

# NATIONWIDE

A publication of the Department of Information Services

**Government's  
Youth  
Programmes  
making a  
difference**

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# CHINA TAKES ST. LUCIA SERIOUSLY

For a country whose size and population is unimaginably minute compared to China's, St. Lucia has definitely made a great and lasting impression on the ancient, giant People's Republic.

St. Lucia's gigantic stature was quite evident at a meeting between Vice President Zeng Qinghong, the number two man in China and Governor-General, Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy, who is heading the Saint Lucia delegation at the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

They discussed several issues relating to mutual cooperation and respect for each other's sovereignty. The Vice President thanked the Government of St. Lucia for its support in a number of areas, including:

St. Lucia's support for China to host the 28th Conference of the World Heritage Committee this year on June 30 – July 5, at which the Pitons made the list of World

Heritage Sites; St. Lucia's support for China as an observer at the Organization of American States (OAS) conference held this year;

St. Lucia's support for China's bid to host the World Exposition in Shanghai in 2010;

St. Lucia's already-expressed support for China to become a member of the Council of the Universal Postal Union, coming in October this year;

St. Lucia's support of China's candidature on the Committee for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women in August this year;

St. Lucia's support of China's candidacy for the Executive Council of the World Meteorological Council elections in May 2003;

St. Lucia's support each year for China's opposition to Taiwan's attempt to squeeze into the United

Nations; and St. Lucia and China's support for each other at the International Civil Aviation Organization, where St. Lucia seeks Category 3 and China, Category 1.

Vice President Zeng Qinghong pledged his Government's continued friendship and support for the Government and people of St. Lucia.

In an interview with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to St. Lucia, His Excellency Mr. Gu Huaming, he said, "The Chinese Government took the Governor-General's visit very seriously, because St. Lucia is a great friend and supporter of China ... we would like to continue this spirit of friendship and mutual respect for each other's sovereignty". Ambassador Gu took time off to be with the Governor-General at every event in every city.



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# Government's Youth Initiatives making a difference



Students at the National Skills Development Centre in Bisee, Castries

**"St. Lucia has one of the highest rates of unemployment among young people in the Eastern Caribbean. It is a real problem and we cannot pretend otherwise", said Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony in a recent Conversation with the Nation, noting that the search for investment must continue, as it is new investments that will create new jobs and opportunities.**

#### National Youth Council

A major initiative by the Government was the passing of legislation to recognize the National Youth Council (NYC), giving it an annual subvention and offering its members opportunities to serve on decision-making bodies.

#### Youth Apprenticeship Programme

The Youth Apprenticeship Programme (YAP) is aimed at young, unemployed persons interested in acquiring the skills and work experience necessary to increase their value to their potential employers. It is designed to stimulate youth participation in the economy and provide on-the-job training experience.

Some 2,500 young persons will benefit over the next three years. Hopefully, the economy would have expanded sufficiently by then to absorb those young people who have been trained under this programme.

Through this programme, the apprentices will participate in a series of Productivity Enhancement Workshops. Upon completion, they will receive a monthly stipend of \$800 during the attachment period. The Government will meet 50% of the stipend and the pri-

vate sector business or company will meet the other half.

#### National Skills Development Centre

The National Skills Development Centre (NSDC), which was established in 2000 has since been training youth in new skills. On August 30, 2004, the NSDC hosted yet another graduation exercise for 501 persons. Between March 2001 and August 30, 2004 the NSDC has trained a total of 1,474 persons. Presently, 500 persons are being counselled for training commencing October 2004. Of the graduands, 468 persons have completed job attachments to date and 19 have started their own businesses. Preliminary indications are that approximately 30% to 40% of persons completing training gained employment after graduation. Interestingly, of the 197 persons recently completing Job Attachments, 53 have already received fulltime employment and three have started their own businesses.

Age ranges of those persons who graduated in August 2004.

Age Range	Numbers of Persons:
16-25	274
26-35	124
36-45	73
46 and Over	28

"The NSDC has truly done a great job. The General Manager, Mr Noorani Azeez and his staff deserve our commendation. Nuff respect to you and your staff, Sah!", said Dr. Anthony.

While for this year, the National Skills Development Centre (NSDC) aims to assist over 500 young people to get on-the-job training through the

YAP, that number will increase to 1,000 in 2005 and by a further 1,000 in 2006.

Advertisements have already been published inviting applicants for positions as Job Placement Officers. The NSDC and the Chamber of Commerce are conducting a training needs assessment of the Private Sector and responses have already been received from over 100 local firms. The Chamber and the NSDC are also collaborating on the methods for the screening of applicants, which should begin by the end of September. And, very importantly, based on the fact that St. Lucia will be a host venue for Cricket World Cup 2007, two-thirds of the students under the Youth Apprenticeship Programme will be trained in the hospital-ity sector.

If all goes according to plan, YAP will be launched on September 30, 2004.

#### Youth Enterprise Development Fund

Another recent initiative taken by this Government specifically geared at assisting the youth is the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, which was announced in the Budget Address earlier this year. Just over a month ago, the Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth came here to sign the necessary agreements to establish the fund and to make the first allocation of \$100,000. This fund is geared to provide young people with the seed money to assist them to become self-employed. Government will, in time, increase the funds for this programme.

#### Human Resource Development Credit Facility

Up to last week, over 100 students had already made use of the Government's Human Resource Development Credit Facility announced in this year's budget. This facility was established with the specific intention of making credit available for persons wishing to pursue educational studies abroad. For this purpose, Government, through the office of the National Authorising Officer, allocated one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to two leading local financial institutions for onward lending to persons wishing to make use of the facility. Among those already using it are students and teachers, most of whom are young St. Lucians preparing for the future by pursuing studies and enhancing their skills at educational institutions abroad.

#### Cuban Scholarships

There are over 240 St. Lucians who are beneficiaries of scholarships by the Cuban government.

#### Study Leave with Pay

Last week, Government granted study leave with pay to 46 Public Officers, taking the total number of Public Officers on Study Leave with Pay to 126, all at the expense of taxpayers. Here again, a great number of these persons are young St. Lucians preparing for the future.

#### Modern Sporting Facilities

"For years, the youth have been crying out for improvement and modernization of sporting facilities. This Government has been paying attention to improvement of existing facilities at the community level. But at the national level, we have provided two major modern facilities that stand majestically in the north and south of the island, namely the National Stadium in Vieux Fort and the Beausejour Cricket Ground at Gros Islet", the Prime Minister recalled, adding that millions of dollars have been spent on creating these facilities, which now provide access for young people to improve their sporting talents in such areas as football, cricket and athletics.

To these must be added the modern pavilion in Vieux Fort. Next year, construction will commence on a new pavilion at Soufriere.

#### Making a Difference...

"Were all these initiatives and programmes in existence prior to this government taking office?", the Prime Minister asked, begging the question: "What was there before?"

Dr. Anthony said further, "I know and understand what it means to have young people leaving school every year and being unable to land a job. No previous government has been able to create jobs as fast as young people become employable. But this government, cognizant of that fact, has been putting policies and mechanisms in place to absorb as many of the unemployed as possible. As new investments materialise in the Information Technology Sector and the Tourism Sector in the next few months, I expect our unemployment figures to decline".

# Reaching out to Grenada and Jamaica!

Fellow St. Lucians,

As I speak with you, the people of Jamaica and Grenada are trying to come terms with the incalculable destruction unleashed on their islands by "Ivan the Terrible". This was a hurricane of "shock and awe", of death and destruction. Our hearts and prayers must go out to every family, every man, woman and child who suffered losses from the wrath of this vengeful hurricane. It is a season of death, destruction and woe. These are difficult and perilous times for our region and our community.

## Here at home

Here at home, I want to compliment our people for the orderly and patient manner in which they conducted themselves during the passage of Hurricane Ivan. Five days after its passage, we continue to thank God for having been spared the full effects of that powerful Category 4 hurricane. Our National Emergency response mechanisms performed well. The National Management Emergency Organisation (NEMO), the Disaster Preparedness Committees, the Emergency Organising Committees, the various volunteers, all did their part in this massive exercise. People responded positively to instructions as the nation followed the weather system on radio and TV. The press too played a positive part in disseminating information and ensuring we tracked Ivan at every twist and turn. We did well, but there are still things we can do better. More of that on another occasion...

## Destruction in Grenada

As we speak, Grenada has been declared a disaster area. Over 90% of the country was affected. Thousands of homes were destroyed, leaving thousands of families homeless. There's no water or electricity. Land lines are down and cell phones are out. Food supplies are running out. Scenes of utter devastation have been shown on TV. Communities are cut off. People are disconnected. Relatives cannot find out about each other. Some twenty persons are known to have died so far. The number is expected to rise. The cost of the damage has been estimated at EC \$ 2 billion. The deterioration in security has been arrested and calm is being restored. Without calm or security, Grenadians will not be able to rebuild their shattered country and economy. The damage in Jamaica is also enormous, but the details are only now emerging.

Athletic Stadium in Grenada after Ivan



Supplies arrive in Grenada

## Many lessons to be learned...

There are many lessons we can learn from the passage of Hurricane Ivan. Yes, we were spared yet again. However, what we are seeing in Grenada and Jamaica is a reminder of what could have happened to us. It is also a stark reminder of what can still happen to us if and when our luck runs out.

Despite all the evidence around us in Grenada, St. Vincent, Barbados, Florida, and yes, Jamaica, some of us still take hurricane and storm warnings lightly. Some among us say that we wasted money buying hurricane supplies, and there was no need to have closed down schools, business places and government offices. I guess that with hindsight it is easy to offer such opinions, misguided as they are.

## We must not drop our guard

We must never be lulled into a false sense of security just because we have been spared. That temptation must be stoutly resisted. Those of us who are

old enough to remember hurricanes like Janet, David, Allen or Hugo must share those memories with our children and the young. And those old enough to remember the effects of Tropical Storms Debbie and Lilly must not forget.

The fact that our emergency response mechanisms worked well throughout the period of alert is a good sign that our investment in disaster preparedness over the years is paying off. The response mechanisms that we activated during the passage of Hurricane Ivan were really part of a successful dry run, a practise, a drill for what would be the case if we were hit. But there could be an occasion when no amount of preparation could prevent the destruction unleashed by a hurricane as powerful as "Ivan the Terrible."

If, like Jamaica or Grenada, we had been hit by the hurricane, our story would have been much different. As was the case after Hurricane Allen in 1980, instead of counting galvanized sheets or banana trees, today we would be counting lost lives, destroyed homes and displaced people. Our emergency shelters would still be full. Our roads would have been blocked. There would have been no electricity, telephone or cell phone services. Hospitals would be damaged. Schools would be destroyed. Then – and only then – would we have seen the true test of our emergency services.

## Let's reach out to Grenada and Jamaica

While we count our blessings and thank God for being spared it is now time for us to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Grenada and Jamaica. We must all do whatever we can, in what-

ever little way, to help. We often describe the Caribbean as "family". This is an occasion to express and live our values as a regional family.

The Government is already doing its part. On Wednesday, I announced that NEMO will establish an appeal fund to which you are asked to contribute. The Police Force has also established its own assistance fund in which members are being asked to contribute to the welfare of their colleagues in Grenada, many of whom have also lost their homes. On Wednesday evening, a contingent of local police officers was also dispatched to join the regional response to assist in the restoration of law and order. A crew from LUCELEC is on standby to travel to Grenada to assist in the restoration of electricity. The government is also working with the regional disaster agency, CEDERA, to address the immediate needs of the Grenadian people.

But even more is happening. On Friday, the coast guard vessel, the Alphonse Reynolds, left St. Lucia with relief supplies for Grenada. Some of those supplies were made available by members of the Grenadian community in St. Lucia. The St. Lucia coast guard vessel was accompanied by another from Dominica, and they led a convoy of power boats from St. Lucia in a joint initiative taken by local boat owners committed to helping our neighbours in Grenada. The flotilla carried supplies from local private sector agencies, relief agencies and service organisations as well as from individuals with relatives and friends in Grenada.

*Continued on page 4*

## Reaching out to Grenada and Jamaica! *(continued from page 3)*



Help arrives in Grenada from St. Lucia

Private citizens are also chipping in. I know of a local car dealer and airline pilot with Grenadian connections who chartered aircraft to fly supplies in to Grenada as early as Wednesday. He also made arrangements to assist stranded American students from the St. George's University to get to St. Lucia so they could make their way home from here. Several members of the local business community have mobilised food, water and other relief supplies for Grenada. Much has already been shipped and much more is also on the way.

This past week, NEMO established disaster relief accounts at six local commercial banks, where each of us can make cash contributions to the rehabilitation and assistance effort for Grenada.

On Wednesday, I also called on the education authorities to consider beginning an appeal fund at the various schools, asking each student to donate at least 50 cents to help a fellow student in Grenada. That too will be of much help. Incidentally, we may have to accommodate Grenadian students in St. Lucia until such time that their schools become operational.

Every business place should arrange for cash donations from employees, no matter how small, to help our Grenadian brothers and sisters.

In times like these it is important for us to show that we care. I clearly recall that when it was our turn to request Grenada's help to house our prisoners after the problems at the Royal Gaol, it was a hard decision to take, but the Grenada Government agreed. Now it is our turn to help Grenada. In the same way that we are prepared to accommodate Grenadian students and citizens (such as the elderly and children) in distress, if Grenada needs our help to accommodate prisoners, we will not hesitate to agree to such a request.

However, Grenada needs much more than our prayers and other expressions of sorrow. Our brothers and sisters

need food and water. They need to rebuild their homes and their lives. They need to restore their services, their hospitals, their institutions. They need help to rebuild.

### Not the first or last

Ivan was not the first nor will it be the last hurricane for the season. There are others behind. We know they will come, but we do not know when or from where. Nor do we know if they will hit us.

That is the nature of hurricanes. They are unpredictable. They come in broad daylight and in the dark of night.

Hurricane warnings are all we have to help us be prepared.

Thanks to continuing improvements in met technology, we can track the hurricanes better now than ever before. But we are yet to invent the means of guiding them or of escaping them.

This is why we must always take each and every hurricane or storm warning seriously. Each one could be "The Big One". We may escape today, but we may not tomorrow. It is Grenada's and Jamaica's turn today, but it could be ours tomorrow, or the day after. It's never over until the season is over. In-

deed, do not forget or ignore the fact that the official hurricane season ends on October 30, 2004. And even then, the next season begins in less than one year's time.

So, we need to ensure that we always take heed. It is our duty, to ourselves and to our families, to be prepared. The alternative is too costly to contemplate.

Until next Monday do take care and remember, spare a thought for the people of Grenada and Jamaica and do whatever you can to help, no matter how small.

May God continue to bless us.



Damage homes in Grenada

# China welcomes Governor-General with open arms, tight security

**G**overnor General of St. Lucia, Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy on September 5th, 2004, arrived in Beijing to a warm welcome by the Government of the People's Republic of China amid tight security. Vice Foreign Minister, Mr. Zhou Wenzhong expressed to Her Excellency his Govern-

ment's pleasure for the visit.

Following a short reception at the airport and a much deserved rest from the over-10-hour flight from London, Her Excellency toured the famous Tian'anmen Square Rostrum and the Palace Museum, which has three buildings, all major heritage sites and among 30 of China's tally on the World

Heritage list.

The museum buildings, all named with harmony as a theme, set the tone for the Governor General's message in the visitors' book. She wrote: "It is good to be able to sit here today and remember Chinese Emperors and their obvious administrative skills. Supreme Harmony, Medium Harmony and Preserving Harmony, these are indeed the principles by which the world today should live. Best wishes". Later, the Governor General visited the Liyuan Theatre to watch the Peking Opera.

Her Excellency and her six-member delegation were accompanied by a motorcade of nine vehicles, which included security and medical contingents. Some roads were blocked and patrolled by hundreds of policemen, and venues barricaded to accommodate the visit, as onlookers wave at the St. Lucia Flag-led motorcade.

The visit of Her Excellency complied with the request by the Chinese Government to continue and intensify the high level delegations' visit from the Caribbean to the People's Republic of China. More so, the visit allowed St. Lucia the opportunity to impress upon the Chinese authorities the gratitude with which Saint Lucia has received the assistance given.

In an interview with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to St. Lucia, His Excellency Mr. Gu Huaming said, "The Chinese Government attaches great importance to Her Excellency's visit as Dame Pearlette Louisy is the Head of St. Lucia so the Chinese side accord Her Excellency the Head of State visit. It also expresses the Chinese people's friendship to the St. Lucian people and Government". He

pointed out that the Chinese people knew of Her Excellency's visit, as it was announced by the Chinese Foreign Ministry and was in the media.

The visit by her Excellency takes added significance in that her seventh year in office coincides with seven years of diplomatic relations with China, upon the establishment of which, four main projects were agreed to. The first three projects comprised the Goods Distribution Free Trade Zone in Vieux Fort, the National Stadium, and the Psychiatric Hospital, all totalling approximately EC\$100 million. This makes the Chinese Government the largest aid donor in such a short period of time.

Beijing, which is slated to host the next Olympics in 2008, is China's capital, which along with its suburbs measure 16,800 sq km. By comparison, China covers an area of 10 million sq km and a population of over 1.3 billion people, easily the most populated country in the world.

China became independent in 221 BC (unification under the Qin or Ch'in Dynasty) and was replaced by the Republic on February 12, 1912. And on October 1, 1949, became the People's Republic. China has a one party system and elections were last held on March 17-17, 2003, with the next to be held in 2008. Persons 18 years and over are allowed to vote.

China's legal system comprises a complex amalgam of custom and statute, largely criminal law; a rudimentary civil code, which has been in effect since January 1, 1987; and new legal codes in effect since January 1, 1980. There are continuing efforts being made to improve civil, administrative, criminal, and commercial law. The currency is the Renminbi (yuan), 8.21 of which equal US\$1.00.

Her Excellency was accompanied on the 14-day visit by representatives of the Ministries of Home Affairs, Education, External Affairs and Government Information Service.

Governor-General looking down on Tian'anmen Square



Tian'anmen Square



## Chinese business eyeing Saint Lucia

**S**henzen High-Tech Industrial Park (SHIP) is contemplating entering the St. Lucian market with its mobile service. This intention was conveyed to Governor-General, Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy during her visit to the facility.

Her Excellency has been on a tour of the main Chinese cities at the invitation of the government of the People's Republic of China, promoting cooperation between the two countries in several areas, especially education and culture.

Covering an area of 11.5 sq km, SHIP was constructed in September, 1996. It is one of five major industrial parks supported by the central government of China. By 2003, SHIP had achieved gross output valued at approximately US\$11 billion, nine times that of 1996. Of that figure, high-tech products amounted to US\$10.6 billion. The facility exported US\$637 million, while the provincial government earned US\$380 million in tax revenue.

SHIP has seven features, of which electronic information products account for 92 per cent of gross output value. These products include mobile communication, program-controlled switching and network fixing in the communication industry colony; components and parts to complete machines

in the computer industry colony; optic fibre, optical cable, optical devices and IC design in the photo-communication industry colony; embedded software and systemized integrated software in the software industry colony; and bio-engineering and new material industries.

The second feature involves the holding on intellectual property in a wide range of products, including mobile communication, medical appliances,

genetic engineering products, new materials, gene anti-cancer medicines, biotechnology's SARS and Asian influenza virus detecting agent.

The remaining features comprise research and development in a number of product areas; a colony of multi-element, specialized and interactive incubators with over 400 small firms; a virtual university park consisting of 43 renowned colleges and universities of China and abroad; three ecosystems

of industry, humanity and environment existing in harmony; and a business platform serving overseas business organizations of science and technology and technique-transfer agencies, and acting as a go-between for trans-corporations to invest or establish agencies in Shenzhen.

The Governor-General also met with Executive Vice Mayor of Shenzhen, Mr. Xu Zongheng.



ZTE Corporation at the Shenzhen High-Tech Industrial Park

# St. Lucia and China sign US\$3.65M Agreement

**The Government of St. Lucia and the People's Republic of China on September 6th, 2004, signed an Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation. This was done with a view to further developing friendly relations and economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.**

The Agreement, which in accordance with the need of the Government of St. Lucia involves the provision of approximately US\$3.65 million in aid by the People's Republic of China, was signed by Vice Minister for Commerce, Mr. Yu Guangzhou and Permanent Secretary Jacintha St. Helene on behalf of St. Lucia.

Of the total aid package, approximately US\$3.41 million is to be spent

on the implementation of the Psychiatric Hospital project, while the remaining US\$0.24 million will go towards the provision of general goods, details of which are to be agreed upon subsequently, by the two Governments.

The funds will be channelled through the Bank of St. Lucia, with detailed banking arrangements on accounting procedures to be agreed upon between the Bank of St. Lucia and the Bank of China.

Since establishing diplomatic relations with China seven years ago, St. Lucia has received some EC\$100 million in aid by the People's Republic.

Earlier, Vice President Zeng Qinghong met with Saint Lucia's Governor-General, Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy, who is heading the Saint



**Signing of Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement**

Lucia delegation at the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China. They discussed several issues relating to mutual cooperation and respect for each other's sovereignty. The Vice President thanked the Government of St. Lucia for its support in a number of areas and pledged its continued friendship and support for the

Government and people of St. Lucia.

The Governor-General also met with the Chinese Minister for Culture, Mr. Sun Jiazheng where she got a briefing on China's cultural development while receiving the commitment for future closer cooperation and development noting that the fourth major project is a cultural facility.

## Chinese officials praise Governor-General for punctuality

**Officials, city after city have praised Governor-General, Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy for her punctuality, in meeting the busy schedule of visits to various meetings and site seeing tours, as the scheduled road closures and reopening to facilitate her entourage were met with great precision.**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to St. Lucia, His Excellency Mr. Gu Huaming, who has been traveling with Her Excellency revealed that officials of the cities of Beijing, Xi'an, Shenzhen and Shanghai were very impressed with the Governor-General's punctuality for the schedule of meetings and visits.

"When a Head of State visits a city, we try to get to the venues and return on time. This means that the routes have to be closed and traffic stopped at all the appropriate intersections, much to the inconvenience of motorists. So, it is great when we can reopen the roads on time, which cannot be possible if there are delays brought about by late departures. In the case of the Governor-General, we have been able to do so with great precision, because she is always on time for departure. And there has been nothing but praise for her punctuality", said Ambassador Huaming.

At every stop, there has been a tight schedule of meetings with Provincial Government officials and visits to historical and cultural sites, starting from 8:30 a.m. and ending at 9:30 p.m. The programme involves much walking and signing of visitors' books.

In Xi'an, the Governor-General, among other landmark venues, visited the famous museum of Terracotta Warriors and horse pits, which appears regularly on the well-known Discovery channel. The museum comprises over 400 life-size statues of warriors and horses discovered buried with Qin Shihuang, who became the first Emperor of a unified Chin over 2000 years ago. It is thought that Emperor Qin believed

the worriers would protect him in his next life. Famed as the eighth wonder of the world, some 100 Heads of State and over 3 million foreign visitors have visited the Museum of Terracotta Warriors since opening in 1978. The site is on the world heritage list.

Xi'an, a famous tourist city covers 9,983 sq km and has a population of 7.1 million. It is the largest centre for logistics in the northern region and a base for national defence, scientific research, higher education, aerospace, and electronics industry.

In 2003, Shaanxi province, which houses Xi'an and 10 other cities, had an annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of approximately US\$30 billion, representing an 11 per cent increase over 2002. The GDP per capita was US\$789, which was up 11 per cent on 2002.

## Governor-General climbs Great Wall of China

**Governor-General of St. Lucia, Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy on September 8th, 2004, became the 400th Head of State to visit the Great Wall of China and climbed further than President George Bush. Her Excellency is also the fourth Government of St. Lucia official to visit the Great Wall, behind Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny D. Anthony and the late former Foreign Minister, George Odlum in February, 1999;**

**and Foreign Minister Julian Hunte in July, 2002.**

The over-3,000 mile long wall was the greatest manmade military defence structure in ancient China. Its construction started during ancient spring and summer period and the warring stated period 770-211 B.C. At that time walls were built by some warring states to protect their own territories.

In 221 B.C., Qin Shihuang, who became the first Emperor of a unified

China, linked the separate walls. From then, the Great Wall was continuously extended and repaired by subsequent dynasties. Most of the wall has deteriorated badly, with the best preserved wall at present being the one built in the Ming Dynasty between 1368 and 1644. This section of the wall is over 6,000 kilometres long.

At over seven meters high and five meters wide, the Great Wall has drawn much attention from the Chinese Government since becoming the People's Republic of China in 1949. It was designated a major historical site under state protection in 1961. And in 1987, the Great Wall was listed as a World Cultural Heritage by the United Nation Economic, Social, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

The Great Wall at Badaling is preserved as a historical monument and has become one of the most popular tourist attractions in the world.

On the visit to the Great Wall, Her Excellency was accompanied by the Chinese Ministry of External Affairs, along with several security and medical personnel. Viewing the Great Wall with awe, the Governor-General wrote in the visitors' book, "...inspiring and breathtaking. I will always cherish this visit to the Great Wall, a symbol of peace, harmony and international goodwill".

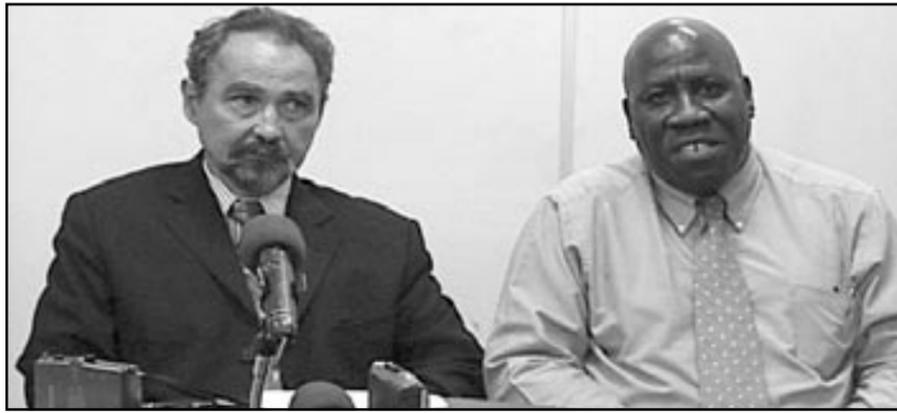


**Governor-General climbs Great Wall of China**

# EU Officials pleased with on going funded projects in Saint Lucia

**S**aint Lucia's meeting with a delegation from the European Commission has concluded on a very positive note. At the two-day meeting with the Office of the European Development Fund (EDF), Head of the Delegation, Ambassador Amos Tincani confirmed his satisfaction with the EU projects that are presently ongoing in St. Lucia.

Mr. Tincani said he was particularly pleased to see that the projects were designed to drive the country's economic and social development forward: "We have a very important and constructive cooperation between the European Union and St. Lucia. We are present in several sectors and we are particularly pleased with the Special Framework



**Amos Tincani (L) and Wilfred Pierre, EDF National Authorising Officer**

for Assistance (SFA) for the Banana and Agricultural sectors to assist both banana issues and also diversification. Assistance in the social sector linked

to bananas and the low income housing scheme is very important."

The EU official also disclosed that the European Commission was intent

on holding a second round of consultations with senior experts of the region, to discuss the implications of the Economic Partnership Agreement Negotiations. This, he explained is the Free Trade Area Concept between the European Union and the Caribbean. The meeting is scheduled to be held in Barbados.

"I think this is important for the Caribbean in general and for St. Lucia in particular, because it provides wider markets, supporting and strengthening the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. Providing more free trade between CARICOM countries and the European Union can provide a wider market space within which St. Lucian Enterprises can be effective," Mr. Tincani said.

## More EU Assistance to Saint Lucia

**T**he European Union has given the green light for the funding of a pipe borne water and water sanitation project, which will help address the problem of water shortage and water sanitation in depressed communities. This was revealed by National Authorising Officer in the

Office of the European Development Fund, Wilfred Pierre.

"As you know, we have serious problems as it relates to water, especially in the Dennery area, and the EU is about to implement a close to 250 million euros fund for water, which will look

at providing tap water for depressed communities and looking at sensitization to basically, sanitation problems," he said.

This announcement was made after a press conference on Monday September 21st, 2004.

The EU officials are presently on the island, conducting a Portfolio Review of EU funded projects.

The delegation is headed by Mr. Amos Tincani, the representative for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. He said that Saint Lucia stood to bene-

fit from the EU-funded programmes, as the Union was focussing on the implementation of the new hospital project, a major priority of the organisation.

"We are also present in the health sector to a very large extent through the new hospital. The country is in fact defining its new health policy. It's a very major new development and by next year, we will be able to formally approve the funds for the new hospital and for the implementation of the health strategy.

## General Assembly ends 2004 session with more 'positive outlook' - President



**Assembly President Julian R. Hunte receiving his Papal Knighthood**

**T**he United Nations General Assembly concluded the work of its fifty-eighth session today, with the outgoing President praising the body's genuine drive to overcome the crisis of confidence that had gripped the United Nations in the wake of the war in Iraq.

Julian R. Hunte of St. Lucia noted that during the 2003-2004 session, the

Assembly had proceeded to make real headway on such issues as sustainable development, revitalizing the body's work and reform of the Security Council, which had languished on its agenda without comprehensive resolution for ten years. Reviewing the strides the UN's main deliberative organ had made during the past year, he said that multilateralism had been the guiding

principle of his presidency and the basis on which decisions were made on the issues on the Assembly's wide-ranging agenda. The "negotiating table" had been given a central role. "This is how it ought to be" when addressing global challenges such as terrorism, HIV/AIDS, poverty and nuclear proliferation, he said, recapping the Assembly's actions in those areas and highlighting related events that had taken place during the session, such as the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development and commemoration of the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda. "My presidency was one that ensured that the General Assembly broke free of convention in challenging times that demand new ideas, vision and innovation," he said. "I am heartened to leave the Assembly with a more positive outlook - our accomplishments over the session prove what we can achieve when we work together, cooperatively, with a clear sense of purpose underpinned by po-

litical will."

Before Mr. Hunte's closing statement, the Assembly concluded consideration of 35 items on its agenda, including follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit, environment and sustainable development, information and communication technologies for development, and the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, and deferred 29 of them to the fifty-ninth session. The Assembly decided that it would consider the report of the Economic and Social Council at its sixtieth session.

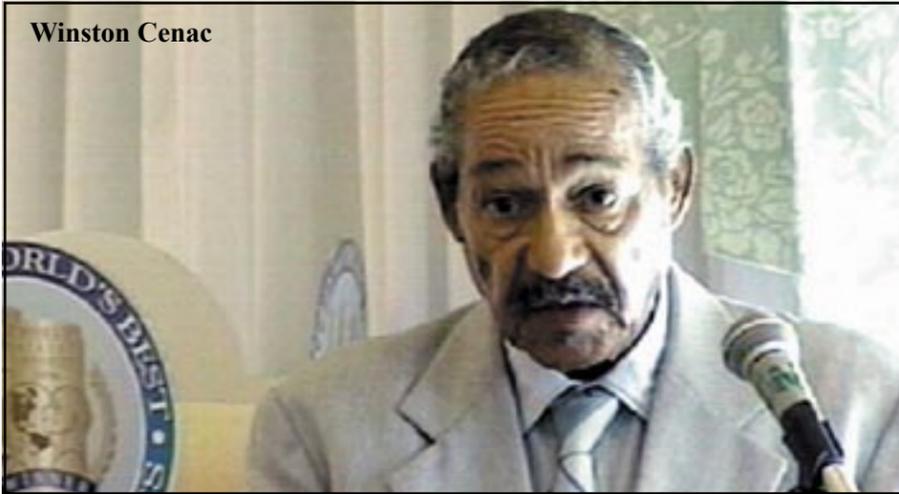
Also this afternoon, the Assembly adopted a resolution by which it approved the draft Relationship Agreement between the International Criminal Court - the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal - and the United Nations, and decided to apply the Agreement provisionally pending its formal entry into force.

In addition, the Assembly decided that the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters should be considered during the Assembly's fifty-ninth session.

At the meeting's start, Mr. Hunte expressed the Organization's sympathy and strong solidarity with the governments and peoples of the Caribbean suffering the after-effects of a series of recent devastating hurricanes and tropical storms that have struck that region.

The opening of the Assembly's fifty-ninth session - under the Presidency of Jean Ping, Foreign Minister of Gabon - will take place tomorrow afternoon.

# PM Expresses Condolences on Death of Former PM Winston Cenac



**Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony has expressed the collective sympathy of the Government and people of St. Lucia to the family of the late former Prime Minister, Mr Winston Cenac, QC who died yesterday.**

A prominent local attorney for several decades, Mr Cenac served as Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs in the Labour Party administration following the 1979 General Elections.

Mr Cenac, who died at age 79, also served as Prime Minister in the same administration following the resigna-

tion of then Prime Minister Allan Louisy.

A long-standing member of the St. Lucia Bar Association, the late Mr Cenac participated in the Constitutional Talks in Britain prior to the island's attainment of Independence.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Anthony has confirmed that, as a former Prime Minister and Head of Government, Mr Cenac is entitled to a State Funeral, which he will be accorded with full honours.

The Prime Minister is expected to make a formal statement later on behalf of his Cabinet colleagues.

## Grenadian Prisoners For Bordelais

**The Office of the Prime Minister has announced the arrival here of 20 prisoners from Grenada. Their arrival is in keeping with St. Lucia's agreement to house 40 prisoners in light of the destruction of the Richmond Hill Maximum Security Prison in Grenada.**

The first batch of prisoners, who arrived on Thursday morning, will be housed at the Bordelais Correction-

al facility, where arrangements were made prior to their arrival.

The Grenadian prisoners will be house in one unit, which will be segregated from the rest of the prison population.

The temporary arrangement, which will last until conditions for incarceration have been normalised in Grenada, is part of an agreement between the

two governments consequent on the destruction caused throughout Grenada by Hurricane Ivan.

The other 20 prisoners from Grenada are expected here shortly.

Following a fire that destroyed accommodation facilities at Her Majesty's Prison in St. Lucia some two years ago, local prisoners were temporarily housed in Grenada until the Borderlais Correctional facility was ready to ac-

commodate them.

In several interviews here and abroad following the destruction caused in Grenada by Hurricane Ivan, Prime Minister Anthony had indicated that St. Lucia would be prepared to house Grenada's prisoners, if requested.

Such a request was made and St. Lucia has reciprocated as part of the general regional response to appeals

### Julian Hunte's comments on receipt of Papal Knighthood

**Your Eminence Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Archbishop Migliore, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

I am, today, deeply honoured to accept the award of Knight of the Grand Cross Pian Order, which his Holiness the Pope John Paul II has so graciously conferred on me. I offer my grateful thanks to His Holiness for this honour, a most treasured tribute not only to me, but also to the collective efforts and accomplishments of the Fifty-eighth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, for which I was privileged to serve as President.

My tenure as President of the General Assembly confirmed my conviction that the people of the world, in whose interest the United Nations was established, want reliable and confident action from the organization. My Presidency also provided invaluable insights about the kind of international cooperation essential for the most effective functioning of the General Assembly, so that it may play its critical role in United Nations initiatives to provide leadership in a very turbulent and troubled world. It is cooperation of the kind that permits all participants in the Assembly to bring their perspectives to the table, in the interest of accomplishing the goals and objectives set out in the United Nations Charter.

We know of the Holy See's deep commitment to addressing the myriad challenges facing the United Nations and the people of the world. I do believe that the deliberations of the United Nations General Assembly on the critical issues of our times will gain from the experience and expertise of the Holy See's more active participation. Now, as the General Assembly assesses where it stands, and looks ahead to where it must go, the Holy See will be better enabled to play its essential part. I am pleased that the Fifty-eighth Session of the General Assembly would have made a modest contribution towards this end.

I thank you.

## Business Sector gets update on preparations for Cricket World Cup 2007



**Dr. James Fletcher**  
Cabinet Secretary



**Travor Brathwaite**  
Permanent Secretary Finance

