

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO SIGNS THE PARIS CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT



*Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs  
signs the Paris Climate Change Agreement on behalf of Trinidad and Tobago*

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO SIGNS  
THE PARIS AGREEMENT

diverse regions of the world. He indicated that the success of the event was attributed to the continued momentum or urgent global action on climate change sparked at the Paris Conference in December 2015 where the Agreement was finalised and welcomed by the international community.

Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, signed the Paris Climate Agreement on behalf of Trinidad and Tobago and addressed other high-ranking officials to reaffirm the commitment of Trinidad and Tobago to achieving the object and purpose of the Paris Agreement and to take measures to address climate change for the well-being of present and future generations.

Trinidad and Tobago joined 174 other countries in signing the Paris Climate Change Agreement at a special High-Level signing event which took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York on Friday 22nd April, 2016.

The large number of signatories representing individual countries, 175 in total, is being hailed as a record for the number of adherents to an international agreement on the first day it was open for signature. In presiding over the High-Level event, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon noted the unprecedented participation of Heads of State and Government as well as Ministers from

In his statement to the meeting, Minister Moses informed that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is currently finalising its long-term development policy VISION 2030, which proposes to align its domestic development plans, including addressing climate change, with the targets and goals of the Sustainable Development Goals and Trinidad and Tobago's nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement will not come into force until 55 countries representing 55% of total greenhouse gas emissions deposit their instruments of ratification.



## PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO INTERNATIONALLY

**D**r. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, led an official delegation to the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Ghana in advancement of the interests of Trinidad and Tobago during the period 2nd to 12th May, 2016.

In Washington D.C., the Prime Minister participated in the United States-Caribbean-Central American Energy Summit, hosted by the Honourable Joseph R. Biden, Vice President of the United States on 3rd and 4th May, 2016. At the Summit, regional leaders agreed on the importance of diversifying energy sources and greater access to cleaner, cost-effective and reliable energy to deliver energy security and economic competitiveness. The Prime Minister also had meetings with Mr. Luis Alberto Moreno, President of the Inter-American Development Bank and Dr. Wayne Frederick, President of Howard University before travelling to New York where he delivered the keynote address on 5th May, 2016 at the Inaugural International Education Awards Ceremony at Medgar Evers College where he had the opportunity to engage with the Diaspora.

As part of the initiative to re-engage the African continent, the Prime Minister paid an Official Visit to the Republic of Ghana from 8th to 11th May, 2016. The Prime Minister met with His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, President of Ghana and held discussions on areas of cooperation including energy, education, governance, investment, science and technology. Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago and the Honourable Hanna Tetteh, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana signed a General Cooperation Agreement between both countries and a Memorandum of Understanding on Energy Cooperation was signed by the various Heads of the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation and the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Prime Minister toured the Tema Oil Refinery; the VALCO Aluminium Smelting



*Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago addresses delegates at the US-Caribbean Central American Energy Summit in Washington*



*Sen. the Hon. Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and his Ghanaian counterpart the Honourable Hannah Tetteh sign the General Cooperation Agreement*

Plant; the Atuabo Gas Plant and was hosted by HFC Bank (Ghana) Limited, a subsidiary of Republic Bank Limited, at a reception for the Ghanaian business community and nationals of CARICOM. The Prime Minister also visited the George Padmore Memorial Library; the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park and Mausoleum; and paid a Courtesy Call on His Excellency Ft. Lt. Jerry Rawlings, former President of the Republic of Ghana.

Prime Minister Rowley met with British Petroleum (BP) representatives at the company's headquarters on 7th May, 2016 to continue ongoing discussions between Trinidad and Tobago and BP on energy-related matters. The Prime Minister also attended the Anti-Corruption Summit in London on 12th May, 2016 which focussed on building international cooperation in the fight against corruption.

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PARTICIPATES IN ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES SUMMIT



*Leaders at the Seventh Summit of Heads of State and/or Government of the Associations of the Caribbean States*

**D**r. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago joined with leaders at the Seventh Summit of Heads of State and/or Government of the Association of the Caribbean States (ACS) to discuss matters of regional concern.

The Summit was held in Havana, Cuba on 4th June, 2016 under the theme, "Together for a Sustainable Caribbean." Of significance was the dialogue by Heads on strengthening the unity of the Greater Caribbean region and building strategies to collectively combat the negative impacts of climate change, coastal erosion and the

eradication of Sargassum Seaweed.

Many States brought to the forefront, the threats and challenges facing the Greater Caribbean, in particular, the small island developing states. They also recognised the responsibility of Member States in building fair, equitable, people-centred and inclusive societies. Leaders also expressed their deep concern and rejection of the progressive decline in correspondent banking relationships in light of the recent de-risking actions by some major international banking partners and its severe impact on developing countries.

In his address to the Summit, Prime Minister Rowley called for members to recognise their common destiny as Caribbean people regardless of their individual challenges.

President of the Council of State and Council of Ministers of Cuba, His Excellency Raúl Castro Ruz paid tribute to the memory of outstanding Jamaican intellectual, Professor Norman Girvan, an indomitable advocate for progress in the Caribbean and for regional integration and a great friend of Cuba, who served as Secretary General of the ACS. He then acknowledged the successful work of Ambassador Alfonso Múnera Cavadía in his four years as Secretary General, and expressed satisfaction over the election of Saint Lucia's Ambassador Dr. June Soomer, the first woman to assume this responsibility and whom he wished the greatest success.

A Special Declaration was adopted by the Summit on the efforts at dialogue in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The Heads expressed support for "the different initiatives of national dialogue that will lead, with adherence to the Constitution and full respect for human rights, in a timely, prompt, effective manner, to the resolution of differences and the consolidation of democracy."

## FELLOW ISLAND STATES THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS



*His Excellency Eden Charles, then Chargé d'Affaires a.i. and Deputy Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, New York, and His Excellency Peter Thomson Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations New York both sign a Joint Communiqué to formally establish diplomatic relations.*

**H**is Excellency Eden Charles, then Chargé d'Affaires a.i. and Deputy Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, New York signed a Joint Communiqué on behalf of Trinidad and Tobago to formally establish diplomatic relations with the Republic of Fiji. The Communiqué was also signed by His Excellency Peter Thomson, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations, New York. The ceremony took place on 18th March, 2016 at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, New York.



## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PARTICIPATES IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES



*Official Photo of the 46th OAS General Assembly*

Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, in his address to the 46th Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), issued a call for Member States to “put at the fore the essential work of institutional

strengthening for sustainable development in the Americas as we begin to re-evaluate and regroup on our strategies in facing the unavoidable realities in our region. He further emphasised that they should “strive to fortify the principles of sharing best practices and work together by embracing our individual roles to move forward as

a cohesive unit in ensuring that today’s progress is but one step forward to many that we will take to secure a sustainable future for the peoples of the Americas.

A total of 33 States participated in the General Assembly which was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic during the period 13th to 15th June, 2016 under the theme, “Institutional Strengthening for Sustainable Development in the Americas”.

As head of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation, Minister Moses joined other CARICOM Foreign Ministers and heads of delegation in meetings with the CARICOM Secretariat, the OAS Secretary General and the United States Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs. Minister Moses also held bilateral meetings with the Foreign Ministers of Venezuela and El Salvador, the Secretary General of the OAS and the Ambassador of Serbia to the United States of America.

## LOCAL COMPANIES ENCOURAGE TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES IN CUBA



*Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and His Excellency Guillermo Vázquez Moreno, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba toast at the commemoration of the*

Follow in the footsteps of local companies and pursue exciting business opportunities in Cuba”. This was the advice Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs gave to Trinidad and Tobago companies as Cuba opens up to new foreign investment. Minister Moses was speaking at the

commemoration of the National Day of the Republic of Cuba and 40th Anniversary of Cuba’s Constitution on 24th February, 2016 held at the Cuban Embassy.

Minister Moses stated that he was happy to hear that the trade mission which took place during the period 2nd to 7th November, 2015 and was organised by the

Trinidad and Tobago Trade Facilitation Office in Havana had coincided with the 2015 Havana International Trade Fair. He also highlighted the successful diplomatic relationship between Trinidad and Tobago and Cuba which was established in 1972 and illustrated through continued cooperation in trade, culture, tourism, education and health.

In his remarks, His Excellency Guillermo Vazquez Moreno, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, concluded that this country’s participation at the International Trade Fair of Havana, as well as the visit by the large trade delegation from both the Chamber of Commerce and ExportIT, was a success. In light of this, Ambassador Vazquez informed that the Caribbean’s largest island is open to foreign investment and he invited more companies to visit Cuba.

## PRIME MINISTER SIGNS PROTOCOL AMENDING THE REVISED TREATY OF CHAGUARAMAS

Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr the Honourable Keith Rowley, led a delegation for the Twenty-Seventh Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) held 16-17 February, 2016 in Placencia, Belize.

As Lead Head for Crime and Security in the Quasi-Cabinet of the Caribbean Community, Prime Minister Rowley proposed, and the conference adopted, amending the Treaty of Chaguaramas. The Revised Treaty has therefore been amended to incorporate the Council for National Security and Law Enforcement (CONSLE) as an organ of the CARICOM and the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) as an institution of the CARICOM.

Prime Minister Rowley also made a presentation, with recommendations, relating to Citizenship by Investments (CIPs) which is pursued by some Member States. In acknowledging the

right of Member States to pursue such programmes for economic development, the Conference mandated that, among other things, all CARICOM Member States undertake to implement the measures required to strengthen the Advance Passenger Information System (APIS), the provision of updated information and intelligence to the CARICOM Watchlist and the enactment of enabling legislation in this regard.

As per Dr Rowley's recommendation, the Conference also accepted that all Member States wishing to maintain CIPs should utilize the services of the Joint Regional Communications Centre (JRCC), to provide the necessary expertise and resources in the design and implementation of a more robust system of background checks for vetting individuals applying for economic citizenship.

The delegation returned to Trinidad and Tobago on Thursday 18th February, 2016.



*Prime Minister Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley signs the Protocol Amending the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. Looking on is Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs*



## APPOINTMENT OF NEW HEADS OF MISSION

Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs recently presented Instruments of Appointment on behalf of Prime Minister Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley to new Heads of Mission at the Ministry.

During the two presentation ceremonies, Minister Moses thanked the Heads of Mission for their willingness to serve Trinidad and Tobago in various capacities and informed them that the Government looked forward to deepening the bilateral and multilateral partnerships within their jurisdictions for the benefit of the citizens now and for generations to come. Minister Moses further stated that they would be guided by the Government's policy framework which underscores that the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and its diplomatic network of overseas missions "must be the frontline of projecting the interests of Trinidad and Tobago internationally".

The following Heads of Mission received their Instruments of Appointment:

- His Excellency Dr Amery Browne, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the Federative Republic of Brazil;
- His Excellency Garth Chatoor, High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to Canada;
- His Excellency Dr. Lancelot Cowie, Ambassador for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the Republic Cuba;
- His Excellency Fitzgerald Jeffrey, High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to Jamaica;
- His Excellency Roger Gopaul, High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the Republic of South Africa;
- Her Excellency Penelope Beckles, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, in New York;



*L to R: H.E. Dr. Lancelot Cowie, H.E. Penelope Beckles-Robinson, Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, H.E. Dr. Amery Browne and H.E. Fitzgerald Jeffrey*



*L to R: H.E. Brigadier Gen. Anthony Phillips-Spencer, H.E. Roger Gopaul, Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and H.E. Garth Chatoor*

- His Excellency Brigadier General Anthony Phillips-Spencer, Ambassador of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United States of America; and
- His Excellency Dr. Paul Byam, Ambassador-designate to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The new Heads of Mission graciously accepted their Instruments of Appointment and are eager to promote and protect the interests of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

## CHINA-LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN CULTURAL EXCHANGE YEAR 2016



*A guest takes a photo of Trinidad and Tobago's display at the Latin American and Caribbean Visual Arts Exhibition*

The Embassy of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in the People's Republic of China, in collaboration with the Embassies of other English-speaking Caribbean states in Beijing, participated in the China-Latin America and the Caribbean Cultural Exchange Year 2016 during the period 30th April to 26th May 2016. The Cultural Exchange Year has been touted as the most comprehensive cultural exchange programme between China and Latin American and Caribbean countries to date. In this context, the Embassies of Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Jamaica, Guyana, Suriname, the Bahamas and Grenada collaborated with the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China and the China Arts and Entertainment Group (CAEG) to organise a series of Caribbean cultural events in Beijing under the umbrella of the Cultural Exchange

Year, which included the Caribbean Food and Cultural Festival "Taste the Caribbean", the Latin American and Caribbean Music Festival, the Latin American and Caribbean Visual Arts Festival, the Inaugural Caribbean Film Festival and the Photo Exhibition on Cultures of Caribbean Countries.

The Embassy of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago proposed this collaborative effort to ensure that the Caribbean was well represented in the Cultural Exchange Year, as well as to promote Trinidad and Tobago's culture in China with a view to developing a new market for Trinidad and Tobago's cultural and creative industries.

The Caribbean events under the Cultural Exchange Year introduced Chinese citizens to Caribbean culture and food, many for the first time.

The Latin American and Caribbean Visual Arts Exhibition drew in a wide cross section of Chinese art lovers who were intrigued by the pieces that displayed the history, daily life, and landscape of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Trinidad and Tobago featured fifteen pieces in the Festival, including the 2012 and 2013 winners of the then Ministry of Foreign Affairs "Bridging Borders Through Art" Secondary School Competition, archival photographs of the historic visits of the late Dr. the Honourable Eric Williams, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, to the People's Republic of China in 1974 and of Chinese Vice Premier Geng Biao to Trinidad and Tobago in 1978.

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTED TO SIT ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (UN WOMEN)

At elections held during the Coordination and Management Meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations on 6th April, 2016, Trinidad and Tobago received overwhelming support for its election to the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN) for the three-year term, 2017 to 2019. Having commanded the largest number of votes of any candidate country in the Latin American and Caribbean region, that is 44 votes out of a possible 54, Trinidad and Tobago's election reflects the confidence of the international community in the country's ability and in its commitment to add value to the work and discourse of UN WOMEN.

UN WOMEN is the primary United Nations Organization charged with advancing the status of women and girls across various spheres of development. Election to the Executive Board, which is highly competitive, places countries so elected at the very heart of

international advocacy and dialogue on the promotion of gender equality and on the role and empowerment of women to make their unfettered contribution to the development and up-liftment of society. The Executive Board which comprises representatives from 41 countries elected directly by the members of the Economic and Social Council is the primary governing body of UN WOMEN, charting the strategic direction and determining the operational programmes of the Organization.

Trinidad and Tobago's electoral success reinforces this country's position on the empowerment of women in achieving their full potential in contributing to national development in all spheres, through, among other things, the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal No. 5 to which the Government is fully committed. Trinidad and Tobago will take its seat on the Executive Board on 1st January, 2017.



## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PARTNERS WITH THE CARIBBEAN CONSULAR CORPS OF TORONTO



*(2nd from Right) Ms. Kiva Clark, Ag. Consul General for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to Toronto and fellow Members of the Caribbean Consular Corps of Toronto with some Members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario*

Recognising that there is strength in numbers, the Consulate General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Toronto, partnered with the Caribbean Consular Corps of Toronto to lobby for attention to matters of mutual concern on 24th February, 2016. The group which included representatives from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica,

St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago met with the Honourable Dane Levac, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. They discussed matters which included, but were not limited to Immigration, Treatment of Deportees, Access to Education and Employment.

## CHINA HONOURS TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO DANCER



*Guests pose for photos with a portrait of Dai Ailian*

The National Ballet of China held a commemorative show in honour of the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Dai Ailian, at the Tianqiao Theatre, Xicheng District, Beijing. Dai Ailian, born in Couva, Trinidad, in 1916, was the Founder of the

Beijing Dance Academy and former Director of the National Ballet of China. Dai Ailian is well regarded as an important figure in the development of contemporary Chinese dance. She died in Beijing on 9th February, 2006 at the age of 90. Mr. Adrian Isaacs, Chairman of the Dai Ailian Foundation of Trinidad and Tobago (nephew of Dai Ailian) and Mr. Adrian Thomas, Second Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, attended the commemorative show which took place on 11th May, 2016.

The event featured a photographic exhibition of Dai Ailian's life and performances by dancers from the National Ballet of China and the Paris Opera Ballet. Six classic dance pieces choreographed or adapted by Dai were staged, including "The Lotus" (one of Dai's signature works), and "Don Quixote" which was jointly adapted by Dai and Rudolf Nureyev, former Director of the Paris Opera Ballet, in 1985.

The show was one in a series of activities planned by the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China and the China Artists Association to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Dai Ailian. Mr. Isaacs also made known that a book on the life Dai was completed recently in Mandarin, with an English version to be published in the near future.

## NEW HEADS OF MISSION WELCOMED TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

In keeping with Government's ongoing efforts to expand and deepen bilateral relations with countries that share mutual interest, Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs recently welcomed new Heads of Mission to Trinidad and Tobago.

Brief talks were held with the new Heads of Mission from the Italian Republic, the United States of America, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the United Mexican States, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Nicaragua prior to the scheduled presentation of Letters of Credence to His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona, O.R.T.T., S.C., President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

### New Ambassadors to Trinidad and Tobago:



Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs greets His Excellency Silvio Mignano, Ambassador of the Italian Republic



Former Permanent Secretary (Ag.) Ms. Frances Seignoret and H.E. Henrik Bramsen Hahn, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago



Sen. the Hon. Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs greets H.E. John L. Estrada, Ambassador of the United States of America



Former Permanent Secretary (Ag.) Ms. Frances Seignoret greets H.E. Tariq Azim Khan High Commissioner for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago



Acting Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, the Honourable Stuart Young and H.E. Dr. Jesus Alberto Lopez Gonzales, Ambassador of the United Mexican States



Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Ms. Reita Toussaint and H.E. Valdrack Ludwing Jaentsche Whitaker, Ambassador of the Republic of Nicaragua



Former Permanent Secretary (Ag.) Ms. Frances Seignoret and H.E. Soorojdev Phokeer, High Commissioner Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Mauritius



## SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND VENEZUELA



*The Honourable Nicole Olivierre, Minister of Energy and Energy Industries and His Excellency Eulogio del Pino, Minister of the People's Power for Petroleum and Mining, Venezuela sign a Memorandum of Understanding*

**D**r. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and His Excellency Nicolás Maduro Moros, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for the Technical and Commercial Studies Related to the Natural Gas Supply from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on 23rd May 2016. The Agreement was signed by the Honourable Nicole Olivierre, Minister of Energy and Energy Industries and His Excellency Eulogio del Pino, Minister of the People's Power for Petroleum and Mining, during the Official Visit of President Maduro to Trinidad and Tobago.

Prior to the signing ceremony, both parties met to further advance bilateral discussions on matters of mutual interest and to expand and deepen collaboration in areas which include, inter alia, energy, security, trade and culture.

Discussions were conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect and the two leaders underscored their shared aspiration to continue strengthening and deepening the longstanding and wide-ranging bilateral relationship.

## MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND CARICOM AFFAIRS PARTICIPATES IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE OPEN HOUSE IN COMMEMORATION OF UNITED NATIONS PUBLIC SERVICE WEEK



*Officers of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs interact with members of the public during the Public Service Open House*

**I**n commemoration of United Nations Public Service Week, the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs participated in the Public Service Open House on Thursday 23rd June, 2016 held at the National Library and Information System (NALIS) building. The event, which was organised by the Ministry of Public Administration and Communications under the theme, "Innovating for Excellence in Service Delivery," took place during the period 21st to 24th June, 2016.

The Public Service Open House afforded officers of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs the opportunity to interact with over 300 members of the public and provided these persons with information on the services of the Ministry. Visitors to the Ministry's display booth were particularly interested in the Registration System for Nationals Aboard (RSNA), Consular Services, CARICOM Single Market and the Economy and the careers offered by the Ministry.

Visitors also took part in an interactive session, during which they were invited to answer simple questions about the Ministry to win a token. Participants eagerly awaited their turn to demonstrate their knowledge on the Ministry and keenly noted information shared that was new to them. Members of the public enjoyed taking part in this session as it provided those with a lack of knowledge on the Ministry to gain greater insight.

## STRENGTHENING CULTURAL BONDS



*Acrobatic Display*

Audiences throughout Trinidad and Tobago were taken on a cultural journey by the Jiangsu Art Group to experience some of the traditional art forms from the Eastern Province of China.

The twenty-one member touring party visited this country from 14th to 19th February, 2016 under the Cultural Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Government of the People's Republic of China signed in January 2005. In an effort to foster mutual understanding both countries agreed to develop relations in arts and culture through the visits of cultural groups and specialists and the study of languages, literature, culture and heritage.

The Art Group which was led by Mr. Tang Biao Jun, Vice Director of the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Culture comprised the Jiangsu Provincial Acrobatics Troupe, Wuxi Municipal Dance and Song Group and Jiangsu Kunqu Opera Theatre, who previously toured the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, Turkey, Egypt, Australia and Brazil.

The visit was co-ordinated by the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts in collaboration with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

## CARNIVAL KARAOKE BRUNCH



*Participants of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs' Carnival Karaoke Brunch Competition*

Staff of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs assumed the role of cultural ambassadors and demonstrated that they have the skills to promote calypso and soca music. Seven officers rose to the challenge and delivered entertaining performances of their favourite selections during the Ministry's Carnival Karaoke Brunch Competition on 3rd February, 2016 for a chance to win attractive prizes.

The event was hosted by Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs. During his brief remarks, he urged members of staff to continue participating in and supporting events that encouraged camaraderie, team spirit and allowed for the showcasing of the talent and creativity of those within the Ministry.

Ms. Kimberly S. Hewitt, International Relations Officer created an atmosphere of happiness and cheerfulness with her engaging rendition of "Happiest Man Alive" by soca-sensation Machel Montano. She stole the hearts of the audience and judges and captured both 1st place and the People's Choice Award.

Second place was awarded to Ms. Charisse Semper for her spirited performance of "Cooler Fete" by Nadia Batson while Ms. Tracey Ramsubagh featuring Mr. Ricardo Nichols placed third with "Bahia Girl" by David Rudder.

All of the contestants were happy with their prizes which would not have been possible without the kind donation from the sponsors Caribbean Airlines, Bmobile, Digicel and the National Lotteries Board.