



OECS in Le Grand Pavois Boat Show - page 2



New hospital design presented - page 6



Strategy for CWC 2007 - page 7



Fuel price rise affects everyone - page 4 & 5



Emergency Operation Centre Management for simulated plane crash

PM OPENS NEW WINDOW FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

500 JOBS BY MARCH 2005



The Youth Apprenticeship Programme (YAP), designed to foster the transition of skilled, unemployed persons into the world of work through formal and on-the-job training was launched Tuesday evening at the Sandals Grande Beach Resort and Spa.

Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny Anthony (center) presented the initiative in his budget address in April of this year, and identified the National Skills Development Centre (NSDC) as the agency responsible for the implementation of the programme.

Chairperson of the NSDC's Board of Directors and Acting Permanent Secretary in the Department of Education and Human Resource Development, Esther Brathwaite (left), said that the Youth Apprenticeship Programme would complement training programmes that are already in place.

"The Ministry of Education, Human resource development Youth and Sports and the National Skills Development Centre envisage that the YAP will contribute tremendously to the development of youth and to the skills gap within the sector agencies. It will complement training programmes that are already in place to reduce unemployment. It will also strengthen the existing training programmes recognised by the Ministry of Education, in the areas of technical and vocational education and training specifically, those offered at the National Skills Development Centre or even those within the National Enrichment and Learning Programme, which is within the Ministry of Education and other programmes from recognised and accredited training providers," Ms. Brathwait said.

The Government of St. Lucia will provide financial resources to support the programme, provide a tax allowance incentive to participating firms, who qualify and will make a contribution of up to \$400.00 towards the monthly stipend of apprentices.

Minister for Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports, Hon. Mario Michel (right) told the audience at the launch, that the Youth Apprenticeship Programme was another initiative of Government to develop the human resources of the country and to prepare young St. Lucians for the requirements of the 21st century.

"The programme was designed in response to the call by the Prime Minister in his budget address this year, for the establishment of an apprenticeship scheme to help skilled young people for entry into the workforce. The programme is being undertaken in partnership with the private sector, and it has received the expressed support of both the St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce and the St. Lucia Employers Federation. The skills to be taught to the apprentices under the programme will be demand-driven and they will be dictated solely by the requirements of the labour market," Minister Michel said.

The Minister disclosed that over the next two years, 2,000 young unemployed St. Lucians are expected to participate in the programme culminating in their acquisition of skills to enter the workforce.

JACQUOT AIRLINES CRASH SIMULATION SUCCESSFUL

• DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AT ITS BEST





# OECS Countries urged to maximize a rare promotional opportunity in France next year

**E**astern Caribbean economies are in a position to gain tremendously from the privilege granted to the OECS as The Guest of Honour at the world famous Le Grand Pavois Boat show in France from September 7-12th 2005.

At that boat show all member countries of the OECS will display unique products under a pavilion of one thousand square feet. The yachting sector in the Eastern Caribbean, well known for its activities and attractions in the marine industry, is among those likely to benefit tremendously from next year's tourism and business promotional opportunity.

Speaking to the media on Tuesday morning at the OECS Secretariat Director General Len Ishmael welcomed the involvement of the OECS in the international boat show as a chance to maximize the potential of the region's natural resources. The Director General said the member countries are excited about being the Guest of Honour at the boat show next year because it is a wonderful opportunity to attract many people to the Eastern Caribbean to sail and contribute to the economic and social welfare of the islands.

Dr. Ishmael welcomed the special offer to the OECS as one that will showcase the unique character of the Eastern Caribbean and the romance of its history such as its languages and

variety of cuisine and music. The Director General added that the Grand Pavois Boat Show could facilitate the movement of OECS member countries towards one economic space. She said this historic event will showcase the uniqueness of the OECS as a group

diverse in spirit and character but united.

The Grand Pavois Boat show will expose the OECS member countries to a new frontier for attracting broad media attention, visitors and investment because of its international reputation. Besides being acclaimed the number one boat show in Europe, it is also ranked number three in the world. The OECS will be the show's 11th Guest of Honour in 2005.

President of the famous maritime event Alain Pochon also told the media the boat show promises a huge market for tourism products of the Eastern Caribbean. He continued that the Grand Pavois boat show is even an avenue for student exchanges. The show which runs over six days draws over one hundred thousand onlookers from around

the world including Brazil, South Africa, Spain, Denmark and Australia and many of them will hear of the OECS for the first time as a new destination.

Tourism Officer at the OECS Secretariat Daphne Vidal responded that all patrons at the Grand Pavois Boat Show look forward to visiting the Guest of Honour pavilion. Vidal noted that the OECS as the only Guest of Honour at the event is an opportunity to target a niche market within the tourism sector to attract persons to the OECS region. Prior to the OECS's participation in the international boat show, the Secretariat will coordinate the first Eastern Caribbean Rally from December 27th 2004 to February 12th 2005. In this event racers from around the globe will sail on a guided tour in an attempt to visit all the OECS Member Countries, ending in St. John's Antigua and Barbuda.



Alain Pochon

Len Ishmael

## St. Lucia PM's words come to pass: Fuel Prices Freeze Guyana's Seafood Industry

**J**ust days after Prime Minister Dr Kenny Anthony urged St. Lucians to keep their eyes on the effects of increased world market oil prices on the region's economies, one Caricom territory is already reporting disastrous consequences for an important national industry.

It was announced in the press on Tuesday, October 19 that high fuel costs have put a freeze on Guyana's all-important seafood industry, threatening hundreds of lay-offs and raising a cloud of uncertainty about the industry's future.

That country's seafood industry has contributed an average of US \$55 million per year to the economy. However, according to the latest issue of Guyana's Stabroek Newspaper, that will not be the case this year.

Owners of trawlers and seafood processors have officially indicated they have stopped harvesting, and may send hundreds of workers home, because of the effects of the increased fuel prices.

One company, Noble House Seafoods, said it had already sent its workers packing and had also asked them to stay home until further notice. Other processors said they could also send workers home for several weeks.

Every year, the Guyana seafood industry takes a six-week break from

harvesting to allow marine resources to replenish. However, spokesmen for the industry said the owners decided not to resume fishing, because of the high costs and losses due to sale or theft of their products at sea.

The Guyana Association of Trawler Owners and Seafood Processors com-

prises 17 trawler owners and employs thousands of workers.

The owners and operators said they had to compete with Venezuela, Trinidad & Tobago and Suriname, all of which access fuel at considerably lower costs.

Prime Minister Anthony, in his

weekly radio address last Monday, urged St. Lucians to monitor the effects of increased world market prices for oil on non oil-producing countries.

The Prime Minister said that if current trends continued it could spell disaster for non-oil producing countries and economies in the Caribbean like St. Lucia and Guyana.

## ECSE Celebrates its Third Anniversary

**T**he Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange (ECSE) is celebrating its 3rd anniversary this week. The ECSE has experienced sizable growth since its establishment in 19th October 2001, with only two listed securities and 4 broker-dealer member firms. Today, the ECSE has 16 listed securities and 8 broker-dealer firms located all over the currency union. Combined market capitalization of 7 listed equities stands at EC\$680 million.

The ECSE has assisted participating governments raise over EC\$585 Million through the issuance of T-bills and bonds on its primary market platform. It has also helped the corporate sector undertake bond and equity offerings under its auspices. ECSE member firms have generated over \$400 million of buy interest in the

primary market and executed secondary market transactions amounting to over \$10 million during the year. Investors from within the region and beyond have benefited through opportunities offered by the ECSE. The ECSE's subsidiary, the Eastern Caribbean Central Securities Registry has processed interest payments for government and corporate securities of approximately EC\$10 million and maturity payments in excess of EC\$50 million.

As part of its regional expansion program, the ECSE would soon be listing foreign securities and including non-OECS broker-dealers as its members. 2 prominent issuers from the Caribbean will list on the ECSE by this year-end.

Reflecting on the performance of the ECSE, Mr. Baljit Vohra, General Manager, said "We are succeeding in our vision by linking pools of liquid-

ity for our government and corporate issuers from across the region. While we have a lot of work to do, we believe we're making good strides. We are confident that as a company—and as a securities market—we have the talent, energy and resources to take ECSE into what promises to be an exciting new era in our region."

To mark its 3 years of existence, the ECSE and its member firms across the currency union have scheduled several events in October. These include: a) an open house on "Investing Through the ECSE" for the benefit of the region's populace, b) interviews by ECSE staff and prominent regional institutions and investors on the impact of the ECSE and c) declaration of winners of the 1st ever ECSE financial journalism awards - to take place in November 2004.

# Government Strengthening Financial Management

**The Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with the Eastern Caribbean Economic Management Programme (ECEMP) is executing a project dubbed PE – 059 Strengthening Financial Management tailored to re-engineer the business processes of the Government of St. Lucia.**

The purpose of this project is to improve financial management throughout the government service, by taking advantage of the existing financial management system (Smart Stream software). Procurement is one of the business processes that have been targeted and is being reviewed to ensure its efficiency and effectiveness. Emphasis has been placed on training for all government officers involved the Procurement process and the sensitisation and revision of the Purchase order.

The Accountant General Department is charged with the responsibility of managing the financial system (Smart stream) and the monitoring the activities of the Purchasing module of this

financial system. The government’s Purchase Order has been revised and the Department is on a drive to fully orient all suppliers in its use and ensure that Ministries/Departments use purchase orders in compliance with the Procurement and Stores Regulations of 1997. The Accountant General feels that is important that customers are satisfied and good relations are maintained with local suppliers/merchants. Plans to sensitise merchants on Government’s purchasing procedures are underway, especially the advantages derived from acceptance of the Local Purchase Order.

Prior to Smartstream, several accounting departments within Ministries employed a manual system with vouchers written for purchase or payment of goods and services. These vouchers were subsequently sent to the Treasury Department for processing and entry on to their financial system (AS400). Currently all government Ministries/Departments are now electronically connected via Smart stream and the use

of vouchers are discontinued. In addition, the voucher which functioned as a Purchase Order and Payment Voucher now have distinguished roles in the new financial system.

The Purchasing module in Smartstream deals with the Government’s procurement of goods and is divided into three main steps. The creation of the purchase order, the approval of the purchase by an officer in authority and the receiving of the goods by a receiving officer.

Once a Purchase Order has been created funds are automatically and electronically deducted and committed from ministry’s budget for final payment of goods. This is useful in the budgetary process because Government has a good idea of their authorised commitments. Payments for purchased goods can be easily tracked and verified with the unique alphanumeric numbering system (which comprises the financial year, a sequential number and the associated ministry/department) assigned to purchase orders.

The Payables module in Smartstream deals with the payment of goods and services. Online accounting units within the Public Service create an electronic SmartStream invoice for the payments due to customers. Purchase orders associated with these invoices are then expensed and later paid within the thirty day period guaranteed on these payment instruments.

The introduction of SmartStream has significantly improved the time taken for Treasury to make payments and any delays are normally caused by non compliance of financial regulations or procedures by associated ministries.

In this revised business process the Accountant General has ensured that his Department plays a major role in monitoring purchase order payments. The Treasury has facilitated new means of tracking payments which are linked to purchase orders by ensuring that Ministries use a special payment code created for purchase order related invoices. Additional measures are in place within the Funds Section of the Accountant General Department to deal with outstanding payments for suppliers and ensure that accounting officers in all departments are aware of approaching due dates. The Department can be contacted for further information at: Main Office: 45-22397, Funds Section: 468-3949/468-3943/468-3827, Email: treasury@gosl.gov.lc or vendors@gosl.gov.lc

## CARICOM Ministers Adopt Aggressive ICT Strategy

**CARICOM Secretariat, Georgetown, Guyana) 16 October, 2004 - The Third Meeting of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Ministers responsible for Information and Communication Technology, ended in Barbados, Friday 15 October 2004, with commitment to an aggressive and focused strategy to accelerate the adoption of Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICTD) within the Community. The accelerated focus places people first, and envisages “a new departure for Caribbean ICT and Development.”**

Noting the rapid development in technology, the Meeting received and endorsed the recommendation from the Third Meeting of Directors of Government Information Services and Chief Information Officers that ICTs must be utilised in information sharing. On the emerging role of GISs in Caribbean integration the Ministers agreed that more time be allocated to the broadcast of regional issues and develop active working relationship between GISs and the Region’s institutions. The Meeting further directed the establishment of a working relationship at the national and regional levels, and the conduct of a study for collaboration with respect to the Regional content of public education.

The Meeting also paid tribute to former Chief Information Officer of Barbados, Ms. Margaret Hope for her sterling contribution in the area of Information and Communication in the Region.

The strategy for ICTs urges the Community to regard the building of a Caribbean ICT development programme as an experiment to produce insights relevant to broader and deeper development questions, such as how

the Caribbean as a Region consisting of small open economies, could engage with the wider world in a manner that is beneficial and mutually rewarding, rather than exploitative.

The strategy calls on CARICOM to adopt a fresh approach to ICT policy and regulation, capacity building, research and innovation, and to ensure that publicly-funded ICT programmes focus on disenfranchised and underserved customers who are currently not benefiting from the creative efforts of “the best and brightest” in the ICT industry. Special attention is directed to the potential advantages of a range of approaches including e-literacy, e-government, and skills training for cultural organizations and entrepreneurs to facilitate worldwide marketing of Caribbean cultural products. The Meeting

further agreed that provision of low cost high bandwidth communication access, for all citizens of this Region should be actively encouraged to facilitate this thrust.

The ICT Strategy urges national and regional organisations in CARICOM Member States to prepare “with the utmost emergency” and accelerate, action-oriented ICT projects in key areas including: ICC Cricket World Cup 2007, Disaster Preparedness, CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) trade facilitation, developing skills and interest in cultural entrepreneurship, E-government projects at community level, and wireless access connectivity projects.

A number of areas were identified as potentially viable in the preparation for the Region’s hosting of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007. These include the use of ICTs for logistics management and venue scheduling, e-commerce for global ticket sales and merchandising, integrated tour/ticket packages, and television broadcasting and web streaming.

The Meeting endorsed the proposal that the CARICOM Secretariat co-

ordinate ICT activities in the Region, including preparation for participation by Member States in WSIS in 2005.

The Meeting approved an ICT action plan, which would see specific actions undertaken immediately with complementary activities and targets set and met by the third Quarter of 2005.

It is anticipated that the Fourth Meeting of CARICOM Ministers responsible for Information and Communication Technology would be held no later than 31 January 2005, in order to agree on a harmonized regional position for participation at WSIS 2005.

**“The strategy for ICTs urges the Community to regard the building of a Caribbean ICT development programme as an experiment to produce insights relevant to broader and deeper development questions, such as how the Caribbean as a Region consisting of small open economies, could engage with the wider world in a manner that is beneficial and mutually rewarding, rather than exploitative”**

## Government moving to eliminate avoidable blindness

**Visually impaired persons island-wide will soon be aided with better eye-care services as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding signed on Monday, October 18 between the Government of Saint Lucia via the Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations, and the St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association.**

Executive Director of the St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association, Anthony Avril said the initiative taken by St. Lucia was an indication of its commitment to upholding the goal of Vision 20-20, which is the elimination of avoidable blindness.

Mr. Avril however, expressed con-

cern over two key issues, which he said required prompt attention, if the needs of the visually impaired are to be addressed satisfactorily.

In commending the Government and in particular, the Ministry of Health and Human Services for joining his association in the exercise, Mr. Avril stressed that while the elimination of avoidable blindness was a major objective of the initiative, the provision of adequate services for those whose blindness are irreversible was equally important.

Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations, Honourable Jon Odium, said his Ministry was concerned about the plight of the visually impaired, and had already be-

gun the preliminary process to address their needs.

“At last we seem to see a little clearer, what we are working at and this MOU is full evidence of what we have done and what we intend to do”, Mr. Odium said. He assured that the Ministry of Health and the Government of Saint Lucia would comply fully, in assisting the blind.

Signing on behalf of the St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association was President, Anthony Louis, while Permanent Secretary Mr. Fedelis William signed on behalf for the Ministry of Health. Mr. Odium also acknowledged the presence of representatives of the Lions Club at the signing.



# OIL AND PM in conversation



**Prime Minister Dr. Kenny D. Anthony**

**H**ello St. Lucia, here we are once again, with each other.

At a recent Constituency Conference of the St. Lucia Labour Party, I was asked by the calypsonian, Reality, what was my vision about prices in St. Lucia. You may remember Reality's highly unusual calypso, "Eyes in Their Backside". Reality was invited to sing his song at the Conference. He wanted to know what the Government intended to do about "rising prices." Reality wasn't the only person with prices on his mind, because the conference hall went quiet after the question was posed. People wanted to know.

**Keeping prices under control**

I explained to Reality and the conference delegates that the prices of some basic items had not increased since

1997, when we entered Government. These include the prices of sugar, flour and rice.

The Minister of Commerce, who was present at the conference, also pointed out that there are still some basic commodities under price control. Price control helps to discourage profiteering at the expense of the consumer.

**Prices outside our control...**

I also pointed out that there are other items – such as cement, plywood and steel – the prices of which had gone up, but over which government had absolutely no control. Importers had no control over the prices they paid to suppliers of these items. I pointed out that the cost of steel had gone up because China was purchasing all the available steel in the world to finance

its construction boom. I also explained that the cost of cement and plywood had gone up because manufacturers charged more to produce and transport these items to St. Lucia.

Some people are puzzled that prices increase even when some goods are under price control. Why is that so?

Let me explain. Price Control seeks to prevent "profiteering" by establish-

ing a percentage mark-up for goods. In other words, Government will say "you can only charge the customer a mark-up of 10%, 15% or 20%." However, the price the importer pays for the goods may actually increase, as is happening now. So, while the mark-up remains constant, the basic price paid to the suppliers for the item may actually

increase. The result is increased prices at the stores or supermarkets, as may be the case. Likewise, the Government does not have to increase duties or taxes for prices to rise. Taxes on goods may remain the same, but the base price for the goods we import from overseas may actually increase, as has happened now because of the increases in the price of



**Increased price of fuel affects everyone - Motorists, fishermen, business community**

ing a percentage mark-up for goods. In other words, Government will say "you can only charge the customer a mark-up of 10%, 15% or 20%." However, the price the importer pays for the goods may actually increase, as is happening now. So, while the mark-up remains constant, the basic price paid to the suppliers for the item may actually

fuel.

**Exchange of letters**

I recall just the other day, when Minister of Commerce, Philip J. Pierre, exchanged several letters with the leader of a new political group on this same issue of prices.

In his series of letters, which were carried in successive issues of the Voice newspaper, Minister Pierre responded to claims that supermarket prices were increasing as though they were out of control. The accuser couldn't exactly identify what items had gone up and by how much. Even the examples he used – crackers and apples -- turned out to be flawed. The Minister pointed out that in the case of crackers, the increase was not as high as the accuser claimed it to be; and in the case of apples, he was as surprised as I was, that such an item was being used to make an argument about price increases.

As for supermarket prices... The supermarkets have themselves explained how they too have to pay for goods at prices that have been increased. Since most of what they sell is imported, the cost of freight has also increased for them.

## School children participated in simulated airline crash in Vieux Fort



# PRICES

## n with the Nation

### Keeping an eye on oil prices

The price of fuel is the single biggest factor that explains the recent increases in the price of some commodities. When the price of fuel goes up on the world market, the result everywhere else is the same: the cost of fuel-related products, of manufacturing, and the cost of everything else that depends on energy increases. So too does the cost

gle OECS and Caricom Government Leader. We are as concerned now as we were back in June when I made an official statement in the House of Assembly about the unavoidable increase in the price of fuel locally.

### The multiplier effect

The cost of oil on the world market last week was way over the trouble-

analysts predict, then Lord Help Us!

So we have to keep our eyes on the market prices and pray that this is just another of the fluctuations. But if the price of oil remains where it is or keeps going up, we can certainly expect collapses worldwide.

### Protecting consumers

But it is good that people like Reality have the will to ask questions about prices. All citizens must be vigilant about prices. We must not tolerate unfair practices, whether in respect of prices or in the quality of goods we purchase. That is why we believe it is vital to empower consumers.

One of the first things we did when establishing the new Ministry of Commerce was to also ensure that we gave Consumer Affairs more attention. Thus, we introduced a Consumer Affairs Department that has been able to respond to complaints by consumers, including unfair practices and “price gouging”.

It is also with concern about the quality of what we buy that we also strengthened the Standards Bureau, which (incidentally) moved into its own new headquarters at the Bisee Industrial Site last week.

Another positive thing that has happened for consumer protection was the establishment of the National Consumers Association (NCA), a non-governmental body, to promote the rights of consumers. This organization has already done an excellent job in promoting the rights of consumers.

### Responding to customer concerns

The complaints and explanations in the recent public discussion regarding supermarket prices have also resulted in positive responses from the supermarkets. The biggest chain, Consolidated Foods, has acknowledged the existence of discrepancies between the real prices of some items and what appears on their labels. As a result, the company has announced that it will

voluntarily institute new measures to allow customers who so desire to determine and ensure what the actual price of each item is before getting to the cashier.

To ensure their profits, businesses have always passed the increased cost of goods on to the consumer. It has always been that way because that is a basic law of business. But while it is fair to criticize the businesses when they engage in unfair and exploitative practices – and some do -- they must also be praised when they show they are willing to take steps to address the concerns of their customers. Thus, in the same way that we feel free to express concern about the monopoly that Consolidated Foods has on the importation, distribution and sale of basic items, we should also offer a positive note when it displays a sense of corporate responsibility to its customers.

### Back to reality!

Now, back to Reality – in every sense of the word! Despite recent increases on some items, St. Lucia remains highly competitive.

As I told Reality: Take a look around. There must be a reason why people from other islands are coming to St. Lucia to shop – and not only for clothing, but also for other items. Go to any of the clothing stores such as Hobie and Taxi, the T-shirt vending outlets in the tourism belt, or even the Sea Island Cotton Shop and you will find Bajans, Venezuelans and others shopping here. Why? It is because our prices are better and more attractive than prices for similar items in the other islands.

And for that, even our critics must credit the policies of this government.

### Conclusion

Until next Monday, God willing, keep well. And don’t forget to take part in our cultural heritage activities throughout what’s left of this month. Vive La Marguerite!



of transporting the goods, whether by air freight or by ships.

Any sizeable increase in the world marker price for oil will automatically have a multiplier effect on every country that does not produce oil – especially small countries like ours. But it is not only small countries that feel the effect of increased oil prices. Large countries feel it too. Likewise, it is not only companies in small islands like St. Lucia that have to face the effects of the increased costs that result from increases in world oil prices. Huge Multinational companies also feel the pinch.

Take the US airline industry, for example. Large airlines are either going belly-up or seriously cutting back on operations. Thousands of workers in the airline industry have lost their jobs because of these adjustments. Other airlines have sharply increased the price of airline tickets or cut staff. These airlines simply cannot keep up with the increases in the cost of their operations sparked by the increases in the price of oil.

It is precisely because of the effect of these oil price increases that we continue to worry about the resulting cost of fuel for us in St. Lucia. Indeed, this matter occupies the mind of every sin-

some US \$50 per barrel mark. Those of you who have been watching, listening to or reading the news would have realized that every time the price of oil hits that fifty-dollar mark, the markets begin to tremble. That was the case for most of last week. If it continues to increase – and if it passes the 60-dollar mark and reaches the 70-dollar mark as

## Emergency service providers evaluate success of simulated plane crash exercise in Vieux Fort



# Preliminary design of new hospital presented to Technical Working Committee

**The Technical Working Committee for the proposed National General Hospital was presented with the preliminary design proposal for the new facility, during a brief ceremony at the Prime Minister's office on Thursday, October 15, 2004.**

Project Manager of the design team, Ken Cooper, who made the presentation, said block plans were currently being developed. He said this involved some preliminary cost estimates, identification of construction, medical equipment, roads and contingency allowances.

Mr Cooper indicated however, that the design team had been asked to consider a cost reduction strategy, since the main budget for the new hospital project was being provided by the European Union. He said this was expected to provide opportunities for differ-

ent options to be considered.

"Basically, the prime purpose of their visit at this present time is to get agreement on the preliminary design proposal, and then at a later stage, with that agreement, we can then move into the detail design phase of the works", Mr. Cooper explained.

Senior Health Facility Planner for Health Care Environment, Suzette Forde is to lead the design team's effort on the interpretation of the client's clinical requirement: "The health care planning process has informed the preliminary design proposal, and will continue as an integral part of the detail design proposal.

The elevation and conceptual form for the new hospital is expected to commence soon after approval of the initial preliminary plans



**Design for new hospital being presented**

## CARICOM Chief Information Officers Defined as Pacesetters



**Embert Charles - St. Lucia's Director of Information Services**

**CARICOM Secretariat, Guyana - Chief Information Officers and Directors of Information of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) have been heralded by CARICOM's Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Lolita Applewhaite as specialised agents in informing the Region on government policies, plans, roles and positions.**

In her address to CIOs at their third meeting on 12 October in Barbados, Ambassador Applewhaite deemed the

functions of CARICOM Information Directors as "indispensable," and she pointed to their roles in shaping the opinions and steering the course of the Region's private sector and the wider society.

The CARICOM Official told the CIOs, "the Community depends on the information you have at your disposal to decide upon their own actions, entitlements and directions," and "for information on government policy on legal and regulatory matters."

In alluding to the nexus between information and communication technologies and new directions for the Community, the CARICOM Deputy Secretary General expressed hope that

the CIOs will form a "virtual community" in order to take full advantage of the advanced technology within their reach.

Ambassador Applewhaite lauded the initiative of the CARICOM Ministers responsible for ICTs to have the CIOs meeting coincide with their meeting, also being held in Barbados this week, and she urged the Region's Information Directors to have more regular interface.

The CARICOM Deputy Secretary General also extended sympathy, support and solidarity to Member-States that suffered loss of life and damage caused by recent hurricanes.

## World Food Day to be more community oriented and nationalistic - Agriculture official

**Communications Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Philip Sydney has made a call for a more vigorous, community oriented and nationalistic approach to the observance of World Food Day, than is currently being done.**

Informing of the Ministry's plans to observe World Food Day, Mr. Sydney said the highlight would be the effective speaking competition among secondary schools, which took place on Wednesday, 13th October and was won by Yannick Lubin of St. Mary's College, as well as a national food exposition at the Derek Walcott Square on Friday, October 14 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Sydney said the public are being encouraged to come and experience local foods in a whole new way: "They are going to experience the many uses of our locally produced products, for example, we will have a seafood booth, which will be preparing in many ways, the various uses of seafood; a dasheen booth, a breadfruit booth and of course the fruits that we use here, the vegetables, the many uses of those things."

A Creole cookery book containing several local recipes will also be on sale.

Meanwhile, the River Doree Community is being commended by the Ministry, for continuing to host activities marking World Food Day, ever

since the Ministry first mobilised the community to participate in the activities two years ago.

"Year before, we had what you call a River Festival in River Doree, and that was under a different theme, which

was dealing with water, and that went down very well. We are so happy that the community of River Doree has taken that activity and are having it every year. They had it last year and they are having it again this year. In fact, they are having it on Saturday the 16th with

an exhibition, and on the Sunday they are having the river Dorree Water fun festival," Mr. Sydney informed.

World Food Day is the commemoration of global efforts to eradicate hunger through sustained agriculture.

## SLHTA hands over donations to the Red Cross

**The President of the St. Lucia Hotel & Tourism Association on Thursday 7 October, 2004 handed over to Mr. Vincent Boland from the St. Lucia Red Cross goods and items donated to assist the people of Grenada following the devastation of Hurricane Ivan.**

The Association, in collaboration with Helen Television Service, Cable & Wireless and the First Caribbean Bank took the lead in hosting a TELEFON on the 17 September, 2004 to raise the much needed funds and supplies to as-

sist in the Red Cross efforts in aiding victims of Hurricane Ivan in Grenada.

Through its efforts the SLHTA was able to raise over EC\$135, 000 in cash and kind. Donations were received

from hotels and corporate sponsors, individuals and organizations within the private sector.

The SLHTA would like thank all who donated towards this worthy cause.



**Red Cross building, Vigie, Castries**



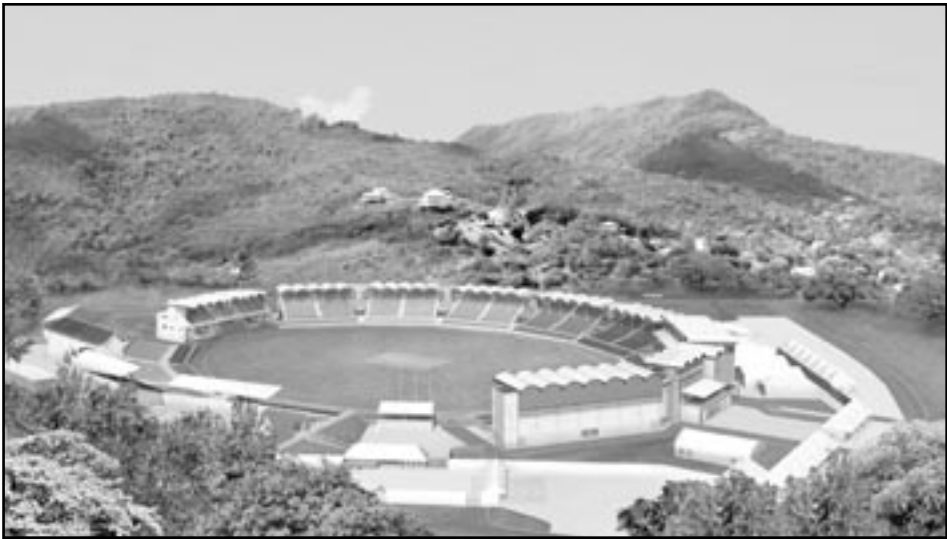
# CARICOM Ministers to consider Strategy for ICC World Cup 2007

**C**ARICOM Secretariat, Georgetown, Guyana) - Caribbean Community (CARICOM) officials today refined a wide-ranging strategy to be presented to Ministers responsible for Information and Communication Technologies in Barbados on Friday, 15 October. A major element of the strategy urges a business approach by CARICOM Member States to the planning and management of the ICC 2007 Cricket World Cup, to maximize its financial potential.

In a one-day preparatory session for Friday's meeting of Ministers, the officials considered the CARICOM Secretariat's recommendations to use the

preparation process for the ICC World Cup 2007 as "a giant canvas on which to paint a model of how small countries could benefit from technology.

During their upcoming meeting on Friday, the Ministers responsible for Information and Communication Technologies are expected to consider mandating the appropriate regional and national institutions to articulate an e-vision and strategy for the ICC Cricket World Cup Action Plan, covering logistics management and venue scheduling, e-commerce for global ticket sales and merchandising. Other ICT-based world cup applications will include integrated tour/ticket packages; television broadcasting and web streaming.



Beausejour Cricket Ground

## Detecting HIV/AIDS a big challenge



Dr. Stephen King

**O**ne of the biggest challenges facing the medical community in the fight to control the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases lies in identifying persons, who are in the asymptomatic stage of the infection; this means that they do not have any symptoms.

Speaking at an HIV/AIDS forum recently, Chief Medical Officer in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Stephen King warned that "unless persons go for a test, they will not know their status for a very long period of time and will therefore, deny themselves of the required treatment or make changes to their sexual behaviour".

"Identification and treatment of people who do not come in, who are asymptomatic, do not have symptoms or do not come in, because they choose not to come in is very difficult", Dr. King said. He said further, "HIV in particular, you would appreciate has a large time in its natural history in a human being, when it is asymptomatic".

Driving the point home more forcefully, Dr. King said, "Many of us here do not know whether we are HIV Positive or not. Many of us out there do not know; if you haven't tested you don't know. You don't feel it, you don't know it, it doesn't give you a headache; it's asymptomatic - no symptoms." Dr. King pointed out that persons must realise that HIV is in many ways a silent disease. At this time, the Health sector is relying on a system of contact tracing based on information gathered from persons who test positive for HIV/AIDS.

## Increased UK Aid for hurricane-ravaged Grenada

**T**he British Government has stepped up its aid to Grenada to assist in the repair work on the island following devastation by Hurricane Ivan.

Secretary of State for International Development Hilary Benn made the disclosure in a written statement updating the House of Commons on the UK response to the impact of the hurricane on Grenada and other Caribbean islands.

The British Government's immediate response to the relief needs of those affected by recent hurricanes has been £3.4 million (EC\$16.1 million) of assistance. In addition the Royal Navy frigate HMS Richmond and its Auxiliary Vessel RFA Wave Ruler have also provided support.

In his statement, Mr Benn spoke of London's commitment to help in Grenada's recovery both immediately and in the longer term. He announced that £500,000 (EC\$2.4 million) is being made available to the Regional Appeal of the International Federation of the Red Cross, of which £300,000 (EC\$1.4 million) is for Grenada. The Appeal will support 10,000 families for the next six months.



Supplies reaching Grenada

## Secondary schools compete in netball, football and basketball

**O**ctober 20 2004 - Secondary Schools on the island are currently participating in sports competition organised by the Department of Youth and Sports, within the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports, following the official launch last week.

The Department has scheduled netball, football and basketball competitions in two categories - students under 16 years and under 19 years. In the netball competition, 20 schools are competing in the initial stage and have been divided into four groups.

Twenty-one schools, also placed in four groups are contesting the under-16 football, and in the under-19 category, 19 schools are competing in the four groups.

In Basketball, 13 schools are contesting at the under-16 level and are placed in three groups, while the under-19 category caters for 15 teams in three groups.

Youth and Sports Officer, Michael Pierre said that the inter-schools programme was an integral part of the Ministry's function, as it helps prepare students to move on to national, regional and international competition.

"We want to make sure that when the players leave school, they have left the school with all the skills necessary to participate in club football, in national football and regional football, hence a lot of emphasis is placed on the physical education programme and the sporting programme within the Secondary schools", Mr. Pierre said.

He pointed out however, that "for us to reap the just reward, the Associations and the clubs must work hand in hand to ensure that there is a proper club structure, so that when these guys or these individuals leave school, they do not fall by the wayside and they have a ready niche that they could turn to."

He added that the competitions had been running smoothly, despite the absence of complete sponsorship. Mr Pierre was high in praise for the Micoud Secondary School, which won the United Insurance Secondary Schools' cricket competition, beating the Leon Hess Comprehensive Secondary School by 19 runs at the Beausejour Cricket ground last Friday.

"It is fitting", he said, "that Micoud has crowned the sporting year with success, because they have been very consistent over the past year, almost dominating the under-16 and under-19 volleyball tournament. Mr. Pierre also informed that Micoud was the current champions of the under-19 football tournament. So it appears that the Micoud Secondary have their eyes and their hearts on capturing the award for the most successful school in the department of youth and sports sporting calendar."



Secondary School basketball competition



# Vacancies for CWC 2007

## Operations Manager

**A**pplications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the position of Operations Manager at World Cup Saint Lucia Incorporated (WCSL).

The first six months in 2005 will involve intense activity to establish the administrative and organizational structures and operational procedures for hosting the Blue Group of Cricket World Cup 2007. Accordingly, WCSL requires an experienced and knowledgeable person to lead that process.

### Qualification

Applicants should possess: At least a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Management Studies, Operations Management, Economics or Finance, And At least 5 years experience in a management capacity

### Duties and Responsibilities

The successful applicant will be required to report and work under the direction of Chairman and Board of WCSL and any other person so engaged by the Board. He/she will also be required to respond whenever necessary to the Chairman of WCSL on matters related to work in progress.

The applicant will be required to: Assist in finalization of the Master Action Plan for CWC 2007; design all policy and procedure manuals for implementing the Master Action Plan; assist the Board in finalizing the organizational design to achieve optimal efficiency at WCSL; design a reporting structure and processes to ensure accountability of staff and stakeholders to WCSL; provide general supervision and guidance to the staff of World Cup Saint Lucia; ensure the establishment of a system to manage the finances and budgets of WCSL Inc.; work closely with the Ministry of Finance to formulate policy and activities to maximize economic benefits for Saint Lucia; work with all relevant Government agencies to coordinate the implementation of initiatives and works related to CWC 2007; work with prospective developers to expedite procedures related to the establishment of all related investments for CWC 2007; work with all pertinent Government agencies to develop a mechanism to fast-track applications for all pertinent investments for CWC 2007; coordinate and supervise the volunteer training programme of WCSL; liaise with counterpart officials in other Local Organising Committees, ICC; Cricket World Cup WI 2007 Inc. and any ICC CWC 2007 Inc officials on matters relating to CWC 2007; and perform such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Chief Executive Officer of WCSL Inc.

### Skills, Knowledge and Abilities

The applicant should have: Sound knowledge and proven skills in operations management and organizational behaviour; skills in project planning and monitoring; an understanding of the local and regional investment climate; a good understanding of the ICC Cricket World Cup and international cricket Skills in human resource development; a proactive, self-motivated and professional disposition; the ability to function as part of a dynamic team; excellent communicating skills; and Good computing skills.

### Salary

Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience.

### Conditions

The applicant must: Own and maintain a motor vehicle for the conduct of his/her work; be free and able to travel into and out of the State; be fully committed with no other employment responsibilities; and be willing to operate outside of the normal working hours.

### Mode of Application

Applications, along with all relevant supporting documents, should be addressed to: The Chairman, World Cup Saint Lucia Inc., Greaham Louisy Administrative Building, Waterfront, Castries, Saint Lucia, to reach him no later than November 26, 2004.

## Tourism & Hospitality Officer

**A**pplications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the position of Tourism and Hospitality Officer at World Cup Saint Lucia Incorporated (WCSL).

### Qualification

Applicants should possess: At least a Bachelor's Degree in Tourism, Business Administration, Marketing, Management Studies or a related field of study or extended experience in tourism and hospitality sector.

### Duties and Responsibilities

The successful applicant will be required to report and work under the direction of the Manager and/or Chief Executive Officer of WCSL. He/she will also be required to respond whenever necessary to the Chairman of WCSL on matters related to work in progress.

The applicant will be required to: Organize all of the tourism-related aspects of Saint Lucia's participation in Cricket World Cup (CWC) 2007; liaise with local, regional and international tourism partners on matters pertaining to the 2007 Cricket World Cup; work with the Saint Lucia Tourist Board in developing and managing a register of bed and breakfast accommodation for CWC 2007; manage all aspects of hospitality related to Saint Lucia's hosting of the Blue Package in CWC 2007; advise on product development related to the hosting of CWC 2007; liaise with counterpart officials in other Local Organising Committees, ICC Cricket World Cup WI 2007 Inc. and any ICC CWC 2007 Inc. official tour and tourism agency on matters pertaining to tourism and hospitality; and perform such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Manager and/or Chief Executive Officer of WCSL Inc.

### Skills, Knowledge and Abilities

The applicant should have: A sound knowledge of tourism in general, and sports tourism in particular; an understanding of the ICC Cricket World Cup and international cricket; the facility to interact with the tourism stakeholders essential for the hosting of the ICC Cricket World Cup; understanding of hospitality operations; a proactive, self-motivated and professional disposition; the ability to function as part of a dynamic team; excellent communicating skills; and good computing skills.

### Salary

Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience

### Conditions

The applicant must: Own and maintain a motor vehicle for the conduct of his/her work; be free and able to travel into and

out of the State; and be willing to operate outside of the normal working hours.

### Mode of Application

Applications, along with all relevant supporting documents, should be addressed to: The Chairman, World Cup Saint Lucia Inc., Greaham Louisy Administrative Building, Waterfront, Castries, Saint Lucia, to reach him no later than November 26, 2004.

## Marketing & Public Relations Officer

**A**pplications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the position of Marketing and Public Relations Officer with World Cup Saint Lucia Incorporated (WCSL).

### Qualification

Applicants should possess: At least a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing, Communications or a related field of study.

### Duties and Responsibilities

The successful applicant will be required to report and work under the direction of the Manager and/or the Chief Executive Officer of WCSL. He/she will also be required to respond whenever necessary to the Chairman of WCSL on matters related to work in progress.

The applicant will be required to: Assist in developing and coordinate the implementation of a marketing plan for WCSL; coordinate the public education programme for WCSL; interface with the media on all matters pertaining to Cricket World Cup 2007 and any other matters within the purview of WCSL; and liaise with any PR firm or agency engaged to promote CWC 2007 by WCSL or CWC 2007 Inc.; organize and coordinate meetings with interest groups, communities and any relevant parties on matters pertaining to Saint Lucia's hosting of matches in the 2007 Cricket World Cup; liaise with counterpart officials in other Local Organising Committees and ICC Cricket World Cup WI 2007 Inc. on matters pertaining to marketing, media and public relations; perform such other duties as may be assigned from by the Manager and/or the Chief Executive Officer of WCSL Inc.; and should be able to commence employment immediately.

### Skills, Knowledge and Abilities

The applicant should have: A sound knowledge of sports marketing; the ability to interact with the local, regional and international media; an understanding of the ICC Cricket World Cup and international cricket; the facility to interact with the myriad stakeholders essential for the hosting of the ICC Cricket World Cup; a proactive, self-motivated and professional disposition; the ability to function as part of a dynamic team; excellent communicating and writing skills; fluency and an excellent command of English and the ability to communicate in Kweyol; and good computing skills.

### Salary

Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience.

### Mode of Application

Applications, along with all relevant supporting documents, should be addressed to: The Chairman, World Cup Saint Lucia Inc., Greaham Louisy Administrative Building, Waterfront, Castries, Saint Lucia, to reach him no later than November 26, 2004

## Administrative Assistant

**A**pplications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the position of Administrative Assistant at World Cup Saint Lucia Incorporated (WCSL).

### Qualification

Applicants should possess: A Diploma in Administration, Business Studies, or equivalent or a certificate level qualifications in a related field, plus at least five (5) years relevant experience

### Duties and Responsibilities

The successful applicant will be required to report and work under the direction of the Operations Manager and/or Chief Executive Officer of WCSL.

The applicant will be required to: Supervise all Clerical Staff; manage the general office of WCSL; provide research and administrative assistance to the Operations Manager and/or Chief Executive Officer; liaise with other Local Organising Committees, ICC CWC WI 2007 Inc. or other local, regional and international organizations as directed by the Chief Executive Officer and/or Operations Manager from time to time; undertake special assignments as necessary from time to time; assist with personnel and training matters, including the Volunteer Training Programme; co-ordinate meetings, conferences, training programmes and workshops organized by WCSL; take minutes, transcribe and circulate minutes of committee meetings under confidential cover; and perform such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Operations Manager and/or Chief Executive Officer.

### Skills, Knowledge and Abilities

The applicant should have: Excellent management skills; decisiveness, soundness of judgment and clarity in issuing directives; effective management, interpersonal and organizational skills; the ability to work as part of a dynamic team and to assist in other activities of WCSL, as and when required; a proactive, self-motivated and professional disposition; good communicating skills; and excellent computing skills, with proficiency with word processing, spreadsheet, desktop publishing and presentation software.

### Salary

Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience

### Conditions

The applicant must: Be free and able to travel into and out of the State; and be willing to operate outside of the normal working hours.

### Mode of Application

Applications, along with all relevant supporting documents, should be addressed to: The Chairman, World Cup Saint Lucia Inc., Greaham Louisy Administrative Building, Waterfront, Castries, Saint Lucia, to reach him no later than November 26, 2004.

## Office Assistant/Driver

### Qualification

Applicants should possess: Three (3) GCE/CXC passes, at least one of which should be English Language; a valid Driver's License; and a Defensive Driving Certificate.

### Skills, Knowledge and Abilities

The applicant should have: Knowledge of office locations and procedures governing the collection and delivery of mail; basic knowledge and understanding of administrative procedures; the ability to work as part of a dynamic team and to assist in other activities of WCSL, as and when required; a proactive, self-motivated and professional disposition; and good communicating skills.

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