



RETURN TO THE MAINLAND

Guyana hosts first CDB Annual Meeting in 27 years



They are rolling out the red carpet at Le Meridien Pegasus Hotel in Georgetown, Guyana, as the hotel prepares to welcome close to two hundred delegates, observers and guests who are expected to attend the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Development Bank on May 18 and 19. It's the first time since 1978 that a CDB Annual Meeting is being held in Guyana.

Under the leadership of Ambassador Elisabeth Harper, Guyana's Ministry of Foreign Affairs heads the local coordinating committee, which includes representatives from the Office of the President, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce and the Ministry of Finance.

Delegations from CDB's Headquarters in Barbados have also visited Guyana on a number of occasions to meet with the local coordinating committee to fine-tune the various arrangements related to the hosting of the Annual Meeting.

The meeting gives Governors an opportunity to share their perspectives on the operations of the CDB, including offering views on how the Bank might reposition itself to achieve its mission of reducing poverty in the Region. The 35th Annual Meeting also features a special session to

discuss expanding membership of the Bank.

One of the highlights of the Governors' meeting in Guyana will be an address by the President of the European Investment Bank, Philippe Maystadt, who will address the closing ceremony on May 19. Mr. Maystadt is a former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Foreign Trade of Belgium.

Guyana's President, Bharrat Jagdeo, who is the CDB Governor for Guyana, was elected Chairman of the Board of Governors at the 34th Annual Meeting in Tobago last year, and will continue to serve as Chairman up to the end of the meeting in Georgetown.

(cont'd on page 4)



A CDB Delegation headed by Vice-President (Finance) Neville Grainger (l), meeting with the local organizing committee at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Georgetown. Conference Coordinator, Amb. Elizabeth Harper, is 2nd from right.

Notes

The dollar used throughout this issue is the US dollar, except stated otherwise.

* * *

"CDB NEWS" material may be reprinted without prior permission, but the source should be acknowledged.

Editorial Team: Sharon Marshall and Collin Cunningham
E-mail: marshsh@caribank.org or cunninc@caribank.org

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROCEDURES

Get International Recognition

ProVention Consortium – a group of international organisations, academic institutions, private sector and civil society organisations initiated by the World Bank – is hailing a procedure for integrating natural hazards mitigation measures into environmental impact assessment developed by CDB and CARICOM as an “innovative tool”. ProVention

– which seeks to develop partnerships, policies and practices in disaster risk

management – says that the procedure has the potential “to contribute significantly to the international agenda for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development project lending.”

CDB in 2004 developed, in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat, the procedure for ensuring that development projects are formulated and designed with routine and explicit consideration of natural hazard risks. The basis of the approach is the natural hazard impact assessment (NHIA), which is designed to identify the links between natural hazards and the project through a systematic assessment of the natural hazards – including those associated with climate change – that are likely to affect or result from the project, and an assessment of the project’s vulnerability and risk of loss.

The Guidelines are presented in two documents. The first, a **Sourcebook on the Integration of Natural Hazards into EIA (NHIA-EIA Sourcebook)**, targets Environmental Impact Assessment practitioners and reviewers. It is a systematic compilation of guidance information for including natural hazard considerations at each step of the EIA process and includes detailed checklists, references and examples. The second, an **NHIA-EIA Guide** designed for use by CDB staff, makes recommendations for incorporating natural hazard risk considerations into the existing CDB Environmental Review Guidelines.

CDB staff first presented the assessment tool to a meeting of international financial institutions (IFIs), hosted



Consultant Project Manager of the Disaster Mitigation Facility for the Caribbean, Dr. Cassandra Rogers, hands over the NHIA-EIA Guide and Sourcebook to Division Chief, Project Financing Division, Mrs. Yvonne Moses-Grant, who has responsibility for revision of CDB’s Environmental Review Guidelines. Looking on is, Division Chief, Project Supervision Division, Mrs. Tessa Williams-Robertson.

by ProVention in 2004. Then in January 2005, the procedure was shared with the international disaster risk management community at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, as part of a joint presentation organised by ProVention involving IFIs (the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank and CDB) on “Mainstreaming Risk Reduction into Development

Financing – the Role of IFIs”. The Consortium will use the procedure as the basis for developing an international guidance document for integrating disaster risk reduction into environmental appraisal for use by aid agencies.

During 2004, more than forty EIA practitioners and administrators and climate change specialists from fifteen CDB Borrowing Member Countries received training in the use of NHIA-EIA, and CDB conducted initial training for its Operations Staff. Further training at the national level is scheduled for 2005. CDB is also currently developing guidelines for incorporating NHIA-EIA into its Basic Needs Trust Fund Programme and in 2005 will revise its Environmental Review Guidelines to incorporate the NHIA-EIA procedure.

The project was implemented by CDB’s Disaster Mitigation Facility for the Caribbean and CARICOM’s Adapting to Climate Change in the Caribbean Project.



BOOK LAUNCH

CDB/IDB publish work on pension reform



Governor of the Barbados Central Bank, Dr. Marion Williams sitting with CDB President Dr. Compton Bourne.

A book edited jointly by CDB Vice-President (Operations) Mr. P. Desmond Brunton and Mr. Pietro Masci, Division Chief at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), has been lauded as a crucial contribution to the literature on pension schemes in the Caribbean.

Dr. Marion Williams, Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados praised the book - **Workable Pension Systems: Reforms in the Caribbean** - at its launch at CDB headquarters on Thursday March 10, 2005 to an audience including a number of acutaries and other persons from the local financial sector.

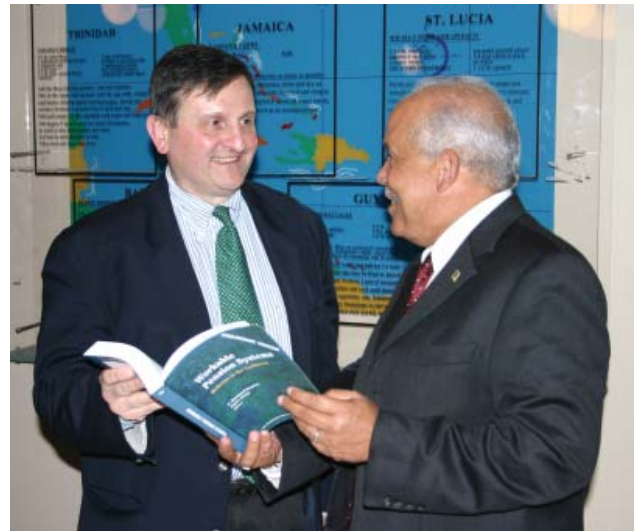
The Central Bank Governor noted that the region is at an important stage in the decision making process with respect to changes in its pension benefits, both public and private. She welcomed the new book as an important addition to the literature in that it provides critical analyses which will

undeniably be most helpful to policymakers.

Dr. Williams said that “many of the issues discussed and the recommendations made will form critical inputs into the process of formulating new strategies for pension reform in the Caribbean”.

The book is based primarily on papers delivered at an international symposium and policy seminar on pension reform in the English-Speaking Caribbean, which was held at CDB in June, 2003. That conference was jointly sponsored by CDB and IDB and the two institutions also collaborated to publish the book.

Mr. Brunton disclosed that CDB views the development of viable pension systems as being important to both the social protection architecture and the development of capital market and that pension reform was therefore a critically important aspect of public policy.



Editors Mr. Pietro Masci and Mr. P. Desmond Brunton with the new book.



A section of the audience at the book launch at CDB Headquarters

MAKING THE ANNUAL MEETING WORK

Each year CDB mobilizes Bank staff to plan and execute the Bank's Annual Meeting. Here are some of the key people who interact with participants and what they do to make things happen.



Mrs. Monica Green - Hotel Accommodation. Mrs. Green is the first point of contact for persons planning to attend the Annual Meeting. She manages the registration process including making the necessary bookings with the conference hotels. A challenging part of her responsibility involves coordinating accommodation with reservations personnel at conference hotels.



Mr. Volville Forsythe - Conference Proceedings. The overall responsibility for the smooth conduct of the Annual Meeting rests with Mr. Forsythe. He is the CDB coordinator who liaises with the local coordinator from the preceding year through to and during the course of the current Meeting to ensure that plans stay on track. Arrangements for meetings, protocol and corporate secretarial services are within his remit.



Ms. Renée Brathwaite - Registration. After arriving in Guyana and getting settled at their hotels, Ms. Brathwaite is one of the first persons participants will need to see. She heads up the registration desk where delegates get their ID cards and conference bags. This year Registration is located in the Barima Room, just off the lobby of The Pegasus.

Return (from page 1)

The Governors' meeting apart, participants will be engaged in an entire week of activities in Georgetown. The Governors' Meeting will be preceded by a meeting of the Bank's Board of Directors on May 16, followed by the Annual Meeting of Contributors to CDB's Special Development Fund and the William G. Demas Memorial Lecture on May 17.

But it won't be all business. There will be a number of social events including a cultural evening where Guyana will have an opportunity to showcase its wide cultural heritage. Participants will also tour many places of interests outside of Georgetown so that visitors to Guyana can see more of this vast country.



Mr. Darrell Theobalds - Conference Facilities. Darrell Theobalds is the facilities manager who works to ensure that physical arrangements including accommodations are comfortable for participants and staff. Well before the Annual Meeting, he would have ordered all of the furniture, equipment and ancillary supplies needed to run things smoothly and efficiently. Delegates who wish to arrange small meetings will need to speak with Mr. Theobalds to book a meeting room.



Mrs. Barbara Corea - Word Processing. Mrs. Corea heads the team of word processing operators who provide secretarial services. She is responsible for setting up the secretariat, assigning typing duties and proofreading documents before they are passed on to be printed and distributed. The Word Processing Centre serves as the centre for typing or formatting statements which are to be presented by the various Governors.



Mr. Patrick QuanKep - Information Technology. Mr. QuanKep is responsible for installing, configuring and maintaining the online registration system that participants use to register for the Annual Meeting. The internet café is one of the most popular spots for delegates attending the Meeting who need to keep in touch with their offices. Mr. QuanKep has responsibility for supervising the set up of this facility by the local IT provider, as well as for the network of computers that are being used in the offices to service the meetings. In addition he provides IT support to presenters who use computer technology.



Mrs. Cheryl Bryan - Documents. Mrs. Bryan is responsible for the distribution of papers for the Board of Directors and Board of Governors Meetings. Working with the print room or document reproduction centre, she has the task of ensuring that adequate copies of the Statements delivered by Governors are printed and distributed in a timely manner. Mrs. Bryan also assists with registration related activities.

DIRECTOR'S PROFILE

Ambassador Havelock R. Brewster is Director for Guyana on the Board of Directors of the Caribbean Development Bank. The ambassador, who is also currently Executive Director for the Caribbean at the Inter-American Development Bank, has been a CDB director since May 11, 1994.

Ambassador Brewster studied Economics at the University of Durham, England, and at Dalhousie University, Canada, and began his career in academia at the University of the West Indies Mona and later moved to the Cave Hill Campus where he was the first Professor of Economics.

Since leaving Cave Hill in 1973, Ambassador Brewster has spent most of his time in the service of international institutions and the government of Guyana.

His service in the diplomatic corps saw him representing his country as Ambassador to the European Union, Austria, Belgium and Germany. He was also Special Research Advisor and Director for Trade in Primary Commodities at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

He has served as a consultant and advisor to a number of international organizations, governments and universities.

Ambassador Brewster has several publications on topics relating to trade and development, economic

integration, and development finance to his credit. His book, jointly authored by professor C.Y. Thomas entitled **"The Dynamics of West Indian Economic Integration"**, is viewed as a salutary piece of work on Caribbean economic integration



GENDER ANALYSIS

Staff made more aware of its importance

The Basic Needs Trust Fund Programme (BNTF) has embarked on a series of Capacity Building Training Workshops in Gender Equality and Programme Management.

The first workshop in this series was held on April 19 and 20, 2005, at CDB and was facilitated by Ms. Denise Noel-DeBique, Consultant Gender Specialist of the Project Supervision Division. It followed a needs-analysis which she conducted over a six-month period.

Participants explored relevant regional development themes, came to a common understanding of concepts and tools for gender analysis, and discussed programme management practices.

Using country case studies and assessments of current programme approaches, staff engaged in lively discussions on strategic entry points for gender analysis in the BNTF programme cycle. The guest presenter, Ms. Jeanette Bell, CIDA/Caribbean Gender Equality Programme Regional Coordinator delivered a presentation on the theme **"Listening to Our Clients"**. She shared the

opportunities and challenges to gender equality and women's empowerment faced by current development practice within the Caribbean. Ms. Belle recommended best practices in community development and made further suggestions, both in practice and knowledge, on the way forward.



Ms. Denise Noel-DeBique and Ms. Jeanette Bell

The programme was an "eye opener" to participants who recognised gender analysis as being integral to social and community analysis, the links between the BNTF subproject activities and various sector programme outcomes, the shared processes of the BNTF and other Bank country activities, and the importance of strengthening mechanisms for community and

stakeholder participation in the BNTF.

Not only was the need for further training highlighted, but the workshop listed a number of recommendations, among which was the development of country gender strategies to improve effectiveness of the programme in achieving more sustainable solutions to poverty reduction.

VISITORS



Dr. Bourne and Mr. Lagos at the meeting

President of the Republic of Chile, His Excellency **Ricardo Lagos**, paid a visit to CDB headquarters on Monday February 21, 2005.

Mr. Lagos, who was in Barbados on an official visit, was accompanied to the Bank by two cabinet ministers: Mr. Ignacio Walker and Mr. Jose Insulza and by Ambassador of Chile to Barbados, His Excellency, Esteban Tomic.

The visiting dignitaries held discussions with the Bank's President, Dr. Compton Bourne, and other senior officials of CDB.



The CDB delegation that met with the President of Chile.



Mr. Forsythe, Mr. Grainger, Mr. Branker, Dr. Bourne and Mr. Ask



Mr. Dinham and Dr. Bourne

On Tuesday, April 19, 2005, Swedish Ambassador **Mr. Sten Ask** visited the Bank for a meeting with Dr. Bourne and other CDB officials.

Mr. Ask was accompanied by Sweden's honorary consul in Barbados Mr Rawle Branker, while CDB's Vice-President (Finance), Mr. Neville Grainger and

Mr. Volville Forsythe, Assistant Bank Secretary were also in attendance.

Mr. Martin Dinham, Director, Europe, Middle East and Americas, UK Department for International Development also visited the Bank in April. Mr. Dinham, who took up his new position at the beginning of January, 2005, held discussions with Dr. Bourne, Mr. Grainger and Mr. Desmond Brunton, Vice-President (Operations), during his visit on April 26.

STAFF MOVEMENTS

Appointment



Mr. Kirk Odle, a national of Barbados, assumed duty on February 14, 2005, in the post of Investment Officer, Finance and Corporate Planning Department.

Mr. Odle holds a MA (Finance and Investments) from the School of Business & Economics, University of

Exeter, United Kingdom, and a BSc. In Economics and Accounting from the University of the West Indies.

Retirement

Mrs. Angela Owen, Operations Officer (Administration), office of the Vice-President (Operations), will retire from the services of the Bank with effect from May 28, 2005. Mrs. Owen was employed by CDB for over 31 years.

We extend to her best wishes for success in her future endeavours.



Portrait of a President



Dr. Bourne and Sir Neville

Lady Nicholls pulling the cord to unveil the painting

A portrait of Sir Neville Nicholls, the third president of the Caribbean Development Bank, now hangs in the Bank's Conference Centre along with those of his two predecessors, Sir Arthur Lewis and Mr. William Demas.

The painting, done by artist David Skinner, was unveiled on Thursday, March 10, 2005, by Sir Neville's wife, Lady Nicholls in the presence of the members of CDB's Board of Directors who were at the Bank for the 215th meeting of the Board.

Sir Neville served as CDB's President from 1988 - 2001.

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT
BANK
P.O. Box 408,
Wilkey, St. Michael
BARBADOS, W.I