



CARIBBEAN STATISTICS DAY 2017

“Improving the Lives of People - Advancing the Action Plan for Statistics in CARICOM”



**MESSAGE FROM
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM),
AMBASSADOR IRWIN LAROCQUE,
ON THE OCCASION OF CARIBBEAN STATISTICS DAY
15 OCTOBER 2017**

This year’s observance takes place against the background of another significant achievement for Regional Statistics. CARICOM Heads of Government at their Thirty-Eighth Regular Meeting (July 2017) endorsed the preparation of a Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) in CARICOM. The endorsement of the RSDS initiative is in addition to their endorsement of the Action Plan for Statistics at their Thirty-Seventh Regular Meeting in 2016.

These decisions on Statistics at the highest level of the Community reaffirm the recognition of the vital role of statistics in the development of the Region. It is in this spirit that the National Statistical Offices of Member States agreed that the 2016 theme - ***“Improving the Lives of People – Advancing the Action Plan for Statistics in CARICOM”*** should remain as the theme for this year’s observance of Caribbean Statistics Day.

CARICOM countries continue to face increasing demands for statistics that must be timely and reliable. Evidenced-based decision-making is important in enabling the socio-economic development of countries and for the efficient management and use of resources. In particular, given the environmental concerns faced by CARICOM countries as Small Island and low lying coastal Developing States (SIDS), the timely dissemination of high quality statistics facilitates national policy development, planning and the monitoring and evaluation required for the achievement of successful outcomes. The importance of access to reliable data is a key factor in the recovery and rehabilitation efforts following natural disasters such as the recent Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

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Statisticians of the Region continue to make contributions at the global level in the refinement and further development of the indicators for the monitoring and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the regional level, the process has been advanced with the identification of a draft core set of SDG indicators grounded in regional and national priorities inclusive of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway) and the Community Strategic Plan 2015-2019.

These international and regional commitments as well as the priorities at the national level, have expanded the workload of the National Statistical Offices and other statistical producing agencies of CARICOM Member States. This has implications for the institutional framework (statistics legislation), and human resources, including training and re-tooling of staff. At the CARICOM Secretariat, the production of harmonised statistics and the provision of support to our Member States will continue to be priorities.

As Secretary-General of CARICOM, it is my intention to monitor the preparation and implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics. This is to assist in ensuring that timely, relevant and high quality statistics are produced to fulfil the national, regional and international commitments that have been made in our quest to improve the lives of our people as set out in the CSD 2017 theme.



**Caribbean Statistics Day Observance at the
CARICOM Secretariat**

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and National Statistical Offices (NSOs) across the region celebrated Caribbean Statistics Day (CSD) on **Friday, 13 October 2017**. The Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) at its Thirty-Fifth Meeting agreed that Caribbean Statistics Day would be observed yearly on the 15 October, however, given that this year, October 15 fell on a Sunday, CSD was observed on the Friday before.

Since Member States unanimously decided that last year's theme for CSD be retained for this year's observance - *“Improving the*

lives of people – Advancing the Action Plan for Statistics in CARICOM”, the Regional Statistics Programme (RSP) in collaboration with the Guyana Bureau of Statistics (BOS) convened a series of activities to advocate for Statistics and highlight the achievements within the Regional Statistical System.

The RSP continued to raise the profile of statistics in schools by hosting the Eighth Annual Inter-School Quiz Competition for Primary and Secondary Schools from **Monday 9 October to Friday 13 October 2017** at the **CARICOM Secretariat, Guyana**.

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Caribbean Statistics Day Observance at the CARICOM Secretariat

Inter-School Quiz Competition



Secondary Schools participating in 8th Annual Inter-School Quiz Competition

This competition saw six (6) Primary and 6 Secondary Schools from Guyana competing for the top spot in the two (2) categories. The Primary schools were, Grahams Hall Primary; St. Margaret’s Primary; Parafait Harmony Primary; Leonora Primary; Enterprise Primary and Grove Primary. In the Secondary competition, the schools were West Demerara Secondary; Leonora Secondary; Hope Secondary; Covent Garden Secondary; North Georgetown Secondary and St. Stanislaus College.

At the end of the competition, the first place in the Primary category went to Leonora Primary School while at the Secondary level, Saint Stanislaus College coped the top position for the second year in a row. Awards for the most outstanding student in each category throughout the competition were presented to Sherlock Langevine of Saint Stanislaus College and Darren Ramphal of Leonora Primary School.



Students of Leonora Primary School during the final round of the Competition



Students of Saint Stanislaus College following the preliminary competition

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CSD Observance at the CARICOM Secretariat

In-House Seminar

The Regional Statistics Programme also hosted an In-House seminar on Thursday, 12th October 2017 under the theme *“The Data We Have 2.0.”* The Seminar was aimed at introducing the Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) internally and to inform staff members of the statistical products available in-house.

Staff members were informed about the RSDS which is a key component of the Action Plan for Statistics and were given an opportunity to ask key questions regarding this initiative during the interactive session which followed the presentation.



Participants at the in-house seminar held in observance of CSD 2017

Additionally, staff members were informed of the various statistical products that are available in-house as well as how the data can be accessed.



Participants engage in discussions on the RSDS

Launch of the CSME-MER



The Seminar also served as a forum for the launch of the database for the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework for the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). The database is being disseminated using the DevInfo Platform.

In-House Statistical Displays

The RSP also showcased statistics by setting up two (2) displays exhibiting key statistical outputs at the Secretariat's Headquarters and Annex buildings throughout the week of activities.



A part of the display at the Secretariat's Annex Building



CARIBBEAN STATISTICS DAY 2017

Highlighting observances of Caribbean Statistics Day in Member States and Associate Members

Below are highlights of activities conducted by some CARICOM countries in observance of CSD 2017:



Barbados

In observance of Caribbean Statistics Day, the Barbados Statistical Service hosted a week of activities from Sunday, 15th October to Friday, 20th October 2017. The week commenced with a church service on the Sunday. Other activities during the week included a health day, secondary school presentations featuring the Social and Demographic Statistics Division, Employee Assistance Program workshop on avoiding burnout and increasing motivation for staff members as well as panel discussions.



Jamaica

In observance of Caribbean Statistics Day, the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) launched their Quality Declaration on Wednesday, 17th October 2017. They also convened workshops on quality with their various stakeholders from within the National Statistical System. Additionally, they compiled a feature for the national newspapers in the country exposing some of the areas of statistics. The feature included messages from the Chairman of the Board of STATIN and from the Director General. It also highlighted the area of National Accounts Statistics including coverage, sources of data and even the calculation of Gross Domestic Product.



Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines

The National Statistics Offices within these two (2) Member States partnered with the OECS Secretariat and Statistics Canada under the Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC) in order to celebrate Caribbean Statistics Day. Statistics Canada provided a young person from their office to partner with personnel from the OECS secretariat and statisticians from the National Statistics Offices in Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines and together these persons visited various primary and secondary schools to promote careers in statistics.



Bermuda

In spite of on-going processing of their Census data, the Department of Statistics in Bermuda also observed Caribbean Statistics Day with a display booth at a local Mall. The booth featured publications and other promotional materials which were distributed to passersby. These included flyers which highlighted the different outputs from each division within the department and an overview of the objectives of the department. The message from the Secretary-General of CARICOM was also distributed and a staff luncheon was also held on 30th October 2017.

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