of several unions including Violet Brown, Civil Service Association (CSA); Ingrid Osborne, Montserrat Union of Teachers; Alex Akie, Nurses Union; and Hilroy Bramble, trade unionist.
Trinidad and Tobago

Developing a labour migration policy


At the Opening Ceremony, Ms. Anne Knowles, Acting Officer-in-Charge, ILO Office for the Caribbean, noted that Trinidad and Tobago was one of the first countries to call on the assistance of the ILO in developing a Labour Migration Policy subsequent to the ILO’s report Fair Migration: Setting an ILO Agenda submitted to the 103rd Session of the International Labour Conference in 2014.

The Hon. Errol McLeod, Minister of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development, stated that the development and implementation of a labour migration policy will: guide a proposed national labour migration system; protect and empower migrant workers and their families; and “contribute to the promotion of a Decent Work environment in Trinidad and Tobago”. He recalled a previous Workshop on “Migration, forced labour and human trafficking responses”, held in conjunction with the Ministry, the ILO and the Counter Trafficking Unit of the Ministry of National Security in November 2014, which had begun a dialogue on migration among key stakeholders, including Government Ministries, employers’ and trade unions. He pointed out that the Workshop on labour migration policy, “continues to advance the conversation on the interconnected issues between labour migration and the quality of life, the need for work, and the desire to lead productive secure lives”.

Ms Gloria Moreno-Fontes Chammartin, Senior Specialist on Migration Policy, ILO Geneva, led the Workshop which covered the following topics:

- ILO Standards on migrant workers’ protection;
- A “Model Labour Migration Policy” and its institutional framework;
- Responding to Labour and Skills Needs/Shortages;
- Admission and Post-Admission Policies;
- Employers’ and workers’ organizations role;
- Coherence between Migration and Employment Policies; and
- Migration and Development from a Gender Perspective.

Mr Kelvin Sergeant, ILO Specialist, Sustainable Enterprise Development and Job Creation, presented on the subject of “Labour Migration and Entrepreneurship” which looked at programmes available to migrants in other countries and entrepreneurship as a means of livelihood.

Engaging discussions took place between the participants throughout the Workshop on topics including ILO Fundamental Conventions; the role of the employment agency; migrant labour schemes such as the Commonwealth Caribbean Seasonal Agricultural Worker Programme; and how best to inform migrant workers of their rights upon arrival in a new country.

Following the Workshop, representatives from the Ministry informed the ILO that they are in a better position to continue the development of a labour migration policy for Trinidad and Tobago.

Saint Kitts and Nevis

The Department of Labour began their campaign by visiting primary schools around the island on 27 April 2015, as part of the week of activities to promote awareness in Building a Culture of Prevention on OSH. These visits were geared towards educating children at an early age on ways in which they can prevent occupational accidents and promote safety at school, home, the community, and ultimately the workplace. Building a preventative safety and health culture begins in the early stages of a person’s life. When these children become adults and are entering the world of work, they would have already been practising preventative measures toward safety and health in the workplace, thus preventing injuries, diseases and deaths. Other activities included:

- National address on ZIZ Radio and Television, and Radio and Television Station in Nevis on World Day for Safety and Health by Minister of Labour, the Hon. Vance Amory;
- Corporate Church Service, Zion Moravian Church, Basseterre;
- Special Edition of the Round Table on ZIZ Television and Radio at 8:00 p.m.- Discussion on Building a Culture of Prevention on OSH;
- Talks in high schools in Nevis;
- Occupational Health and Social Inspections in Business in Nevis; and
- Occupational Health and Social Inspections and Talk Sessions in Business in Saint Kitts and Nevis.
World Report on Child Labour 2015: Paving the way to decent work for young people, addresses the twin challenges of eliminating child labour and ensuring decent work for young people. Based on a 12-country survey, it examines the future careers of former child labourers and early school leavers. The main findings of the report are that:

- Prior involvement in child labour is associated with lower educational attainment, and later in life with jobs that fail to meet basic decent work criteria;
- Early school leavers are less likely to secure stable jobs and are at greater risk of remaining outside the world of work altogether;
- A high share of 15-17 year olds in many countries are in jobs that have been classified as hazardous or worst forms of child labour; and
- Those in hazardous work are more likely to have left school early before reaching the legal minimum age of employment.

On this year’s World Day Against Child Labour we call for:

- free, compulsory and quality education for all children at least to the minimum age for admission to employment and action to reach those presently in child labour;
- new efforts to ensure that national policies on child labour and education are consistent and effective; and
- policies that ensure access to quality education and investment in the teaching profession.

Guy Ryder on child labour

In his annual statement Mr Guy Ryder, Director-General International Labour Organization highlighted the link between education and child labour. He proposed that “making this link is key to developing effective strategies that can break the cycle of poverty which is a key factor, if not the sole factor, in producing child labour”. Mr Ryder reaffirmed the ILO’s commitment “to working nationally, internationally and with the multilateral system to ensure children’s right to education and freedom from child labour as well as its corollary, the dignity of decent work for adults.”

Jamaica

The Child Labour Unit in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security collaborated with the Child Development Agency (CDA) in hosting a series of community consultations across the island. The first consultation was held on 8 June in Cambridge, St. James during which an assessment of social and economic conditions in that area was conducted. A National Consultation on the Elimination of Child Poverty in Jamaica was held at the Church of God of Prophecy Convention Centre in Old Harbour, St. Catherine on 12 June 2015.

Each year on 12 June, the World Day brings together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the world to highlight the issue of child labour and what can be done to eliminate it. This year’s focus will be on the importance of quality education as a key instrument in tackling child labour. It is very timely to do so, as in 2015 the international community will be reviewing reasons for the failure to reach development targets on education and will be setting new goals and strategies.

Events around the world

Hundreds of events were organized in 55 countries on 12 June 2015.

Geneva

Kailash Satyarthi and Ms Lorena Castillo de Varela, joined a panel discussion with delegates attending the International Labour Conference (ILC). The event in Geneva drew attention to a new campaign for ratification of the ILO’s Forced Labour Protocol, which was adopted by the ILC in June 2014. The ILO has estimated that as many as five million children are trapped in slavery-like conditions, and the vast majority lack access to basic education.

Belize

The Government of Belize, in commemoration of World Day Against Child Labour, launched a public education campaign. The campaign is set to raise awareness about the various forms of child labour and is built around this year’s theme “Child Labour is a No No.” The campaign was carried out through the National Child Labour Committee, which is comprised of several government authorities, including the Labour Department and the National Committee for Families and Children. During the official launch a new educational video was shown that featured the ILO Conventions ratified by Belize.

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World Day Against Child Labour

NO to Child Labour! YES to Quality Education

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On 8 May 2015, the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) invited stakeholders to the official launch of the findings and final report of the 2013 Child Activity Survey at the Belmopan Campus, University of Belize. Mr Bijoy Raychaudhuri, Project Director, Global Action Program on Child Labor Issues, ILO Geneva and Ms Kanae Tada, Junior Professional Officer - Skills Training, Employment Policies and Labour Market Policies, ILO Office for the Caribbean, participated in the launch ceremony.

The National Child Activity Survey Belize 2013 (NCAS 2013) is the second nationwide survey to collect comprehensive information on children engaged in economic activities. The National Child Activity Survey, conducted by the SIB, was made possible by the collaboration between the Ministry of Labour, Local Government, and Rural Development (MLLGRD) and the ILO, through its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). Full funding for implementing the Survey was provided to the Statistical Institute of Belize by the ILO, supported by a US Department of Labor-funded project.

In his address at the official launch, the Hon. Godwin Hulse, Minister of Labour, Local Government, Rural Development, National Emergency Management, Immigration and Nationality, emphasized that “We have to be careful of how we walk the thin line between working a child and developing a child”. Mr Raychaudhuri welcomed the participants and thanked the SIB and the Ministry for the excellent collaboration. He spoke on the significance of addressing child labour in the UN system and recent trends in measures for the reduction and elimination of child labour in the world. Mr Ivan Williams, Labour Commissioner, Belize Labour Department, provided a presentation on recommendations, including modification of national legislative framework, a national policy and public education campaign.

The latest survey is intended to provide updated information on working children, child labour, and hazardous work performed by children in Belize, as was requested by the National Steering Committee on Child Labour (which includes representatives of the workers’ and employers’ organizations), established by the Ministry. The published report provides detailed statistical information on the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of working children aged five to 17 years, as well as some related information on their households. It also contains survey findings about children’s non-economic activities, principally, attending school and engagement in household chores. Further research is currently being planned by the SIB.

Regional Initiative: Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour

Ms Noortje Denkers (ILO, San Jose) and Ms Fernanda Baretto (ILO, Brasilia) from the Regional Initiative (RI) Secretariat, visited the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean from 8-10 June 2015, to discuss participation of the Caribbean member States in the RI on child labour, including a proposed South-South cooperation project funded by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency.

The RI was launched at the Third Global Conference on Child Labour in Brasilia, October 2013, where countries expressed their concern about the stagnation in reducing child labour and the pace of eradication, despite the economic growth and poverty reduction of recent years. Organised through a national focal point network, the RI is a joint commitment by the LAC countries to exchange good practices and accelerate the process towards the eradication of child labour; aiming to become the first child labour-free region in the developing world.

The Third Focal Point meeting “Partners in Action – Round table on South-South Cooperation to accelerate the pace of reduction of child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean” was held in Brasilia, 1-3 July 2015.

As signatories to the RI, the Bahamas, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago were invited to attend the meeting.

On 9 June, the ILO organised a lunchtime session for UN staff based in Trinidad and Tobago to commemorate the World Day Against Child Labour and to learn more about the RI. The session was attended by the UN Resident Coordinator in Trinidad and Tobago, Mr Richard Blewitt, and representatives from several UN agencies including UNDP, FAO, ECLAC, UNICEF, IOM, UNFPA and UN AIDS.

According to the ILO, there are 12.5 million children in child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean, of which the vast majority, 9.5 million, are in hazardous work.

For further information, please email the Regional Initiative Secretariat at: iniciativaregional@ilo.org
Unions charting their direction with strategic plans

Saint Lucia Trade Union Federation (SLTUF)

Over the last four years trade unions have begun to realize the importance of developing a vision and plan to guide the work of their organizations and develop their structures to better serve and represent their members at all levels.

Working with the ILO, the SLTUF brought representatives of its affiliates to a strategic planning workshop to develop a vision and outline a plan of action to strengthen the capacity of the Federation to serve its affiliates and fulfill its obligation as the recognized voice of workers in Saint Lucia. Most of the participants were taking part in a strategic planning exercise for the first time. This exercise involved an assessment of the strengths and limitations of the organization and finding strategies and focusing on actions which would address these shortcomings. At the end of the Workshop held 19-21 May, the SLTUF agreed to focus its efforts over the period 2015-2020 on the following objectives, strategies and actions:

- Institutional strengthening (equipped secretariat, better record keeping, constitutional reform and improved finances)
- Mobilization of members, partners and allies (through increased membership education and documented policy positions)
- Organizational Outreach enhanced (through communication and visibility strategy, research development).

Transport and Industrial Workers’ Union, Trinidad and Tobago

June 11-13, the Executive Committee of the Transport and Industrial Workers’ Union (TIWU) retreated from the hustle and bustle of Port of Spain to assess their progress with respect to their previous plans and develop a new five-year plan for their organization.

The Executive Committee group articulated a vision of their organization as “an informed, proactive, and militant organization, the trade union of choice, a leader in labour relations, and influential in the formulation of legislation and policy at the national, regional and international levels”.

To realize this organizational vision, the Executive Committee members drew up a plan which determined that the strategic objectives would be institutional strengthening, the development of effective communication channels both internal and external to the organization as well as the expansion of membership services. Strengthening the institution included increasing membership, creating a broader and more secure financial base, reinforcing democratic decision-making, establishing a systematic membership education programme and upgrading staff skills, equipment and work processes.

Bahamas Trade Unions examine freedom of association

With the support of the ILO Office for the Caribbean, the National Congress of Trade Unions of The Bahamas (NCTUB) convened a Workshop from 22-24 June 2015 to examine freedom of association and trade union constitutions. As the Industrial Relations Act provides for the registration and control of trade unions and for the recognition of trade unions by employers, the Workshop also had to study the provisions of the Act and their implications for trade union rights and the limitations on trade union constitutions. There was a rich exchange of information and lively discussion among the 30 representatives from 15 affiliated and observer unions of the National Congress. The participants represented a cross-section of the different levels of union leadership from members of union executive committees as well as organizers, to young and less experienced unionists, as well as older and more experienced practitioners. Mr Thomas Evans QC engaged the participants on the second day, first providing them with the history of legislation which culminated in the Industrial Relations Act. He suggested that the labour law has tended to favour the master as it is derived from the old Master and Servants Act. Mr Evans then proceeded to examine the current statute and responded to the numerous questions posed by the unionists present. He pointed out to the group that the right to work is not enshrined in the Constitution which would bolster the workers’ stake in their own employment and he suggested that unfair dismissal was a significant provision to be enhanced and developed.

Participants expressed the view that the workshop was an eye-opener in understanding the legal context in which Bahamian trade unions were operating in. They concluded that workers’ education programmes through the Labour College needed to be institutionalized in order that more union members could understand the context and value of the trade union movement. They duly noted that many guarantees of ILO Convention 87 were not reflected in the Industrial Relations Act. In addition to identifying what provisions should be amended or included in their respect constitutions, the unions present also underlined the need for the NCTUB and its representatives within the National Tripartite Council to highlight the deficiencies of the Act with respect to Freedom of Association and to actively pursue the amendment of the Act. It was also agreed that this issue could be used to develop closer working relations with the Trade Union Congress as this was of equal importance to both Federations.

ILO Campaign: Decent work for domestic workers begins at home

To celebrate the fourth anniversary of the adoption of the Domestic Workers Convention 2011 (No. 189), on 16 June 2015, the ILO Conditions of Work and Equality Department is campaigning to raise awareness among ILO officials about their responsibilities as employers of domestic workers. We believe that rights begin at home, and that households should establish respectful relationships with those who care for their homes and families. Making decent work a reality for domestic workers requires each one of us to play our part. Everyone can start taking one step at a time by:

- Providing decent living conditions.
- Treating domestic workers with respect;
- Recognizing their work;
- Paying a decent wage;
- Guaranteeing sufficient rest; and
- Making decent work a reality.
New ILO Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean appointed

Following the retirement of Ms Elizabeth Tinoco, Mr José Manuel Salazar Xirinachs of Costa Rica assumed the role of ILO Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, on 1 June 2015. Mr Salazar attended the recent 104th Session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva, where he met many of the ILO’s Caribbean constituents.

Prior to assuming this role, Mr Salazar served as Assistant Director-General of Policy, at ILO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. He joined the ILO in 2005 as Executive Director of the ILO’s Employment Sector in Geneva, with overall responsibility for the work of the Organization on employment promotion.

His work at ILO headquarters covered areas such as employment policies, enterprise development, vocational training, labour market analysis, employment services, the transition from informality to formality, the relationship between trade and employment, promotion of youth employment, and related topics.

Prior to joining the ILO, Mr Salazar served from 1998-2005 as Director of the Trade Unit of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington. The Unit worked with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) as the Technical Secretariat of the negotiations to create the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and to promote regional integration and trade capacity building.

From 1997 to 1998, Mr Salazar was Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica, during which he presided over the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) process.

Mr Salazar holds a Master’s degree in Development Economics and a PhD in Economics from the University of Cambridge, England.

Shingo Miyake joins the Caribbean Office as its new International Labour Standards Specialist

Mr Shingo Miyake, a national of Japan, joins the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean in July 2015, as a Labour Law and International Labour Standards Specialist. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in International Law from the International Christian University, Japan and a Master of Laws degree in International Law from the University of Tokyo.

Mr Miyake joined the ILO in 2001 and has been working in the field of international labour standards since then. He has worked as a Legal Officer at ILO Headquarters in Geneva for over 11 years as well as in the field. He served for three and a half years at the ILO Sub-Regional Office for South-East Asia and the Pacific in Manila, the Philippines, and at the ILO Office in Jakarta, Indonesia.

In his new capacity, Mr Miyake will assist governments, employers’ and workers’ organizations of ILO Caribbean member States and territories to strengthen the application of international labour standards by working with countries to improve their labour legislation.

Prior to joining the ILO, Mr Miyake also worked as a Management Consultant with Accenture.

The Directorate and staff warmly welcome Mr Miyake as he joins the Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean.

International Observances

- 4 July: International Day of Cooperatives
- 11 July: World Population Day
- 15 July: World Youth Skills Day
- 30 July: World Day against Trafficking in Persons
- 9 August: International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples
- 12 August: International Youth Day
- 19 August: World Humanitarian Day
- 23 August: International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition [UNESCO]
- 12 September: United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation
- 21 September: International Day of Peace
- 25 September: World Maritime Day [IMO]
- 27 September: World Tourism Day
INFORMATION RESOURCES

**Youth informality. Formalizing the informal youth. Innovative experiences. Jamaica**

The Jamaican economy is characterised by persistent stagnation with an annual growth rate of 0.53% over the period 1999-2014. The economic crisis of 2008 saw the collapse of bauxite and alumina industries, declines in remittances and stagnation in the tourism industry. FORLAC reports that over the period 2006-2011 exports averaged 30% of GDP and imports 47%.

**Promoting formal employment among youth: innovative experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Formalizing employment, particularly youth employment, continues to pose a challenge for the countries of the region. Currently, 13% of youth are unemployed and 55.7% are informally employed. The challenge of enabling the new labour force to actively participate in the labour market is compounded by the additional challenge of guaranteeing that the new jobs meet decent work criteria.

ISBN: 978-92-2-129700-0

**Decent work, green jobs and the sustainable economy - Solutions for climate change and sustainable development**

Decent Work, Green Jobs and the Sustainable Economy demonstrates that green jobs can be a key economic driver, as the world steps into the largely uncharted territory of building a sustainable and low-carbon global economy. Poschen shows that positive outcomes are possible, but require a clear understanding of the opportunities and challenges.

Enterprises, workers and governments are essential agents of change, able to develop new ways of working in sustainable enterprises that safeguard the environment, create decent jobs and foster social inclusion. This book highlights solutions that the world of work offers for policy and practice to tackle climate change, achieve environmental sustainability and to build prosperous and cohesive societies. It is essential reading for those in business, academia and government.

TT$115.50; US$18.00

**National employment policies: A guide for workers’ organisations**

This guide is for trade unions together with other key stakeholders, that are engaging in the formulation of national employment policies. It is a complement to the ILO’s more general Guide for the formulation of national employment policies (ILO:2012). This guide has a focus on trade unions in developing countries and is part of a comprehensive training package for trade unionists who want to play a more effective role in the employment policy-making process.


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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

National Bipartite Workshops with CCLCEC/ILO under the EU-funded project:

- 6 July - Saint Lucia
- 9 July - Grenada
- 13 July - Dominica
- 15 July - Antigua and Barbuda
- 16 July - St Kitts and Nevis
- 17/18 August - Haiti
- 20/21 August - Dominican Republic
- 24 August - Belize
- 26 August - Bahamas

In week of 21 - 25 September: Barbados; Jamaica; and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

In week of 28 September - 2 October: Guyana; Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

1 An activity under the project “Challenges to CARIFORUM Labour, Private Sector and Employers to fulfil their EPA Obligations. Caribbean Employers’ Confederation (CEC) and the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) Component of the Support to Facilitate Participation of CARIFORUM Civil Society in Regional Development and Integration Process” funded by the European Union.

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