Shifting Relations, New Players: What Future for Caribbean Regional Integration?
Changing geo political realities are forcing the Caribbean to re-think the regional integration project.

Declining interest of traditional players has created a void, providing opportunities for new relationships with the aim of achieving sustainable development and advancing regional integration.
Introduction

- Regional integration has always been seen by the Caribbean as a means of achieving development goals.

- There are events that are impacting Caribbean development and the Caribbean regional integration project.
The Caribbean in a Changing World

There are shifts that have taken place in the global political economy that have led to the decline of old relationships and the emergence of new ones.
The Caribbean’s Response to Globalisation

- CARICOM’s decision in 1989 to embark on a Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) was a response to the forces of globalization (Girvan 2008).
- Girvan has also stated that the Caribbean (economic) integration is based on a neo liberal model.
The Caribbean’s Response to Globalisation

CARICOM member states are also engaging in a multiplicity of new relationships with the aim of achieving development outcomes.
The bilateral relationships if not managed properly could hinder regional integration.

CARICOM – wide engagement works better for regional integration.

Engagement within the LAC framework reinforces the Caribbean’s relationship with Latin America but could cause fragmentation and marginalization of the Caribbean.
Questions

- Could the BRICS be meeting the development needs of individual states and making the regional integration project less urgent?

- Could we use the BRICS to advance a more relevant form of economic integration?
Implications and the Way Forward

- A new model of development is emerging as a result of engagement with BRICS countries.
- This model especially that of China is beneficial in some respects but can be potentially harmful as a sustainable model of development and for regional integration.
- A coherent approach is needed to deal with the BRICS and other partnerships.