

The Caribbean in the Global Arena: CARICOM Beyond Thirty

Excitement accompanies any new venture worth attention. This is certainly so, in the case of the launching of this journal by the University of the West Indies' Institute of International Relations. This inaugural issue includes seminal articles by three of the Region's Prime Ministers: Percival James Patterson of Jamaica, Patrick Manning of Trinidad and Tobago, and Owen Arthur of Barbados; and by four noted regional scholars: Professor Norman Girvan, Professor Vaughan A. Lewis, Ambassador Dr. Richard Bernal, and Professor Jacqueline A. Braveboy-Wagner. The Journal of Caribbean International Relations is published at a time when the Caribbean is confronting the challenges of multiple internal and external negotiations, which impact the region's identity, its positioning in the global arena, and its medium-term prospects for economic development. This Journal will examine the Caribbean's enduring challenges, while evaluating its emerging opportunities, from the perspectives of both Caribbean scholar and policy-maker. The present issue exemplifies this objective, by including articles addressing the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, as well as the region's external trade negotiations; the nascent evolution of an Antillean Region, including the Greater and Lesser Antilles and the Guianas; the impact of major international institutions upon the prospects of the region's small developing states; Caribbean-US relations; and the role of the West Indian diaspora in the development of the Caribbean Community. The Journal of Caribbean International Relations expresses both the mission and the vision of The UWI Institute of International Relations, in that it applies multidisciplinary perspectives to enhanced understanding of Caribbean international relations, including the region's international challenges and opportunities. This inaugural issue is dedicated to the memory of the late Dr. Tyrone Ferguson, who worked tirelessly to develop and promote the concept of this Journal, and served as its first Editor until his untimely death in August 2004. I welcome all readers to this new Caribbean journal, which will ensure that its issues continue to be worth your attention and engagement.

Professor Dennis J. Gayle
Interim Executive Director