EDITOR'S NOTE

IIR TODAY

The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

Newsletter of the Institute of International Relations
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IIR Celebrates 45 years of operation..

Congratulations to the UWI St. Augustine Campus on its 50th Anniversary!

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I would like to thank the former editorial committee for entrusting us with the responsibility of continuing the newsletter. In the past three months there have been two elections within the Caribbean region, a change in government in the British parliament, an oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and the withdrawal of United States troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. The international community has been engaged with events all of which cannot be explored in this edition. This issue of the IIR Today attempts to capture some of those events while celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the St Augustine Campus of the University and the forty fifth anniversary of the Institute of International Relations. This semester begins with the commencement of the MSc. Global Studies Programme in Guyana, coupled with a new crop of students at the St. Augustine campus. On behalf of the Editorial committee I would like to congratulate our graduating colleagues and welcome those beginning their chosen programmes at the Institute, may your time here be as edifying as it has been for us all. Finally I would like to thank all contributors to this edition of the IIR Today.
IIR in PERSPECTIVE

by Dr. Hans Geiser

Established as The Graduate Institute of International Relations on the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies, the Institute prides itself of some 42 years of teaching and training in the field of international relations. Every now and then, it is useful to look at how the institution has evolved over the years, if only to determine where we stand today. To make it clear upfront: What follows is not a history of the Institute, but rather an impressionistic account by someone who was closely associated with the Institute in the early years, and still is today. A proper history still remains to be written!

It all began with a visit in the mid-60s of Dr. Eric Williams to Switzerland. Being a prominent scholar/historian himself, he was particularly interested and impressed by his visit to the Geneva Graduate Institute of Higher International Studies, the oldest international relations school, established at the time of the League of Nations, in 1927. Acutely aware of the need for trained personnel in the field of foreign affairs, diplomacy and international relations, Dr. Williams convinced the Swiss Government to enter into a cooperation agreement with the purpose of setting up a similar Institute in Trinidad & Tobago, a project to be implemented by the Geneva Institute to meet the training and educational needs of newly independent Trinidad & Tobago and of some of the other CARIFTA/ CARICOM Countries.

Thus, the IIR started operations in 1967/68, offering a UWI recognized graduate diploma in international relations, financed by the Swiss Government and directed and staffed mostly by Swiss nationals, and attracting as students a number of mid-career professionals among them people like Jack Warner, Orville London, Anthony Lucky, Cecile Bernard, and others.

Among the Swiss Directors, clearly outstanding was Professor Roy Preiswerk. He really laid the foundation of the Institute. He tailored the curriculum to fit the need of the Caribbean Region and its Governments, he initiated a comprehensive research programme and document collection, he established the necessary linkages with the University and, it was Professor Preiswerk, who made every effort to gradually “westindianise” the teaching staff and attract well qualified Caribbean nationals to join the faculty of the Institute.

In parallel, the Swiss Government opened a scholarship window for graduates of the Institute to pursue doctoral studies at Geneva and, on completion, to return and join the teaching staff. Two names come immediately to mind: Anthony Peter Gonzales and Henry Gill. The Swiss support both, financially and in terms of Staff, was gradually reduced and the Institute became a truly West Indian institution within the University of the West Indies. By 1973, the Institute had its first West Indian Director in the person of Professor Leslie Manigat (Haiti), a widely known international relations scholar and historian. It is fair to say that under his leadership and the leadership of some of his successors, the Institute flourished and gained a solid regional and international reputation throughout the 70s and early 80s.

“This is not the place to glorify the past and criticize the present. Quite obviously, times have changed and the Institute changed over time”

What were the Institute’s strong points in those days? A clearly defined mandate; strong support including financial contributions by regional Governments, i.e. Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and of course Trinidad & Tobago; a regional student body including participants from the smaller Eastern Caribbean Islands; a distinguished Board of Directors,
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[Continued]

... with high level international representation (UNITAR, Geneva) and Government participation (all participating Governments sent senior Officials to Board Meetings, in the case of Trinidad & Tobago, invariably the Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister); a vibrant, dedicated student oriented and well qualified teaching and support staff; and importantly, a teaching and research programme relevant to the needs of the regional governments and their aspiring officials.

Mention must be made of some of the extracurricular activities which brought much credit to the Institute in those years. With the agreement of the Government of Trinidad & Tobago (Ministry of Education) the Institute was running for some years an outreach programme entitled: Teaching International Relations at Secondary Schools. Teams of faculty members were running weekly sessions throughout the Country, creating awareness and understanding among high school students of the role and importance of international relations in the Caribbean context.

A similar outreach programme was delivered by way of “offshore” workshops in the various smaller Islands, centered around current issues in Caribbean International relations and targeting audiences which otherwise could not be reached out of the St. Augustine Campus. Finally, mention is made of certain cooperative arrangements that the Institute had established earlier on with prominent teaching and training institutions outside the region, for the purpose of faculty and student exchange: The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, the Carlton University International Relations Programme and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

What has changed since? This is not the place to glorify the past and criticize the present. Quite obviously, times have changed and the Institute changed over time. However, one can regret that the Institute has somehow lost its regional vocation: The support of the regional Governments has evaporated, and so has their financial contributions. 90% of the Diploma Student Body today is from Trinidad & Tobago, mostly young undergraduates, and even the Government does not send any of its new recruits and junior officials for training at the Institute. The Diploma Programme does not seem to meet the needs and expectations of the Government and it is searching for other training opportunities.

With regard to the curriculum offered, one can argue that it is not in line with a basic international relations programme, certainly not at the Diploma level, as it was initially conceived and as it is being taught at other international relations schools. Any such programme must include professional enhancement and training in the three basic disciplines, i.e. international history and politics, international law and international economic relations. It must be praxis oriented and invariably use the interdisciplinary approach to issues relating to foreign policy and diplomacy. Such a programme must also contain a number of practical elements for the development of the necessary professional skills and aptitudes in areas such as international negotiations, multilateral diplomacy and diplomatic law and practice.

The Institute today is fully integrated into the bureaucracy of the University as a traditional academic institution. This has certainly its advantages, but it also reduces the degree of autonomy the Institute used to have in the past. In this sense, greater emphasis has been placed on the development of the Msc. and PhD. Programmes to meet academic standards, at times at the expense and neglect of the Diploma Programme, and this within the context of limited teaching capacities.

Dr. Hans Geiser
Hon. Senior Fellow
UWI Institute of International Relations

Over the past decade Dr. Geiser has continued his active participation with the Institute by supervising post graduate diploma students’ seminar thesis in the area of sustainable development and human rights.
Rehema Cox discusses his impending retirement with Prof. Ramsaran.

**When did you first join the Institute of International Relations?**

A. My first job with the University of the West Indies was a Research Assistant at the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) in 1969. Following this stint I came to IIR in 1971 as a Junior Research Fellow and remained for two (2) years. In 1973, I went back to ISER in Mona as a Research Fellow until 1976 when I returned to IIR where I have been since. The year 2009 would have marked forty (40) years of continuous service with the University of the West Indies. In between I did some short stints with regional and international organizations.

**Q. Why have you stayed at the Institute?**

A. IIR offered a conducive environment for teaching and research. When I came also found a group of bright, dedicated young intellectuals on the teaching staff who provided inspiration and encouragement. I was also able to collaborate with staff from the Department of Economics on some undertakings in which we had common interest. Unfortunately, some of these colleagues have died, while others have gone elsewhere.

**Q. Did you enjoy being an academic?**

A. Oh yes. I liked teaching, research and writing even more. In my lifetime I may have written and edited more than twenty (20) books and monographs and numerous articles. Of late however, I have slowed down considerably because of health and other reasons.

**Q. Is the Institute still relevant?**

A. More than ever. But its mandate and mission must be clear. Times have changed. We must train with a view to filling needs. If indeed we are offering a graduate program there should be greater control over the quality of entrants.

**Q. What do you think of today’s students?**

A. Students are intelligent, but they are coming out of secondary schools with a certain kind of orientation – the object is to pass exams and get a certificate, not necessarily to learn. Indiscipline and the aversion to advice are prevalent. In playing the numbers game the University is becoming more accommodating.

**Q. Would you miss the Institute?**

A. I leave with a lot of good memories. In the 1970s and 1980s the Institute was less segmented and had a strong team spirit. Colleagues could be found at the Institute on public holidays, weekends and late at nights. No personal computers then and manuscripts were done on typewriters and stencils. Can you imagine how painstaking it was to make corrections? I have had the pleasure of seeing many of our graduates assume positions in both the public and private sectors as policy-makers and decision-makers.

**Q. Any sad moments?**

A. The deaths of Dr. Herb Addo and Dr. Tyrone Ferguson. Dr. Addo was not only a colleague but an extremely close friend and confidante.

**Q. Where do you see the Caribbean going?**

A. I think that the Caribbean is heading into very troubled waters. The politicians are more talkers than action takers. They have lost too many opportunities. Apart from the resource sectors there is no real industry of any note. Agriculture is almost dead, and it is difficult to discern an economic strategy. You see all the signs of growing dependency and vulnerability.
Whether a country is developed, underdeveloped or somewhere in between, there is a universal need to achieve energy security for existence in this 21st Century. This energy need is driven by international competition and fuelled, predominantly, by oil and gas. In some instances, countries which have been exposed to the volatility of oil and gas prices have reacted by exploring alternative methods to attain energy security.

In this vein, I opted to explore the impact that oil and gas has on Trinidad and Tobago. Trinidad and Tobago has extensive oil reserves and is a significant exporter of natural gas to the United States. This twin-island state has one of the largest GDPs of the Anglo-phone Caribbean, yet with almost half the population of Jamaica. Neighboring Caribbean countries provide the quintessential case studies as they are of comparable geographic size, political systems, economic development and dependence on oil and gas. Similar to Trinidad and Tobago, these countries have been dependent on oil and gas as the mainstay for fuelling development for many decades.

In Trinidad and Tobago, there have not been ample investments in alternative or renewable energy. Although there are initiatives to explore the feasibility of the various options, this is not sufficient at this stage where energy security determines a country’s existence in the international political economy. The intention is to develop the renewable and alternative energies and provide viable energy security in a sustainably diversified economy.

On the contrary however, the vulnerability of other Caribbean countries is being reduced by implementing policies that exploit the alternative energy options of the respective country. Dominica and St. Kitts and Nevis have abundant geothermal resources that can provide complete energy security in the near future, and which if developed would completely eliminate any future dependence on imported oil to meet domestic energy requirements.

Guyana and Jamaica have also actively explored other options available. In both countries, rivers and waterways hold substantial potential for hydropower energy, as well as bio-fuels are being considered along with solar energy.

We do not currently realize how dependent we are on oil and gas. Every fathomable aspect of national security will explode in the international political and economic agenda. Understandably, oil and gas have been the primary driving force behind a new era of globalization and increasing competition. However, it is imperative that Trinidad and Tobago move beyond petroleum and gas and into the realm of being proactive – investing in and transforming the economy to harness the potential, available, most feasible, alternative or renewable energy option.

Oil and gas exploration, extraction and combustion can bring about potential disastrous environmental effects, irrespective of the company or geography. Whether it has been the most recent Gulf spill off the U.S coast or Dalian explosion in China, to the oil leaks, dating some 50 years, in the Niger Delta, Nigeria, or gas leaks in Russia, this is just the tip of the iceberg to the number of spills that have occurred over the last century and the incalculable costs incurred to loss of human, land, marine lives.

The impact of oil and gas, alternative and renewable energies underpins the research and justifies the direction of proposed development. I recognize the difficulty and exorbitant costs to be incurred in the transition from oil and gas and, by extension, the combustible engine. However, in the long-run, the benefits accrued from alternative and renewable energy will be unforeseeable.

In concluding, imagine waking one morning and all aircraft are grounded, all ships and boats are docked and automobiles and trains are stalled. This day will continue with massive economic devastation, similar to a disease that does not discriminate any cross-section of society. This is the beginning of an era without oil and gas as the global energy supply and we must remember that, ‘we do not inherit the world from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children’. (Native American Proverb)

STEFAN AFFONSO
The extraordinary events surrounding the proposed extradition of Jamaica’s Christopher ‘Dudus’ Coke have served to highlight the pernicious consequences of transnational organised crime in the Caribbean region. These consequences are not only for the realization of MDG’s and development generally. They extend to the spheres of politics, governance, sovereignty, social organization and the economy. They call into question the entire model of development followed by the region in recent times as well as the model of governance which was at the heart of the post-colonial dispensation in the English-speaking Caribbean.

To recall the essential facts: the crisis emerged as a result of the demand by the US Government for the extradition of a Jamaican citizen to face narcotics and arms charges, under the terms of the treaty existing between the two countries. However this was not just ‘any’ individual. ‘Dudus’ Coke has been described as one of the most dangerous international drugs traffickers, heading an international gang—the infamous “Shower” posse—with a reputation for extreme violence. And he has close ties with the ruling Jamaica Labour Party, being the principal “Don” (strongman) in the Parliamentary constituency represented by the Prime Minister himself, Mr Bruce Golding.

The extradition request, which was made by the US authorities in August 2009, was stalled by the Government of Jamaica for approximately nine months. The reason given by the government was that the evidence, on which the extradition request is based, was illegally obtained. This explanation lacked credibility, in that under the terms of the US-Jamaica extradition treaty, the government was only called upon to sign the order permitting the extradition hearing to be held by the Jamaican courts, where the issue of the legality of the request could be argued and determined.

A subtext of this affair was the hiring of a Washington law firm to lobby the US government on behalf of the government of Jamaica and Mr Coke. The Prime Minister’s denial of government involvement in the hiring of this firm was ultimately shown to be disingenuous. He eventually admitted that he had indeed sanctioned this initiative, but claimed that this was not done in his capacity as Prime Minister but rather in his capacity as the leader of the Jamaican Labour Party. This about-face lead to strident calls for his resignation from the Parliamentary Opposition and a broad cross-section of civil society and the media, so far ignored.

By the time the government reversed its decision and announced that the extradition order would be signed, Mr Coke’s supporters in his stronghold of Tivoli Gardens—surrealistcally named after an amusement park in Scandinavia—had barricaded themselves. In the ensuing days hundreds of them mounted street demonstrations in his support; declaring to the media, government and the public at large that they would die in his defence. Brazen attacks were mounted on several police stations, some burnt to the ground and at least 2 police officers were killed, in what amounted to a crypto-insurrection in various parts of the capital city and some other parts of the country. When the army and the police eventually moved in on Tivoli in order to apprehend Coke this led to the deaths of over 70 civilians, many under questionable circumstances, and the escape of Mr Coke.

In reviewing this operation, Professor Richard Drayton (From Kabul to Kingston, The Guardian, June 13 2010) observed that the Western media, in its coverage, generally ignored: The linkages between the Jamaican crisis, the security establishments in the US, Britain and Canada, and the mutations of the “war on terror”...The strategy and tactics deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan are being applied in Jamaica. Drones fly over Kingston, and were used in the 24 May assault to select targets. On 7 June, Tivoli residents discovered that to enter or leave the area they had to produce "passes" issued by the police (revised, after protests, to restrictions on movement after dark). There is blanket surveillance of electronic communications in breach of Jamaican privacy protections – indeed, it was the illegal provenance of some of the evidence against Christopher "Dudus" Coke that initially held up extradition proceedings.
Propaganda "information operations" are at full tilt: while the army guides the Jamaican press on tours in which soldiers pat the heads of children, and in which criminal "torture chambers" are revealed, abroad we are told this is just about breaking drug gangs.

Over a month later, on June 22, Coke was arrested at a police checkpoint. He was reportedly on his way to the US embassy to give himself up; not wishing to risk the fate of his own father who died some 20 years ago in a Jamaican prison while awaiting extradition to the United States.

The fact that Mr Coke, and others like him, derive wide support from the people in the communities where they operate is a direct consequence of the failure of the social and economic order of Jamaica to provide basic social and economic rights to a large section of the population; increasingly crowded into large sections of the capital city and other urban areas. The right to decent housing, decent work, sanitation, accessible and affordable health care and quality education; and above all the right to social justice and to respect have been systematically denied to a large section of the population in a society which still carries the legacy of slavery and the plantation system. Jamaica’s independence dispensation from Great Britain conferred on the populace the right to vote in a five-yearly ritual of choice between competing fractions of the country’s elite entrenched in its two main political parties, but left intact the basic features of the colonial social and economic order.

A few weeks ago my attention was drawn to a report prepared by the Institute for Economics and Peace, a think tank in Australia, which had prepared something they call the Global Peace Index. This index was compiled with the aim of providing “A quantitative measure of peacefulness comparable over time”. It is made up of 23 indicators and countries are scored on these indicators on a range from 1 to 5, where 1 equals the most peaceful. Let me say at once, that I do not support the claim of the authors that the index provides “a greater understanding of the mechanisms that nurture and sustain peace”. In fact it provides indicators of effects rather than of causes; such as the level of organised conflict, violent demonstrations, deaths from internal conflicts, deaths from external conflicts, etc.

What I found interesting of the indicators however was the way in which they could be used to bring out the differences in the nature of the problematic of armed violence between the Caribbean and other areas of the world where civil conflict is prevalent. To do so I divided the 23 indicators into those related more specifically to the incidence of criminal violence on the one hand; and those related mainly to violence associated with civil conflict on the other. The majority of the indicators fall into the category of violence associated with civil conflict; only six of 23 indicators are obviously related to criminal violence.

With the exception of Cuba, the Caribbean countries on the whole have high scores for the indicators related to criminal violence; such as level of violent crime, number of homicides and access to weapons. On the whole the scores for the civil conflict related indicators are lower; in fact they are the lowest possible for several indicators for several countries. These indicators, of course, carry a significant degree of subjective judgement exercised by those who compile them, and are also dependent on the quality of data provided from national sources.

Nonetheless they seem to provide support for the belief that the problem of armed violence in the Caribbean is less one that is associated with civil conflict as in parts of Europe and Africa and more one of criminal violence. We have argued that this the twin result of the failure of the social and economic order and the compromising of governance systems together with the pernicious effect of incorporation into international criminal networks catering to consumption of illegal substances in the rich countries. Its implications for development are no less for that. Therefore, both the internal and the external aspects of the problem situation have to be tackled, if a lasting solution is to be found. That is a big challenge, but its enormity should not become a reason for inaction.

(Full article http://www.normangirvan.info/girvan-reflections-armed-violence-caribbean-development/)
IIR SUMMER SCHOOL

MR. MARLON ANATOL - HEAD OF SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME

The Institute of International Relations has completed its first ever Summer School. This programme has come on the heels of increased demand for the topic areas that are offered by the Institute as well as the need to facilitate additional training of the target population.

It is clear that the demand at both the graduate and undergraduate levels for “International Relations” and “Global Studies” is increasing, and the financial downturn means that fewer people are likely to forego their jobs for full time study. Hence, a summer offering or short courses will facilitate the participation of those persons. The caliber of lecturers is consistent with that offered throughout the year to maintain the high level of professionalism and academic perfection.

The Summer Programme also allows the Institute to increase its independence as the University has recently undergone budgetary cuts. This comes at a time when the increasing role of the Diaspora in every respect of Caribbean affairs demands a mechanism that actively encourages/fosters/facilitates their deeper involvement, participation and understanding of the region.

The logic of the Summer Programme is becoming increasingly relevant as IIR and the University has existing partnerships with several regional and international universities. The IIR can leverage these relationships for the purpose of marketing its Summer Programs offered both here and abroad.

The success of this initial cohort will surely propel this programme to be one of the most sought-after programmes in the Summer period, both locally and regionally in the first instance, and eventually internationally.

SUMMER SCHOOL IN THE IR FACULTY - KEISHA CELESTINE

Upon receipt of the notice of acceptance into the summer program, to pursue the theory and methodology and theories course I became excited, anxious and worried all in one.

I was excited as I was going to start a program which I always wanted to do and heard so much about but worried as I got such bad feedback from friends and family who attending the University of the West Indies.

I questioned my decision to pursue this course as I had no previous knowledge of what it would entail.

On the first day I was assured that the International Relations Faculty administration did not function as usual administration. I was comforted by this fact. I was supplied with a time table on the first day which informed me of the days and times I had classes. The administrative staff was truly helpful and pleasant, they worked like a well oiled machine. Ensuring that student’s needs were met and all concerns were taken care of.

The Library was open to our use. The staff at the Library was always willing to lend assistance. When I needed information and books for my assignment and preparation for exams the librarian was always available to direct me to the books which were relevant.

Mr. Anatol, the lecturer, was assisted by Nia Nanan, a Masters student, who both possessed a wealth of information to share. The method of teaching was interactive. He allowed us to share our views, knowledge and ideas on International Relations issues taught.

As the class was small I was able to get the attention and guidance I needed. Time passed so quickly and our first assignment became due. The assignment had its own challenges but I gave it my best shot using all the information I gathered during the course. The preparation for the assignment helped in my revision for the exams.

I would recommend the continuation of the summer programme in the International Relations Faculty.
SPECIAL MENTION

As the Institute moves into its forty-fifth year of establishment we recognise some of its directors, lecturers graduates that have played invaluable roles as mentors and notable individuals, along with some of its current students.

In this issue we acknowledge;

Carol Ayoung - Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce
Devan Casdeo - United Nations Development Programme
Vashti Guyadeen - Ministry of Energy Trinidad and Tobago
Carl Francis - Ministry of Trade Trinidad and Tobago
Sheridon Hill - Organization of American States
Anna-Teresa-Romero - International Labour Organization
Mahindra Ramesh Ramdeen - Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association
Nirad Tewari - Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Service Industries
Margaret Rousseau - Ministry of Foreign Affairs Trinidad and Tobago
Rita Gabrielle Toussaint - Ministry of Foreign Affairs Trinidad and Tobago

Current students recently published in the “Caribbean Dialogue”,

Mario Romany - MPhil Candidate
Niki Brathwaite - MPhil Candidate
Lizanne Aching - MSc. Student
Kimberly Mitchell - MSc. Student
Nancy Pierre Campo - MSc Student
The United Nations University recently held its first global seminar in The Caribbean. The seminar, hosted by the Institute of International Relations (IIR), University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago on the theme "Regional Governance: Challenges and Opportunities" was held from June 28 to 30. In his opening remarks, Timothy M. Shaw, the director of the Institute of International Relations at UWI stated that the UNU Global Seminar would build on existing networks between UWI and other United Nations agencies, and as UNU's first seminar in the Caribbean region, would open new opportunities for research collaboration between UNU researchers and researchers in the region.

In his keynote remarks, UNU Vice-Rector Kazuhiko Takeuchi presented UNU's current and future plans for graduate programmes, twin institutes, and integrated interdisciplinary approaches to global sustainability challenges. Following Prof. Takeuchi's remarks, John Agard, a renowned climate scientist, spoke on the relevance of sustainability science and the importance of developing an interdisciplinary understanding.

The seminar was attended by 45 students selected mainly from the undergraduate and graduate programs at UWI and the United Nations Youth Association for Trinidad and Tobago. The seminar featured 15 guest lectures delivered by leading experts selected from UWI, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, UN agencies and regional organizations based in Trinidad. Some of the guest lecturers included Anita Montoute, Matthew Bishop, Mark Kirton, Michele Reis (all from UWI), Luis Andrade Fall of the Association of Caribbean States, Jens Ulrich Poppen from UN Volunteers, and Reita Gabrielle of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The seminar was jointly facilitated by Obijiofor Aginam of the UNU Institute for Sustainability and Peace, Tamara Brathwaite (IIR, UWI), Amanda Laurence (UNIC), and Solange Cross-Mike (IIR, UWI) who supervised the group work and presentations of the students on four topics related to the challenges of regional governance in the Caribbean region.

The Institute of International Relations (IIR) at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, hosted the first United Nations University (UNU) seminar from the 28th to the 30th of June 2010. The theme of the seminar was “Regional Governance: Challenges and Opportunities”. Dr. Obijiofor Aginam of the UNU took some time to speak a bit on the seminar held by the IIR.

Dr. Aginam was educated in Nigeria and Canada. He holds a Bachelor of Laws from University of Nigeria; Master of Laws from Queen’s University at Kingston, Canada, and a Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia, Canada. Before joining UNU, he held a tenured academic position as Associate Professor of Law at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada where he taught and researched emerging global issues that cut across globalization, global governance of health and environmental issues, South-North relations, international organizations, and Third World Approaches to International Law [TWAIL].

Dr. Aginam has served as a consultant and given expert advice to a number of international organizations including the WHO, and the FAO on regulatory aspects of food safety, biotechnology, trade, and global governance issues. He is an active member of the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) and, the Canadian Council on International Law (CCIL). In July 2009, he was appointed a Co-Director of the ACUNS summer workshop on “Global Public-Private Partnerships”. He has been a recipient of the competitive research grant of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada. Dr. Aginam is a member of the editorial board of many journals including Global Health Governance: The Scholarly Journal for the New Health Security Paradigm.

The UNU according to Dr. Aginam is a “think tank” for the UN, with a mandate to conduct research on global problems and challenges to the UN. According to Dr. Aginam there are

Dr. Aginam noted that it is imperative that the information gleaned from this experience are followed up on and sustained. He also noted that if there are enough resources, experiences such as this one can in fact become an annual experience. He also alluded to the opportunity for the creation of a wider system of networks for all involved. He pointed to the decision to link the students with other likeminded students from other students from developed countries. Furthermore the UNU will maintain contact with the students involved in the seminar. Also the students were encouraged to encourage their peers to become more aware of the different issues. Once funding is available, Dr. Aginam noted that the seminar can be done next year as well.

There is interest in further collaboration between UNU and the region. Dr Aginam stated that the Vice Director of the UNU was present on the first day (Monday) and talks were held with UWI officials on further collaboration on different issues critical to the region. he noted that there has been lots of collaboration with Africa but admitted the need for more of the same in the Caribbean. He noted that the UNU engages in the concept of “twinning”, whereby institutes in Europe or developed countries will team up with similar institutions in developing nations, thereby creating a system where there is a network and sharing of information is made so much easier. He drew reference to a university in Helsinki, Finland focusing on development economics can “twin” with a university in the developing world and there can be collaboration on that particular issue.
Above Left: Dr. Bhoe Tewarie, Prof. Valenzuela, Prof. Narinesingh, US Ambassador Beatrice Welters, Prof. Tim Shaw.
Photo by Tyrone Thomas

Above Right: Assistant Secretary of State for Hemispheric Affairs Arturo Valenzuela (left) and Acting Principal Prof. Dyer Narinesingh during Prof. Valenzuela’s official visit to UWI, 30th July 2010.
Photo by Aneel Karin

Above: Dr. Johann Geiser speaking at the workshop on Armed Violence and the MDGs, held at IIR 24th June 2010.

Right: Dr. Matthew Bishop, Dr. Leida Mercado, Dr. Johann Geiser, Prof. Tim Shaw and Prof. Norman Girvan.
Photos by Aneel Karim
Caribbean Reasonings: The Thought of New World, The Quest for Decolonisation

Edited by Brian Meeks and Norman Girvan and features contributions by Norman Girvan, David De Caires, Paget Henry, Kari Levitt, James Millette, Dennis Pantin, Kirk Meighoo, Patricia Northove, Michaelene Critchlow, David Wong, and Vaughan Lewis. It also contains an in depth interview with Lloyd Best, titled 'A Caribbean Life', which details the genesis and evolution of the New World Group, and the factors that led to its dormancy. The book is divided into three parts, The Thought of New World: The Quest for Decolonisation critically examines the significant contributions of the New World Group to Caribbean political and economic thought while setting the stage for a renewal in thinking regarding issues affecting the region.

http://myspot.mona.uwi.edu/cct/

VISITORS TO THE INSTITUTE

From Left: Dr. Obi Agniam (UNU), Prof. John Agard (UWI St.Augustine), UNU Vice-Rector Kazuhiko Takeuchi

Photo by Aneel Karim
VISITORS TO THE INSTITUTE

Left: Prof. Tim Shaw, His Excellency Yang Youming and Prof. Dyer Narinesingh at UWI, 3rd August 2010

Below: Dr. Wang Jishi signing the Visitors Log at the Campus Principal’s Office, UWI, 3rd August 2010

Photos by Aneel Karim

Below: His Excellency Phillip Kentwell, High Commissioner of Australia, Prof. William Maley and Prof. Tim Shaw at the AusAID/IIR/CARICOM Diplomatic Training Seminar, 2nd August 2010

Bottom Right: His Excellency Phillip Kentwell and Prof. Shaw at the Institute, 2nd August 2010

Photos by Aneel Karim
felt that I learnt alot more from the G8 part of My Summit as I was actively engaging in the deliberative process, there was a clear output at the end and overall the methods used were fully participatory. On reflection, I feel that the G20 platform of the summit could have been better used to not just be spoken at but spoken with in a more meaningful dialogue with a sharing of knowledge and best practices.

As someone that has been involved in international youth participation processes and platforms for a number of years, the case for involving young people at different levels of decision making is always a strong one. However, once we invite a young person into such a space, how do we ensure that the methods of engagement are participatory and leave room to fully reflect and evaluate such platforms?

Being part of the UK delegation to the G8 and G20 summit set a precedent for future youth participation at this level and offered a unique opportunity to engage with the key issues and put forward tangible recommendations. There were a lot of important lessons to learn from the process of negotiations and country collaborative working and the plenary sessions made host to an amazing line-up of speakers and experts.

As a delegation we were happy that we were able to use the results from our consultation to ensure that the voice of UK youth was prioritized in all our deliberations and clearly reflected in the final communique that was presented to the G8 leaders. Key highlights of the trip included an intimate plenary session with the Rt. Hon Michaeille Jean, Governor General of Canada, bumping into President Obama on the escalators just before his press conference and being invited to tea with the Prime Minister where we were offered another opportunity to discuss climate change and youth unemployment as top priorities.

Barbara Soetan, Masters Candidate
International Policy University of London
UK Youth Delegate to the G8 and G20 Summit in Canada 2010.
A TASTE OF BITTER SWEET OPINION

Clovis, Jamaica Observer, March 2010

anniepaulactivevoice.blogspot.com
genevalunch.com

thinkingjamaica.wordpress.com
MEET THE NEW IIR TODAY EDITORIAL COMMITTEE 2010-2011

From left to right: Dayne-Marc Chin Slick, Rehema Cox, Kimlee Bunraj, Nick Ali.

Chair of the Committee: Prof Timothy Shaw.

Email: iirtoday@sta.uwi.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 14, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. -
Presentation of LAPOP Reports on Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago

September 21-23, 2010 -
EU Edulink UNU-CRIS NETRIS Workshop at UKZN on ‘Regional Integration Prospects in ACP Countries’

November 2010 -
World Association for Sustainable development Conference 2010

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