EDITOR’S NOTE

In this issue of IIRToday, we have focused on some of the current issues of international relations and on the academic endeavours of present and past students of IIR. We’ve highlighted the China-Caribbean Economic and Trade Forum, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, presented a review on *Fixing Haiti* and a lecture on the Cuba-Venezuela Geopolitical Alliance. Have a read and let us know what you think! The editorial team wishes to thank all contributors to this issue and also offers thanks to former members for their advice.

Josanne Warner
Student Editor

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On Wednesday 21st September 2011, the Institute of International Relations hosted the distinguished lecture “The Cuba-Venezuela Geopolitical Alliance: Implications for the Region” which was presented by Dr. Anthony Maingot, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the Florida International University in Miami. Dr. Maingot’s presentation touched on various aspects of the relations between Cuba and Venezuela and by extension the linkages with Caribbean and other Latin American territories.

Our distinguished speaker outlined the basics of geopolitics and pointed out the importance of diplomatic relations and cooperation among states in the region.

With specific regard to Cuba and Venezuela, Dr. Maingot indicated that the close ties between both Spanish-speaking nations were significant in that they created bonds and mutually beneficial linkages which contribute to the overall development and progress of either state. Venezuela’s energy resource endowment makes it easy for Cuba to access oil at a subsidized price. In addition to this, Venezuela is investing in the development of Cuba’s own oil industry which can eventually not only complement its importation of oil for its domestic market but also may produce some quantities for export. Dr. Maingot highlighted the alliances being formed in the region with specific reference to that of the PetroCaribe Agreement and ALBA. Most significant in his analysis was the issue of Venezuela perhaps posing a hindrance to its own push for the ascendance of ALBA through its PetroCaribe accord with other territories in the Caribbean, a situation which he indicated was worth keeping an eye on.

In exchange, Cuba has acceded the provision of technical personnel including physicians, and teachers for Venezuela. Notably, Cuba provides educational opportunities through annual scholarship grants for not only Venezuela’s populace but also for that of many other countries in the region including Antigua and Barbuda, Haiti, Belize, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago.

Overall the lecture given by Dr. Maingot was an interesting one which in the end stirred up much debate. It was indeed a thought provoking presentation which surely opened the eyes of the students to new perspectives, opinions and debates. The Institute is fortunate to have had the opportunity to host such a presentation as it has certainly been of benefit to its young academic minds.

Review of distinguished lecture “The Cuba-Venezuela Geopolitical Alliance: Implications for the Region”

By Krystal Khan

The China-Caribbean Forum Report

By Christian George

The 3rd China-Caribbean Economic and Trade Cooperation Forum was held at the Hyatt Regency in Trinidad and Tobago from Monday 12th to Tuesday 13th September 2011. Representatives from both the public and private sectors, from China and several Caribbean countries, attended the two-day event. I had the privilege to attend the Seminar on Cooperation in Finance and Infrastructure, which was held on Tuesday. Among those present during the morning session were several Cabinet Ministers of various Caribbean states, as well as several companies from China.

The discussions were fruitful. Hon. Michael Henry informed the gathering that the region’s airports should be constructed to facilitate larger aircraft. Later, via an interpreter, Mr. Yucheng Wang and Mr. Zhong Chen indicated their organisation’s willingness to work in the construction sector of the region. Ms. Li Lan then demonstrated her company’s presence in the region, by highlighting the construction of the National Academy for Performing Arts in Port of Spain, and in San Fernando, Trinidad and Tobago. She, too, indicated her company’s enthusiasm in the region’s construction sector. China Development Bank had suggested its financial prowess by declaring that the value of its outstanding loans is USD 472 billion. During the afternoon session, the China Development Bank stated its interest in developing the region by announcing the creation of a fund worth USD 1 billion. This fund would be restricted to the development of infrastructure only, in areas such as ICT and water. Loans would be available to the government and to businesses alike. Questions were posed by members of the audience, and were particularly focused on the terms and conditions (e.g. interest rate, payback period, amount of requisite collateral), as well as the definition of “infrastructure”. However, the responses to those questions were not very clear.
Caribbean Sea EEZ: New Frontier in Conservation and Sustainable Development

A Proposed Research Paper
by David A. Simmons (M.Phil./Ph.D Candidate)

Article 55 of the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention (UNCLOS 1982) which has now been ratified by all of the independent states of the Caribbean Community defines the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as:“...an area beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea, subject to the specific legal regime established in this Part, under which the rights and jurisdiction of the coastal State and the rights and freedom of other States are governed by the relevant provision of this Convention”.

The Convention also accords to Coastal States [Article 56(1) (a)], jurisdiction over the economic exploitation of resources in their EEZ. Notwithstanding these rights, the Convention is also very clear on the freedom of navigation and rights of innocent passage, even through territorial waters for military vessels, cargo ships and fishing vessels. What is not clearly defined, however, is the use of the EEZ by cruise ships for providing entertainment “beyond your wildest dreams.”

Unfortunately when UNCLOS was being drafted, cruise tourism did not command the importance which it does today, and no allowance was made for the extensive use by cruise ships of the waters in the EEZ. While international law does make allowance for innocent passage through national waters for several different types of activities and industries, it is silent on the use of the EEZ by cruise vessels.

In the absence of such clarity, legal scholars and researchers have to go beyond the definition of “innocent passage” and examine the real meaning and intentions of the framers of the Convention when they granted states jurisdiction over all economic activities in their EEZ. More importantly, cruising as an economic activity will have to be closely examined to determine whether it fits the definition of “innocent passage.”

In the absence of such clarity, and to the casual observer, one can infer that “cruising” is not analogous to innocent passage and is done, not to facilitate passage from one point to another (innocent passage), but rather, it is being used a medium through which the benefits of cruising are both provided and derived.

Also, whereas innocent passage for transportation purposes is directly linked to and infers the movement of personnel and goods, cruising is intended to occupy or linger in a space to achieve the objective of delivering a service or enjoying the benefits of that service. The objective of cruising is to provide and secure pecuniary benefits either to the consumer or the provider or agent.

Cruise tourism has, since the early nineteen nineties, emerged as the fastest growth segment of the tourism industry, generating annually 18 billion in passenger expenditure (Gabriel and Aguirre 2009). According to the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) the Caribbean region is the dominant destination for cruise passengers accounting for 41.3% of all itineraries in 2010, up from 37.02% in 2009, 37.25% in 2008, 41.02% in 2007 and 46.69% in 2006 (FCCA 2011).

With the Caribbean featuring so prominently as a cruise destination and the industry generating such large revenues, it is reasonable to expect that destinations should seek to derive a greater share of the benefits both as a means of ensuring the environmental integrity of the waters of the region but also because of their jurisdictional rights as defined under international law. Once it is agreed that “cruising” is not “innocent passage” the rationale for taking necessary action to recovery "economic rent" for the use of the EEZ is clearly justifiable under international law. Notwithstanding this obvious declaration, the task of translating this potential source of economic benefit into real wealth is not so easy.
The very vast Caribbean Sea, together with its multiple territorial boundaries severely constraints any attempt by one country to impose restrictive conditions of use, even when the activity is so clearly identifiable.

Experience has revealed that the imposition of any cost recovery or revenue sharing mechanism between the governments of the region and the cruise industry is difficult to negotiate and implement. Though the governments of the region are united in their desire to protect and develop the resources of region there are several political, economic and geographical factors impeding the creation of a unified or consensual position in regards to the quantum of any levy or revenue sharing mechanisms which could be applied to preserve and protect the resources of the region.

The task is enormous, requiring the use of all the diplomatic tools and negotiating skills of the countries of the region as there are possible tradeoffs and other concessions which will have to be made with other neighbours (American, English, French Dutch) all of who have legal rights and interests in the region.

Having identified the contexts in which the discussion on revenue sharing should take place it is imperative that this issue be approached not only from one strategic position but from the multitude of positions including, environmental, economic and legal and the identification of the appropriate instruments and institutions which are ideally suited to take this initiative forward.

**Proposed Activities:**

(a) Clarify the legal rights and benefits accruing to Caribbean States under the UNCLOS and specifically the EEZ regime.
(b) Define and detail the political and legal instruments available to coastal states in the Caribbean in obtaining recognition for jurisdiction over management of all economic activities occurring in the EEZ.
(c) Undertake a detailed assessment of the environmental threats posed to the region as a result of the increasing use of the Caribbean Sea as a major cruising destination.
(d) Using available economic tools and instruments quantify the cost and benefits of continuous pollution of the marine environment.
(e) Assess the challenges and complexity involved in the establishment of a regime to enforce and manage the use of resources contained in the EEZ of Caribbean States.
Fund Raising and Christmas Cheer at the Institute

By Zara Weekes-Rhyzer

Over the course of the last semester (September – December 2011), students of the Institute of International Relations have successfully completed a number of charity-driven activities.

Such activities included fundraisers, such as a Bar-Be-Que which was held in December to raise funds for students going to Cuba to present papers. Apart from the obvious goal having been obtained, the fundraising BBQ proved to be a fun team-building exercise which strengthened relationships amongst students.

Additionally, in the spirit of Christmas, students of the Institute set out to bring cheer to underprivileged families. With the assistance of one student’s mother, whose close work with young children brought her into contact with several needy families, eleven (11) families residing in the Belmont, Laventille and Gonzales areas were identified. The children of these families often go to school without required items such as books and stationery, and are often unable to attend school all together.

Seeking to liven the Christmas season for these families, students of the IIR gathered food items, assembled hampers and in high spirits headed to the Belmont Early Childhood Centre.

Here, on 20th December 2011, students of the Institute presented the families with large gift-wrapped food hampers, including several basic food items and snacks. From the very beginning of this project, students were quite excited by the idea. From planning, to accumulating foodstuff, to assembling the hampers, to presenting the families with the gifts, this activity fostered a sense of solidarity amongst all involved.

The various families expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the students of the Institute. Indeed, having fulfilled a desire to give back to the less fortunate in society, students of the IIR completed a successful and heart-warming charity event. The activities completed by the students went above and beyond expectations, accomplishing the goals set out while nurturing good work ethic and bringing them closer together.
A Glimpse at *Fixing Haiti: MINUSTAH and Beyond*  

Review by Anthony Peter Gonzales  
Interim Director, IIR, UWI

Since the fall of the Duvalier regime in 1986, there have been special efforts to build democracy and promote development in Haiti. These efforts have been plagued by man-made and natural disasters to the point where the authors of the book raise the question as to whether Haiti should be considered a failed state rather than a fragile state, requiring the type of interventions along the lines of Somalia, Afghanistan, etc. The authors suggest that since 9/11 in 2001 this perspective has gained ground in the US and other capitals of the world leading to a new approach to the Haitian development.

In seeking to determine what interventions are needed to resolve the Haitian crisis, some of the world’s leading experts on Haiti examine, inter alia, the performance of the UN and other key hemispheric actors in assisting Haiti, the new role of hemispheric players such as Argentina, Brazil and Chile, the pros and cons of a Marshall-plan-like programme, and some of the major constitutional, social and political issues that confront Haiti.

This book is recommended reading for scholars of the region as it covers the relevant range of domestic and international issues facing Haiti with the intellectual rigor that they require. It is also timely as it comes in the wake of the devastating earthquake in 2010 and when the UN has been reviewing its MINUSTAH programme in Haiti.


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**IIR congratulates an alumna for success in the Japan Foreign Trade Council international essay contest**

Nicole Brown, an alumna of the Institute of International Relations (Postgraduate Diploma in 2005 and Masters Degree in 2006), was selected as the grand prize winner of an international essay contest sponsored by the Japan Foreign Trade Council (JFTC). The JFTC sponsored her travel to Tokyo, where she received this award at their annual New Year's celebration.

The contest has been in existence since 2005 and in 2012, there were 186 entries from 43 countries. This is certainly an accomplishment for the Institute by extension and present IIR students should be encouraged to partake in the annual competition.

Remarks by Selection committee:  

Copy of essay:  
**IIR praises one of its own for success in the ALBA Cultural Research Scholarship Programme**

The Juan Marinello Research Institute of Cuba in collaboration with the Cultural Fund Department of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (ALBA), in October 2011, issued a call for papers from scholars and academics throughout the region under the ALBA Cultural Research Scholarship programme of 2011-2012. This competition, in its second year focused on supporting politico-cultural research targeted towards building a more inclusive, integrated and culturally aware society.

This year’s competition received more than 103 applicants from across thirteen (13) countries in the region. The Committee, headed by Fernando Martinez Heredia, Director and Professor at the Juan Marinello Cuban Research Institute (President), Adolfo Columbres, Argentine Anthropologist attached to the Regional Centre for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Latin America (CRESPIAL-UNESCO), and Ana Cairo Ballester of Cuba, Doctor of Philological Sciences and Professor in the Faculty of Arts and Literature at the University of Havana, coordinated by Rodrigo Espina Prieto, convened on February 13th, 2012 in Havana, Cuba and finally whittled down the list to eight (8) winners from across the region.

The 2011-2012 winners of the research scholarships are David B. Quintana Lima of Bolivia, Vicente Giaccaglini Ferraro Jr of Brazil, Jesús Guanche Pérez, Ernesto Guevara Fernández and Ailyn Torres Santana of Cuba, Andrea C. Madrid Tamayo of Ecuador, Gwendolene Charelle Roberts of Trinidad and Tobago, and Joelena Barón Blanco of Venezuela.

An MPhil/PhD in International Relations candidate of the Institute of International Relations at The University of The West Indies, Miss Gwendolene Roberts is the only English speaking (though bi-lingual) candidate from among the list of scholarship winners. Her proposal: Reconfiguring the Latin American-Caribbean Integration Debate through the use of Media: the case of Venezuela, Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago, was selected by the panel for the project’s potential to influence the strategic use of Media to reignite the move towards integration between the two regions.

This achievement comes on the heels of Ms. Roberts’ recently completed internship in Guyana at the then Pro Tempore Presidency Unit of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) in Georgetown which was funded and supported by the United Nations University Comparative Regional Integration Systems (UNU-CRIS) Network of Regional Integration Studies (NETRIS).

Ms. Roberts also recently completed her Master of Science in Global Studies degree at the University where the focus of her thesis was the use of the Media as a 21st century tool to reconfigure the Caribbean’s Integration movement. Seeking to create a space through which meaningful dialogue and more importantly, collective, policy-oriented action is taken by governments of the region, it is intended that the outcomes of this project will activate the creation of an internal mechanism for the management of the flows of information throughout the Latin American-Caribbean region.

**2012 Human Rights Film Seminar Series**

The Institute of International Relations and the United Nations Information Centre is launching the 2012 Human Rights Film Series on Thursday 8th March 2012 in the Boardroom of the Institute of International Relations. Each of the three seminars will be presented during the 2011-2012 second semester and will mark a specific United Nations commemoration. Each will include a film screening followed by a discussion session. To launch the series, the feature film *Maria Full of Grace* will be screened in observance of International Women’s Day.

**8 March 2012 | International Women’s Day | Maria Full of Grace (2004)**


Seminars will be held in the Boardroom of the Institute of International Relations (IIR) on Thursdays from 1-4p.m.
Editorial Committee

Members:
Josanne Warner (Editor)
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Krystal Khan
Kamau Joseph

Chair of the Committee:
Dr. Anthony P. Gonzales

Editorial consultants:
Solange Mike
Tamara Brathwaite

Email: iir.today@sta.uwi.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS (2012)

Dignitary Visits

January 19: Visit to the Institute by British High Commissioner, Howard Drake
January 23: Visit to the Institute by British Minister, Jeremy Browne

Film series

UNIC and IIR Human Rights Film Series
March 8, 29; 12 April 2012

Postgraduate Seminars

Monday January 30th
Tuesday February 28th
Friday March 23rd
Monday April 30th

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Email: iirt@sta.uwi.edu

Telephone: (868) 662 2002 ext 82084, 82011, 83235
Website: http://sta.uwi.edu/iir/