

September 2017

**Dear Friends,**

Greetings from the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean (DAOC). This update brings you news from the International Forum on Diplomatic Training (IFDT) recently held in Santiago, Chile; the Public Forum hosted by the Institute of International Relations (IIR) entitled, "Regional Perspectives on the Venezuelan Crisis"; the redevelopment and launch of the DAOC's new website; as well as the DAOC's plans to develop relations with the Southeast Asian region among other pertinent developments.

## **International Forum on Diplomatic Training (IFDT), Santiago, Chile - The 2030 SDGs in Focus**



Delegates of the International Forum on Diplomatic Training (IFDT) held in Santiago, Chile from 6-8 September 2017

Delegates from 55 institutions from 48 countries with representation from every continent of the world met in Santiago, Chile for the International Forum on Diplomatic Training from 6-8 September 2017. This 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of Deans and Directors of Diplomatic Academies and Institutes of International Relations was organized by the Diplomatic Academy of Chile "Andrés Bello" and the programme focused on '*Diplomatic training on the content and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*'. For three days,

diplomats and leaders of diplomatic academies and multilateral organizations shared their experiences and perspectives on ways to develop strategic and holistic designs for diplomatic training with respect to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



L to R: Dr. Khellon Q. Roach, Manager – DAOC; Amb. Luis Maira, Chilean Rep. to the Colombian Peace Process and Exec. Sec. of the Council on Foreign Relations of LA & the Caribbean; & Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of the Ibero American Conf. (Sept. 2017)

As the only representative from the English-speaking Caribbean, the Manager of the DAOC, Dr. Khellon Roach was invited by the Diplomatic Academy of Chile to speak on Panel 2 of the forum, *“The Regional Scenario: Tackling Key Political and Development Challenges and Opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean”*. The Panel was chaired by Rebeca Grynspan,

Secretary-General of the Ibero American Conference and other panellists included Ambassador Celeste Koch, Director of the National Foreign Service, Argentina; Ambassador Luis Maira, Chilean Representative to the Colombian Peace Process and Executive Secretary of the Council on Foreign Relations of Latin America and the Caribbean; and Ambassador Luis Padilla, Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Guatemala. In his presentation, Dr. Roach highlighted six challenges of the Caribbean region including - Crime & Security; Health (in particular, non-communicable diseases); Energy Security; Climate Change & the Environment; Natural Disasters; and Access to Financing not only to address the various challenges, but to also implement the new 2030 SDG Agenda. Dr. Roach also underscored the importance of multi-track diplomacy for the Caribbean to punch above its weight and the need for deeper collaboration between the academies and institutions of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The organization of the IFDT around the 2030 SDGs was a very timely intervention and beneficial to the DAOC as it plans to offer several programmes related to the 2030 SDG agenda in 2018. Although the DAOC is not at present a member of the IFDT, after consultation with representatives of its co-chair (the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna), the DAOC is actively considering formal membership.

## IIR host Regional Public Forum on the Venezuelan Crisis



L to R: Prof. Jessica Byron, Director of IIR; Prof. Patrick Watson, Director of SALISES; Dr. Anthony Gonzales, Retired IIR Acting Director; and (partly hidden) Ms. Rochelle Nakhid, Coordinator, Ministry for Migrants and Refugees, Living Waters Foundation (Sept. 2017)

On 12 September 2017, the Institute of International Relations held a public forum on the multi-level crisis in Venezuela entitled, *'Regional Perspectives on the Venezuelan Crisis'*. This timely forum brought together international relations experts, diplomats and academics from across the Caribbean & Latin America and provided a balanced discourse on the present situation in Venezuela. The forum, which was free and open to the general public was streamed live by UWITv and took the form of two, back-to-back panel discussions. The first panel was moderated by Professor Jessica Byron, IIR Director and included Mr. Andres Serbin, Research Director Coordinadora Red de Investigaciones Economicas y Sociales (CRIES), Argentina; Mr. Ivan Ogando, Director FLACSO, the Dominican Republic; Dr. Anthony Gonzales, Retired IIR Director, Trinidad; and Ms. Rochelle Nakhid, Coordinator, Ministry for Migrants and Refugees, Living Waters Foundation. The second panel was moderated by Professor Patrick Watson, Director of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) and included contributions from Ambassador Colin Granderson, Assistant Secretary-General, Foreign and Community Relations, CARICOM Secretariat; Mrs. Dionne Jackson-Miller, Attorney at Law, Radio and TV Journalist, Jamaica; Dr. Mark Kirton, Retired Senior Lecturer, IIR & University of Guyana; and His Excellency Andreas Wickham, Ambassador of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Venezuela. Members of the audience included media personnel, trade union representatives, staff of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and students and staff of IIR and the wider regional University of the West Indies, among others.



## Announcing the Launch of DAOC's New Website



The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean is pleased to announce the launch of its newly revamped website. This redesigned website offers quick and easy access to essential information to any individual and/or organization interested in the programmes and services of the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean. The website has a comprehensive 'Frequently Asked Question' (FAQ) section and information related to upcoming training modules and events, in addition to a simple registration map/guide. The new DAOC website has a clean uncluttered design, with improved functionality for its users. The new website is now live and is located at <http://sta.uwi.edu/daoc/>

The new website of the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean will be updated on a regular basis with regional and international news and upcoming events and programmes of the DAOC. We encourage all interested individuals and institutions to visit the new website and email us at [diplomaticacademy@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:diplomaticacademy@sta.uwi.edu) with any questions, comments or suggestions to improve the new website.

It is our hope that this new website will allow our stakeholders to have a very informative experience as we continue to grow and increase our market presence across the wider Caribbean region and around the world.

### **DAOC building relations with Southeast Asia**

Executive Director and Chamber Envoy for Diplomatic Affairs of the Eastern Caribbean-Southeast Asia Economic and Cultural Chamber, the Honourable Matthew Andrew Yngson paid a courtesy visit to the Manager of the DAOC, Dr. Khellon Roach on 25 July 2017. Honourable Yngson's visit to the DAOC was as a result of the Chamber's CARIB Roadshow 2017 which saw the Chamber organize on-the-ground visits to 8 countries in the Caribbean region from June to August, 2017. The countries which were visited include – Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago. In their meeting, and subsequent engagements, both Honourable Yngson and Dr. Roach committed to developing a long-term partnership between the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean and the Eastern Caribbean-Southeast Asia



Dr. Khellon Roach, Manager –DAOC (L) & Honourable Matthew Andrew Yngson - Executive Director & Chamber Envoy for Diplomatic Affairs of the Eastern Caribbean-Southeast Asia Economic and Cultural Chamber

Economic and Cultural Chamber. This partnership will be institutionalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be signed in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2017 and will commence with a free Webinar opened to the public in November 2017 on “Understanding the Southeast Asian region”. Countries of the Southeast Asian region include – Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Malaysia, Brunei and East Timor. The GDP of the ASEAN region is forecast to grow 4.9% in 2018.

### **Condolences to our Sister Isles on the passage of Hurricanes Irma and Maria**

The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean and the Institute of International Relations are deeply saddened by the losses caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria and its terrible aftermath. We extend sincere condolences to the governments and people of the countries affected including - Sint Maarten/St. Martin, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, the US Virgin Islands, the British Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Cuba. As you move through the difficult days and weeks ahead, please accept our hopes for your healing and renewal. Our institutions stand in solidarity with those affected at this time of need.

## DAOC's 1<sup>st</sup> Volunteer Experience - Testimonial by Mr. Liu Chin

### *"In His Own Words....."*



Liu Chin – DAOC's 1<sup>st</sup> Volunteer

The staff of the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean and the Institute of International Relations would like to thank Mr. Liu Chin for volunteering his time, energy and effort with the DAOC for the month of August 2017. Mr. Chin is the DAOC's first volunteer since its establishment and it is worth noting that he served with great competence, professionalism and tact. The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean values and recognizes not only the significant service provided by Liu, but moreover, the important role played by volunteers around the world in international development and as such, intends to establish the ***Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean – Youth Volunteer Programme (DAOC-YVP)*** in 2018. Interested persons are encouraged to stay tuned for further details related to the rolling out of this programme by the second quarter of next year (2018). We also invite our readership to hear what Liu had to say about his experience at the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean in his own words below.

*"My experience working at the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean (DAOC) was nothing short of an interesting and enjoyable experience. The staff of the DAOC was very welcoming and full of pleasant, fun-loving and intelligent people who I learnt different things from. Also, the various tasks which I was given to do such as researching various NGOs across the Caribbean and also getting contact information for diplomats in CARICOM countries taught me a lot as I was not only exposed to a wide range of Caribbean NGOs and also the different Diplomats across the Caribbean but I was also able to better my research skills and my ability to organize information. Being a young person in my last year of form 6 and not too far away from entering the world of work, this opportunity was very beneficial to me as I was able to properly experience being in an office setting and was able to interact with people, being punctual and getting work done. I am very grateful for my time spent at the DAOC, though it was short it was indeed worthwhile and definitely was an ideal way to gain working experience to prepare me for the future".*

Look out for the ***Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean – Youth Volunteer Programme (DAOC-YVP)*** – coming soon in 2018!

## Chilean Foreign Policy and its Interaction with CARICOM

Ambassador of the Republic of Chile to Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency Fernando Schmidt Ariztía delivered the most recent Diplomatic Dialogue hosted by the Diplomatic Academy and the Institute of International Relations on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017 which brought the third quarter of the DAOC to



Ambassador of Chile to Trinidad & Tobago, His Excellency Fernando Schmidt Ariztía signs the DAOC visitors' book (July 2017)

a close. Not only did Ambassador Ariztía serve as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile from 2010 to 2013, but he has over 40 years of experience in the Chilean Foreign Service, having served in various capacities in countries such as - Germany, Argentina, Spain, Australia and Hungary among others. His lecture on *"Chilean Foreign Policy and its Interaction with CARICOM"* was well received by those in attendance and came on the heels of his courtesy visit to the DAOC in July 2017. In his talk, Ambassador Ariztía underscored several principles of Chile's Foreign Policy which he described as essential to uphold and give coherence to the decisions adopted by Chile in its international relations. Some

of these essential principles include - respect for international law; promotion of democracy and respect for human rights; and a responsibility to cooperate. Ambassador Ariztía also noted that in the last fifteen years, all Chilean Presidents participated as special invited guests in CARICOM Head of Government Meetings which reveals the high level of importance that the Caribbean grants to Chile. Nonetheless, he believes that more should be done to promote greater cooperation between Chile and CARICOM.



L to R - Ambassador of the Republic of Chile to Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency Fernando Schmidt Ariztía & Director of IIR, Prof. Jessica Byron at the most recent Diplomatic Dialogue hosted by the DAOC & IIR (September 2017)



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