

June 2018

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share with you the second quarterly newsletter of the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean (DAOC) for 2018. In this issue we highlight the Training Module “The Art of Corporate and Diplomatic Communication”; the Visit by the New French Ambassador and a Diplomatic Dialogue entitled “Issues relating to the Rule of Law in Venezuela”.

**Courtesy Visit by His Excellency Serge Lavroff, Ambassador of France to Trinidad and Tobago, to
Professor Jessica Byron, Director of the Institute of International Relations (IIR)**



His Excellency Serge Lavroff, Ambassador of the French Republic to Trinidad and Tobago (right) poses with Professor Jessica Byron, Director of the Institute of International Relations (left), as she presents him with a copy of the Commemorative Issue of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Institute.

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On May 9th, 2018, newly appointed Ambassador of France to Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Serge Lavroff, paid a courtesy visit to the Director of the Institute of International Relations (IIR), Professor Jessica Byron. During his visit, Professor Byron outlined the history and some projects embarked on by the IIR, and highlighted the successes of the Institute and its distinguished alumna.



Professor Jessica Byron shares photos taken at IIR events with His Excellency Lavroff

Ambassador Lavroff discussed several issues of high priority for the French Government, applauded the work of the IIR and expressed interest in deepening ties and expanding collaboration between the Embassy and the Institute.

On this note, the Director and Ambassador Lavroff discussed the possibility of having His

Excellency Lavroff deliver Diplomatic Dialogues on the issues of Climate Change and International Terrorism.

While at the Institute, Mr. Lavroff also met with staff of the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean and was given a tour of the Institute and the Diplomatic Academy's facilities.

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The Art of Corporate and Diplomatic Communication



Participants of “The Art of Corporate and Diplomatic Communication” pose with the facilitator Ms. Sharon Welsh (fourth from left, front row), Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University and Communications Consultant and Ms. Mary-Ann Richards, (fourth from right, front row) Manager of the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean.



From June 26th to 29th, 2018, Ms. Sharon Welsh, Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University and Communications Consultant delivered an excellent training programme at the DAOC entitled “The Art of Corporate and Diplomatic Communication”. Ms. Welsh has over 25 years’ experience as a communication consultant for diplomatic, political,

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military, intelligence, business, and academic audiences. She has taught at the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service Institute (FSI) for over 25 years. At FSI, Ms. Welsh has taught courses to U.S. diplomats from the Ambassadorial-level to entry-level envoys.

At the Opening, Ms. Mary-Ann Richards, Manager of the DAOC, reiterated the mission of the Diplomatic Academy to provide high-quality, practical training in topics relevant to the 21st Century professional, and the importance of developing one's communication skills.

Ms. Welsh covered topics such as Adapting to cross-cultural audiences; Writing for persuasive effect; Speaking with competence, credibility, and control; Using social media appropriately and Serving as a corporate and diplomatic representative.



As highlighted by Ms. Welsh, "The power to influence, to effectively engage, and to form productive partnerships with others, are closely linked to the ability to connect with audiences in a positive manner. Not only must messages be clear and persuasive, they must be delivered in a manner that conveys credibility. Corporate and diplomatic communication involves message clarity, in both speaking and writing, coupled with a positive perception of the communicator and his/her organization."

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Newly-trained professionals pose with their Certificates of training

By the end of training, professionals from the public and private sector, academia and organisations in the fields of diplomacy, research, politics, corporate communications, customer relations, human resources, administration and labour, benefitted from Ms. Welsh's extensive experience on the topic. Participants walked away with skills in reducing

speech anxiety, constructing persuasive strategies for maximum effect and mastering nonverbal communication, among other valuable communication skills.

Testimonials from “The Art of Corporate and Diplomatic Communication” June 2018



“As a seasoned Leadership Coach and Performance Consultant, communication is critical to my success. I have found that The Art of Corporate and Diplomatic Communication sharpened my skills and gave me strategies that I was able to apply instantly.”

Ms. Christa Sankarsingh, Trinidad and Tobago
Programme Manager, Institute of Critical Thinking, University of the West Indies



“It was a great experience to have participated in this course. The theoretical combined with practical, is ideal for individuals like myself within the Foreign Service. It will be great to have another level to this course but this experience alone has been most rewarding.”

Mr. Tyson McKenzie, The Bahamas
Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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Diplomatic Dialogue entitled “Issues relating to the Rule of Law in Venezuela”



Carlos Ayala Corao, Vice-President of the International Commission of Jurists delivers a Diplomatic Dialogue at the IIR

On May 18th 2018, Mr Carlos Ayala Corao, Vice President of the International Commission of Jurists delivered a Diplomatic Dialogue at the IIR, entitled “Issues relating to the Rule of Law in Venezuela”. Mr Ayala began his presentation with a brief summary of some recent political and socio-economic developments in Venezuela, highlighting the difficulties of the oil sector, hyper-inflation, shortages of food and other essential consumer goods and political deadlock as some of the defining characteristics of the crisis.

He outlined the architecture and processes of the Inter-American Human Rights system and the United Nations Human Rights machinery before discussing their principal areas of engagement with Venezuela. He summarized the major findings of the reports and the legal opinions that had been issued by the human rights institutions concerning various developments in Venezuela.

Mr Ayala Corao urged respect for and compliance with the 1999 Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic

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of Venezuela.

In his view, the key to resolving the current crisis lies in respecting human rights and the rule of law, political dialogue and political participation, appointing judges, a national prosecutor and the attorney general all in accordance with the current Constitution. He remained optimistic that democracy and the rule of law could be re-institutionalised by the Venezuelan citizens themselves through the holding of free and fair elections. He also called for neighbouring countries to be mindful of the human rights of Venezuelans and to provide humanitarian support where possible.



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Presenter's Profile



Carlos Ayala Corao, Vice-President of the
International Commission of Jurists

Carlos Ayala Corao was elected as Vice-President of the International Commission of Jurists in 2018 and is currently serving his second term as Commissioner following his election in 2012. He was a member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (I-ACHR), serving as Chairman between 1996 and 1999. Mr. Ayala Corao was also the Rapporteur for Indigenous People's Rights of the I-ACHR between 1996 and 1999. He was a member of the Andean Commission of Jurists between 1992 and 2009, serving as their President between 2003 and 2009.

Mr. Ayala has also served as a Professor at a number of prestigious universities, including Universidad Católica "Andrés Bello" (UCAB) and Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV) in Caracas, Georgetown University and American University in the USA, and has recently been appointed to the University of Oxford in the UK. He is the author of several publications relating to Constitutional Law, Administrative Law and Human Rights Law. Carlos is currently a partner in the Caracas law firm Ayala, Dillon, Fernández & Linares (Consultores Jurídicos).



Upcoming Training Modules

Protocol and Diplomacy: A Guide for the Modern Professional

Facilitated by: Ms. Gail P. Guy, retired Diplomat and Protocol Consultant and Mr. Dennis Francis, Former Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago.

October 30th to November 2nd, 2018

Look out for:

Disaster Risk Management and Resilience

Mainstreaming Gender

To apply, please visit the registration page of our website (<http://sta.uwi.edu/daoc/daoc-apply>) and complete the application form and return to diplomaticacademy@sta.uwi.edu

If you are interested in any other training modules, events or our Customized In-House Training Programme, please email diplomaticacademy@sta.uwi.edu and leave your preferred email address, telephone contact and name.

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