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THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT: IS THE CARIBBEAN PREPARED?

BY

PROFESSOR VERENE A. SHEPHERD

MEMBER OF THE WGPAD

Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGPAD)

THURSDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2010

4.30 P.M.

IGDS SEMINAR ROOM, UWI, ST. AUGUSTINE
LOCATED ON 2ND FLOOR OF CHEMISTRY BLDG. 2



2011 - THE UN INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

IGDS PUBLIC LECTURE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT DEBORAH MCFEE, OUTREACH AND RESEARCH OFFICER, IGDS TEL: 662 2002 EXT 3548 / 3573

You are cordially invited to attend the IGDS Public Lecture

The International Year for People of African Descent: Is the Caribbean Prepared?

by Professor Verene Shepherd

Newly appointed

University Director of the Institute for Gender & Development Studies
The University of the West Indies

on Thursday 18th November 2010 at 4.30 p.m.
in the IGDS Seminar Room

Professor Verene Shepherd will be hosted by IGDS, St Augustine Campus, November 15th – 19th 2010.

ABSTRACT

The UN declared 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent, guided by continued discrimination against people of African descent, especially structural discrimination, and the need to implement the Durban Declaration & Programme of Action. The group charged with drafting the programme for the International year is the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGPAD).

Who are the members of the WGPAD? What does their draft programme look like? What was the process by which they arrived at this draft? What is the expected outcome of the International Year and what guided the selection of the proposed theme? Is CARICOM already prepared for the International Year? These are questions that will be addressed in this lecture by Prof. Verene Shepherd, a member of the WGPAD.

PROFILE

Verene A. Shepherd, Professor of Social History at the Mona Campus of The University of the West Indies and a Fellow of the Cambridge Commonwealth Society (FCCS), and host of Nationwide 90 FM's "Talking History", is the new University Director of the Institute for Gender & Development Studies, with oversight responsibility of the Mona, Cave Hill and St. Augustine Units of the IGDS. She holds the BA and MPhil degrees in History from The University of the West Indies and PhD in History from the University of Cambridge. She is a Board Member of the Association for the Study of the World-Wide African Diaspora (ASWAD), Steering Committee Member of the South-South Exchange Programme for the History of Development (SEPHIS), member of the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and a member of the International Women's Federation.

In 1999 she served as Facilitator of the National (Government of Jamaica) Consultation on the Social Infrastructure. She has also served as Network Professor with the York/UNESCO Nigerian Hinterland, is the Immediate Past President of the Association of Caribbean Historians, and was the first woman to Chair the Board of the Jamaica National Heritage Trust. In 2007 she was appointed Chair of the Jamaica National Bicentenary Committee.

Professor Shepherd has had a long history with the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS). She was one of the founding members of the Women and Development Studies Group, which assisted in the institutionalization of the IGDS and also served on the Board of Gender and Development Studies as the faculty representative for Arts & Education (now Humanities and Education) from 1996 to 1998, where she initiated the idea for the Lucille Mathurin Mair Lecture series. Professor Shepherd has also taught courses on women and gender in Caribbean history and supervised graduate theses at both the Master's and Doctoral levels on women and gender.

A prolific author, Prof. Shepherd is editor/compiler of *Women in Caribbean History*, co-editor of *Engendering History: Caribbean Women in Historical Perspective* (with Barbara Bailey and Bridget Brereton) and editor of *Engendering Caribbean History: Cross-Cultural Perspectives* (forthcoming, 2010).

Among her other publications are *Livestock, Sugar & Slavery: Contested Terrain in Colonial Jamaica* (2009), *I Want to Disturb My Neighbour: Lectures on Slavery, Emancipation and Post-Colonial Jamaica* (2007) and *Maharani's Misery: Narratives of a Passage from India to the Caribbean* (2002)

IGDS

Institute for Gender and Development Studies, UWI, St. Augustine Campus

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