



CALL FOR PAPERS for the FIRST REGIONAL STATISTICAL RESEARCH SEMINAR

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat will be holding its **First Regional Statistical Research Seminar** at the **Accra Beach Hotel in Barbados, on Friday, 31 October 2008 at 09:30 hrs.**

National Statistical Offices (NSOs) throughout the Region face a number of challenges due to the limited capability of research programmes.

The implications of the absence of such research programmes were discussed by two members at the recently concluded Meeting of the Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) which was held in San Ignacio, Belize from 23-26 June 2008.

Issues discussed at this Meeting relative to the implementation of a research strategy in the Region included the following:

- (i) the attempts at executing research at the various NSOs;
- (ii) the NSOs capacity/capabilities of executing research programmes;
- (iii) the establishment of research departments in the Statistical Offices;
- (iv) the involvement of third parties such as other organisations, for example universities in the research programmes;
- (v) the anonymity of the data and legal restrictions; and
- (vi) the considerations for data software tools such as those used by the World Bank to secure confidential data sets.

The importance of executing such a research agenda is evident from the following significant benefits to be derived:

- a) enabling a better understanding of the data;
- b) allowing for methodological research into areas such as the methodology used in the construction of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the approach to conducting Surveys of Living Conditions and Household Budgetary Surveys; and

- c) facilitating the process of anonymisation/dissemination of micro data;

In this regard, the decision was taken at the Second Meeting of the AGS to conduct an initial Research Seminar to coincide with the Thirty-Third Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (33rd SCCS) and the Sixteenth Meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee (16th RCCC) scheduled for 27-31 October 2008 in Barbados.

Major Themes

It was recommended that topics on statistical analysis and methodologies in the following areas be included on the Agenda of the Research Seminar:

- (i) the conduct of Population and Housing Censuses;
- (ii) the construction of Retail Price Indices (RPI);
- (iii) the Income and Household Surveys;
- (iv) the Construction of Poverty Lines;
- (v) Food Security; and
- (vi) the Regional Special Topic Monographs (RSTMs).

The overarching theme for this initial Seminar will be identical to that of the 33rd SCCS which is: *Working Together to Improve Statistics in the Twenty-First Century and Beyond*".

Mode of Submission

- (a) An extended Abstract of not more than 500 words should be submitted in electronic version to the Secretariat as well as a hard copy at the Seminar;
- (b) A full draft Paper (of approximately 2,000-4,000 words) should be submitted in electronic version in advance and a hard copy at the Seminar.

The submissions should contain a professional exposition of ideas, techniques and results, motivation for the research and a comparative analysis where feasible.

A Discussant(s) would be assigned to review each Paper and to make some brief comments after the Presentation. The Presentation should be no more than 15 minutes and the Discussant would be given 10 minutes to comment.

Persons wishing to present Papers are asked to submit the **Extended Abstract** in electronic form **by Friday, 26 September 2008**. This should be sent for the attention of :

Dr. Philomen Harrison
Project Director
Regional Statistics
CARICOM Secretariat
E-mail: michellejc@caricom.org and stats1@caricom.org

Full Papers should also be submitted in electronic form **no later than 13 October 2008** to the same e-mail address above.

12 September 2008