







2013 2014 Annual Report

Introduction

The Institute of International Relations (IIR) is a centre institution of The University of the West Indies. Established by Swiss funding in 1966, the IIR has become a well-established and highly regarded interdisciplinary Caribbean regional centre for the analysis and advancement of international relations. It has trained many of the Caribbean's political, business and diplomatic leaders over the years. Located on the St. Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies, the Institute offers a programme of courses and supervises research leading to the Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations; M.Sc. in Global Studies; M.Phil and Ph.D. in International Relations.

The programme of courses comprehensively covers the geographical, historical, political, economic, social, cultural, legal and institutional aspects of international relations and emphasizes an inter-disciplinary approach in the study of relations between nations and other entities. In addition to conducting teaching, research and study of international relations, the Institute engages in many activities including the organisation of special programmes, courses and seminars, and the provision of consultative assistance and research, for the governments and private sectors of the region, and regional organisations and agencies, which are intended to strengthen Caribbean responses to the challenges of international relations and the understanding thereof in the community at large. The Institute of International Relations is committed to training the next generation of diplomats from the region. To this end, a new diplomatic training centre – The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean – was launched on 6 May 2014.

Governance of the Institute

The governance of the Institute, chaired by the Vice Chancellor, is vested in the Board of the Institute. The management of the Institute rests with the Director, who is responsible to the Board for the proper discharge of his functions.

A. STAFF

Director

The current Director of the IIR is Professor W. Andy Knight. He is the tenth Director of the Institute and assumed duties in January 2013. His goal is to build upon the excellent work done in the institute over the years, and to use his experience, connections and networks to expand the IIR's reach and make it better known throughout the world. He has re-established connections with bodies such as the ACS, CARICOM, CELAC, and the OAS in the region, with diplomatic and consular corps present throughout the Caribbean and with multilateral institutions such as the United Nations System, the Commonwealth and La Francophonie.

His major accomplishments during the 2013 to 2014 year were: the establishment of the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean; the establishment of a new peer reviewed and widely disseminated journal – *The Caribbean Journal of International Relations and Diplomacy*; the expansion of diplomatic dialogues; the introduction of a number of cutting edge and topical special seminars; improvements in research and publications among staff and the identification of new teaching areas, such as Cuba-CARICOM relations.

Under his watch, during the 2013/14 year, Professor Knight has hired new teaching and research staff and has introduced on-line and blended learning into the curriculum offerings.

Major awards and special honours/distinctions to staff

Professor W. Andy Knight was appointed as a member of the publications committee of the International Studies Association (ISA), effective March 2014.

Dr. Matthew Bishop took up visiting positions commencing January 2014 at Wuhan University in China and the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, Netherlands, the latter under the European Union's Mundus Mapp programme.

Dr. Debbie Mohammed was appointed in 2013 to serve as 1 of 5 members of the European Union - Latin America and the Caribbean (EU-LAC) Academic Council for the period 2013 to 2015.

Dr. Michelle Scobie was the only Caribbean national in September 2013 to obtain the coveted Commonwealth Fellowship Award from the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission of the Association of Commonwealth Universities. She is a Visiting Fellow-School of International Development, University of East Anglia, United Kingdom and a Visiting Researcher - Department of Science, Technology, Environment and Public Policy, The University College London.

Newly appointed and promoted academic staff

Dr. Jacqueline Laguardia Martínez

B.A., Universidad de La Habana (Summa cum laude), M.Sc., Universidad de La Habana, M.Sc., Université d'Auvergne, Ph.D., Universidad de La Habana.

The Institute of International Relations welcomed its newest member of academic staff, Dr. Jacqueline Laguardia Martinez of Cuba, as lecturer of International Relations of the Caribbean in March 2014.

A graduate of "la Universidad de La Habana, Cuba, and la Universite de l'Auvergne, France, Dr. Laguardia Martínez has a compelling background in International Economic Relations and Economic Policy Management. She is fluent in English, Spanish and French, Spanish being her mother tongue. Her research interests include: International Economics and Globalization, Economic History, Cultural Industries and Publishing Industry, Sustainable Development, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Cuban Studies

Staff retired in 2013/2014

- Mr. David Ramjattan, Office Assistant 44 years of dedicated service (1969-2013).
- Ms. Jacqueline Roberts, Senior Secretary 37 years of dedicated service (1977-2014)

Staff on leave – Appointment to the United Nations

Ms. Tamara Brathwaite, Librarian II, assume a position as Associate Librarian at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Condolences

Norman Girvan (June 28, 1941 – April 9, 2014), who passed away in Cuba after a suffering a terrible and debilitating fall while hiking with his family in Dominica in December 2013. The Institute of International Relations (IIR) was honoured when Professor Norman Girvan joined the IIR academic staff body as Professorial Research Fellow in 2004. His appointment at the IIR followed his prominent appointments as Secretary General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), Professor of Development Studies and Director of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) at The University of the West Indies, and head of the National Planning Agency of the Government of Jamaica.

Professor Girvan served as:

- University Director, Sir Arthur Lewis School of Social and Economic Studies,
 University of the West Indies, (August 1999- January 2000)
- Director, Consortium Graduate School of Social Sciences, The University of the West Indies (1987-1999). Professor from 1989 and Professor of Development Studies from 1997.
- Senior Officer and Senior Consultant, Policy Analysis and Research Division, United
 Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, New York (1981-1985)

- Chief Technical Director of the National Planning Agency, Government of Jamaica (1977 - 1980).
- Regional Coordinator, Caribbean Technology Policy Studies Project, The University of the West Indies/University of Guyana (1975 - 1976).
- Senior Research Fellow, United Nations African Institute for Development and Planning (IDEP), Dakar, Senegal (1973 -1975).
- Senior Lecturer and Lecturer in Economics at The University of the West Indies (1966-1973).

The Institute of International Relations memorialized him in the *IIR Today* – Newsletter of the Institute, Issue 17: June 2014. This can be viewed at http://sta.uwi.edu/iir/flipbook.html

At the June 2014 IIR Board Meeting, it was decided that the IIR Library would be renamed "The Norman Girvan Library" in honour of Professor Girvan's memory.

Activities aimed at changing culture/process, quality assurance

The Preparation of Guidelines outlining the Work Policy governing the Employment of Student Assistants at the IIR Library.

The Preparation of a Work Flow Analysis and Projection for Future Staffing in the IIR Library as part of the Strategic Planning exercise at the Alma Jordan Library.

Efforts to improve recruitment and retention

Coming out of discussions on the need for two positions of Librarian at the Institute, the Librarian has submitted to the Director the "Report of the Review Group on Non-Academic Structure for the Institute of International Relations" which gives recommendations for increased staffing levels in the IIR Library.

Significant training initiatives

Ms. Cherill Farrell

- Financial and Pension Planning, HR, October 10, 2013
- Introduction to Resource Description and Access (RDA) Seminar, Library Association of Trinidad and Tobago (LATT), at the AJL, January 23, 2014.

Ms. Malika Charles

• Customer Service, HR, February 5-6, 2014.

Ms. Carrill Melville

- Serials/Acquisitions module of Aleph, August 6-7, 2013.
- Identifying the Signs and Symptoms of Depression, HR November 6, 2013.
- Workshop on Minute Writing, HR, December 13, 2013.
- Introduction to Resource Description and Access (RDA) Workshop, AJL January 20, 2014.
- Radio Broadcasting, Institute of Broadcasting (IBC), January 13 February 19 2014.
- Protocol Training, HR, January 23 24, 2014.

Ms. Gina Ravello

- Serials/Acquisition module of Aleph, August 6-7, 2013.
- Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management (web course) ALA.
- Library Collections and Technical Services, September 30 October 25, 2013.
- Business Writing, HR, November 19-20, 2013.
- Time Management, HR, January 30, 2014.

Public & Professional Service of staff

W. Andy Knight

- Member of the publications committee of the International Studies Association (ISA)
- Co-Chair of the Editorial Committee of the Caribbean Journal of International Relations and Diplomacy
- Member of the Steering Committee to establish a Think Tank on Regional Security in the Office of the Prime Minister
- Contributor to the drafting of speeches for the Prime Minister during major international state visits – China's President Xi Jinping, US Vice President Joe Biden, and regional meetings – 40th anniversary of the establishment of CARICOM
- Collaboration with the Trinidad & Tobago Chamber of Commerce on a special edition of its CONTACT magazine on the theme of "Geopolitcs"
- Consultant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs on issues related to Trinidad and Tobago foreign policy
- Co-founder of the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago
- Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada
- Member of the Academic Council on the United Nations System
- Member of the Prime Minister's delegation to China for the opening of the Trinidad and Tobago Embassy and Cultural Centre in Beijing
- Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs on a state visit to Chile

M.L. Bishop

- Honorary Research Fellow of the Political Economy Research Centre (PERC),
 Sheffield, UK
- ERASMUS Mundus Mapp Visiting Scholar, Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, Netherlands
- Visiting Fellow, Wuhan University, China
- Transatlantic Visiting Fellow, University of Warwick, UK
- Member, International Studies Association (ISA);

- Member, UK Political Studies Association (PSA);
- Member, Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CALACS);
- Member, British International Studies Association (BISA);
- Member, BISA International Political Economy Group (IPEG);
- Member, Society for Caribbean Studies (SCS);
- Member, Caribbean Studies Association (CSA)

R. M. Kirton

- Collaboration with the Organization of American States as member of Electoral Observation Missions in Caribbean States.
- Serve as Reviewer of Citizen Security Programme for government of Guyana/ Inter-American Development Bank Project.

J. Laguardia Martínez

- Member, Chair of Caribbean Studies, University of Havana, Cuba
- Member, Cuba Research Forum, University of Nottingham, UK
- Member, Latin American Studies Association (LASA)

D. Mohammed

- Member, European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean (EU-LAC) Academic Council for the period 2013 to 2015.
- Member, International Relations Disciplinary Group –Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS) Cross Campus Conference.
- Member, Organizing Committee Caribbean Centre *for* Competitiveness.
- Member, Steering Committee-Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).
- Member, Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute (TTTI)
- UWI Representative on the Business and Labour Advisory Committee (BLAC) of the CSME-Trinidad & Tobago Focal Point- Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- UWI Representative Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment.
- UWI Representative -Trade Related Issues (TRI) Sub Committee Ministry of Trade,
 Industry and Investment.
- Member, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) Research Support Group on the CSME.
- Member, CDB- Research Group on Knowledge Management.

A. Montoute

- Member, International Studies Association (ISA)
- Member, Academic Council of the United Nations (ACUNS)
- Member, Caribbean Studies Association (CSA)
- Member, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES)
 Regional Integration Cluster

M. Scobie

- Member, Caribbean Studies Association
- Member, International Studies Association
- Research Fellow: Earth System Governance Research Projecthttp://www.earthsystemgovernance.org/people/person/michelle-scobie
- Regional Research Fellow Coordinator for the Earth System Governance Research
 Project for the Caribbean Region: Earth System Governance Research Project http://www.earthsystemgovernance.org/people/person/michelle-scobie
- Member, UWI Network on Caribbean Regional Sea Governance- to support the work of the Association of Caribbean States' Caribbean Sea Initiative
- Project Coordinator: Projects in Education Ltd. (Non-profit organisation fostering women's development in Trinidad and Tobago) and responsible for one of UWI's most long standing mentorship programs SUMMON - Recipient of the 2012 Excellence in UWI life award.

C. Farrell

- Member, Library Association of Trinidad and Tobago (LATT)
- Member, Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)
- Member, Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)
- Member, American Library Association (ALA)
- Member, Latin American Studies Association (LASA)
- Patron of Queens Hall
- Member, St. Augustine Campus Libraries User Survey Committee

T. Brathwaite

- Member Library Association of Trinidad and Tobago (LATT)
- Personal Member American Library Association (ALA)
- Associate Member Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)
- Public Relations Officer Network of NGOS of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women
- Life Member National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago

B. STUDENTS

The total number of registered students for 2013/2014 academic year was: 141

MPhil/PhD - 43

M.Sc. - 71 (28 Full time & 43 Part Time)

PG Diploma - 27 (5 Full time & 22 Part Time)

Six (6) students graduated with a Post Graduate Diploma in International Relations, nineteen (19) with a M.Sc. in Global Studies and one (1) with a Ph.D in International Relations.

The top student in the Post Graduate Diploma in International Relations was *Ms. Amanda Jade Ramdeen* who graduated with a distinction.

In the Master of Science in Global Studies cohort, the following students graduated with a distinction:

- Cherish Bianca Dacon
- Gillian Lorraine Gellizeau-Garner
- Kimberly Gabrielle Gonzales
- Sasha Arti Xia Maharaj
- Terniq Ronke Danielle Roberts-Edwards

Michelle Cynthia John graduated with a Ph.D in International Relations.

C. STRATEGY APPRAISAL

The IIR made a distinct effort to align its strategic goals to The University of the West Indies Strategic Framework 2012-2017. As such, it sought to advance education and create knowledge in the areas of teaching, research, innovation, public service, intellectual leadership and outreach.

The Director held a retreat for all staff members of the Institute at which the IIR curriculum was reviewed, new benchmarks for teaching excellence were discussed, the need for increased research publications was encouraged, and the goal of translating and transmitting our research and reflections to the general public was emphasized.

Research & Innovation

The Institute of International Relations plays a strategic role within The UWI in assisting and enhancing international projects and outreach. The Institute supports faculty members across all campuses in all their international activities, ranging from fundamental research collaborations, capacity building projects and the delivery of teaching programs. The Institute has a broad research agenda which rests on the four pillars of security, sustainable development, human rights and humanitarian action to protect the most vulnerable. Nestled under these pillars are numerous research themes that drive the institutional research of IIR.

Here is a sampling the other research undertaken in the year under review.

Research on Hegemonic Transitions

Matthew Bishop and W. Andy Knight embarked on a new research project that examines the shifts in hegemony as the United States appears to be declining in power vis-à-vis the rapid emergence of China as an economic power.

Research on Remapping the Americas

Julián Castro-Rea (University of Alberta, Canada) and W. Andy Knight (The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus) presented a paper on Remapping the Americas at the "Rethinking Regionalism: Beyond the CARICOM Integration Project" conference. This conference was held at the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies, The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica, October 7-9, 2013.

Research on Human Rights and Sustainable Development

The Institute of International Relations (IIR) at The University of the West Indies embarked upon a regional project on strengthening Human Rights and Sustainable Development systems, first held in St. Lucia in January 2013, for senior government officials from Barbados and the OECS countries. Building on that foundation, the IIR organized a similar workshop for thirty-five (35) senior government officials and NGOs from Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago on: "Recent Developments of International Human Rights and Sustainable Development". It was held from the 27-30 October, 2013 at the Royal Torarica in Paramaribo, Suriname.

The workshop was organised by the IIR in cooperation with, and support from: the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Government of Switzerland, the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the UNDP Sub-Regional Team in Suriname.

A contingent of fourteen (14) resource persons presented and led discussions throughout the duration of the workshop from the following organizations: The IIR, Conley International Consulting Group, the United Nations, International Labour Organization (ILO), New School University, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Former Ambassador of Austria, Harvard School of Public Health and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The workshop was

coordinated by Dr. Johann Geiser, Prof. W. Andy Knight, Ms. Lynelle Clarke, Mrs. Marilyn Ramon-Fortuné and Ms. Christal Chapman.

The workshop dealt with issues such as children and gender rights, the rights of indigenous people human rights reporting, and the effect of environmental processes on human rights, among many others. The participants discussed the unique challenges faced by their respective countries in securing human rights for sustainable development; they also shared possible solutions with each other in order to ensure the protection of human rights for all citizens of the region.

Refereed Publications

Bishop, M, L. (2013) The Political Economy of Caribbean Development (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan). p.280

Brathwaite, T. and A. Dolabaille. Library Orientation at The Alma Jordan Library: The Way Forward. Caribbean Library Journal, vol. 1, issue 1, December 2013. http://journals.sta.uwi.edu/clj/papers/brathwaite_dolabaille_dec2013.pdf

Grugel, J. and **Bishop, M, L.** (2013) Democratization: A Critical Introduction (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, Vol. 2). p.400

Laguardia Martínez, J. (2014) "Las industrias culturales en el contexto de la crisis económica global", *Temas de la Economía Mundial* (February 2014), Havana, Nueva Época II, No.25, pp. 113 – 125 http://www.ciem.cu/publicaciones/pub/Temas%20No.%2025-2014.pdf

Laguardia Martínez, J. (2014) "Las industrias culturales en la crisis económica global: El caso de la, muy agitada, industria editorial", *The Economy Journal* Barcelona

http://www.theeconomyjournal.com/es/notices/2014/02/las-industrias-culturales-en-la-crisis-economica-global-el-caso-de-la-muy-agitada-industria-editor-67060.php

Laguardia Martínez, J. (2013) "Industria editorial cubana: evolución y desarrollo", 22 *Memorias. Feria Internacional del Libro de La Habana 2012*, Editorial Científico-Técnica, Havana, pp. 160 – 197.

Laguardia Martínez, J. (2013) "Libro cubano, industria editorial y urgencias para el cambio", *Cuba: la ruta necesaria del cambio económico*, Omar E. Pérez Villanueva and Ricardo Torres Pérez [Comp.], Editorial de Ciencias Sociales, Havana, pp. 287 – 337.

Laguardia Martínez, J. (2013) "Pobreza y (medio) ambiente en el discurso global. Por una perspectiva de cambio", *Crisis socioambiental y cambio climático*, Gian Carlo Delgado Ramos, Mayra Paula Espina Prieto and Héctor Sejenovich [Coordinadores], CLACSO, Buenos Aires, pp. 53-76. Available at: http://www.crop.org/viewfile.aspx?id=496

Non- Refereed Publications and Related Works

Bishop, M. L. (2014), 'Reparations for slavery?' SPERI Comment, 20 March. Available at: http://speri.dept.shef.ac.uk/2014/03/20/reparations-slavery/

Bishop, M. L. (2014), 'The Unravelling of Chavismo' SPERI Comment, 25 February. Available at: http://speri.dept.shef.ac.uk/2014/02/25/unravelling-chavismo/

Bishop M.L. (2014) Whither CARICOM. In Re-mapping the Americas Trends in Region Making. Ed. W. Andy Knight, Julián Castro-Rea and Hamid Ghany. Ashgate. ISBN: 978-1-4094-6402-0

Bishop, M. L. (2013), 'A Centrist Political Economy for Britain, Part 2' SPERI Comment, 5 September. Available at: http://speri.dept.shef.ac.uk/2013/09/05/centrist-political-economy-britain-part-2/

Bishop, M. L. (2013), 'A Centrist Political Economy for Britain, Part 1' SPERI Comment, 3 September. Available at: http://speri.dept.shef.ac.uk/2013/09/03/centrist-political-economy-britain-part-1/

Bishop, M. L. (2013), 'Whatever Happened to Progressive Taxation?' SPERI Comment, 7 August. Available at: http://speri.dept.shef.ac.uk/2013/08/07/happened-progressive-taxation/

Girvan, N. (2014) Caribbean Integration: Can Cultural Production Succeed where Politics and Economics have Failed? (Confessions of a Wayward Economist). In *Remapping the Americas Trends in Region Making*. Ed. W. Andy Knight, Julián Castro-Rea and Hamid Ghany. Ashgate. ISBN: 978-1-4094-6402-0

Kirton, M. (2014) CARICOM's Engagement with Latin America: The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), its Promise and Challenges. In *Re-mapping the Americas Trends in Region Making*. Ed. W. Andy Knight, Julián Castro-Rea and Hamid Ghany. Ashgate. ISBN: 978-1-4094-6402-0

Knight, W.A. J. Castro-Rea and **H. Ghany** (2014) Re-mapping the Americas. In *Remapping the Americas Trends in Region Making*. Ed. W. Andy Knight, Julián Castro-Rea and Hamid Ghany. Ashgate. ISBN: 978-1-4094-6402-0

Knight, W.A. (2014) The FTAA and the Untimely Demise. In *Re-mapping the Americas Trends in Region Making.* Ed. W. Andy Knight, Julián Castro-Rea and Hamid Ghany. Ashgate. ISBN: 978-1-4094-6402-0

Montoute, A. (2014) From Engagement to Influence: Civil Society Participation in the EPA Trade Negotiations and Regional Integration Processes. In *Re-mapping the Americas Trends in Region Making*. Ed. W. Andy Knight, Julián Castro-Rea and Hamid Ghany. Ashgate. ISBN: 978-1-4094-6402-0

Outreach

Establishment of the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean

The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean (DAOC) was launched on May 6, 2014 as a joint effort between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Institute of International Relations, The University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus. The training modules began the very next day, May 7, 2014, with a Module on Contemporary Diplomacy.

Modern international relations and diplomacy demand evolving learning and training. While the basics of diplomacy remain, namely the pursuit of foreign policy objectives and state interests, this activity today occurs beyond the national level, into the realm of regional and global interests and objectives.

The modern day diplomatic academy seeks to provide learning and training not only to diplomats in Foreign Affairs Ministries and national government officials but also to much wider audiences, e.g., Ministries of Trade, Tourism, Planning, Gender, as well as other State Agencies, Educational Institutions, NGOs, and Businesses.

The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean, the first of its kind, reaches out to a cross-section of target groups and beneficiaries, involved in one way or another in international cooperation, negotiations and transactions -- in CARICOM and beyond.

The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean meets a clearly felt need, in the absence of any proper training and learning facility regionally, to offer programmes in diplomacy

at various levels and on diverse subjects relevant to the 21st century socio-political and economic environment.

The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean is the result of a cooperative arrangement between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago, through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and The University of the West Indies, through its Institute of International Relations. It is established initially on a two-year project basis but will continue to exist as long as the demand for such a training facility exists.

The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean mobilizes its target groups and the beneficiaries of its programmes through regional Ministries of Foreign Affairs as well as through advertisements in regional and international media outlets.

Further, *The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean* will pursue partnership arrangements with a number of prominent and renowned diplomatic academies and schools of international affairs from various parts of the world.

The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean, while an integral part of The University of the West Indies (UWI) and its Institute of International Relations (IIR), has a separate identity, mandate, programme, staffing and budget.

As of July 31, 2014 the DAOC has led three (3) training Modules and two (2) repeat sessions of Module 2 on Protocol with one hundred and forty nine (149) participants registered in total.

- Module 1 Contemporary Diplomacy: Issues and Processes
 - May 7th May 13th 2014
 - 24 participants
- Module 2 Protocol and Diplomatic Law: Rules and Procedures
 - Session 1: June 23rd June 27th 2014: 49 participants

- Session 2: June 30th July 4th 2014: 66 participants
- Total: 115 participants
- Module 3 Climate Change Diplomacy: the SIDS scenario
 - o July 21st July 25th 2014
 - o 10 participants

Photos from the Diplomatic Academy modules can be found at:

Launch of the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean - May 6, 2014

https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B7KYL7xN6_6uR0pHVmVRWk01TjA&usp=sharing

https://www.flickr.com/photos/theuwi/sets/72157644552622311/

Module 1 Contemporary Diplomacy - May 7-13, 2014

Experts: Jorge Heine, Andrew Cooper

https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B7KYL7xN6_6udmtzSW9mVGFENIE&usp=sharing

 Module 2 Session 1 Protocol and Diplomatic Law: Rules and Procedures -June 23-27, 2014

Experts: Gary Biggs, Lawrence Dunham and Lenore Dorset

https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B7KYL7xN6_6uMkNIX0wwN194Y1U&usp=sharing

 Module 2 Session 2 Protocol and Diplomatic Law: Rules and Procedures -June 30-July 4, 2014

Experts: Gary Biggs, Lawrence Dunham and Lenore Dorset

https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B7KYL7xN6 6ueFFQZ0Z0U193MWM&usp=sharing

Module 3 Climate Change Diplomacy: the SIDS scenario - July 21-25, 2014

Experts: Kishan Kumarsingh, Gilberto Jaimes

https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B7KYL7xN6_6uOGhncTlsdkNKSkE&usp=sharing

N.B. For further information please feel free to contact Ms. Margot Mesnard or Ms. Corinne Sandy at ext. 83237.

Establishment of the Caribbean Child Rights Observatory Network

The Institute of International Relations won the bid to become the Hub of the Caribbean Child Rights Observatory Network in March 2014.

<u>Background</u>

All countries in the Caribbean sub-region have signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). By signing the CRC, the Member States of the CARICOM parties committed themselves to respecting, protecting and fulfilling rights of all children. The State Parties agreed to be held accountable for this commitment before the international community. As the CRC is a legally binding instrument, State Parties are obliged to develop and undertake all actions and policies in the light of the best interest of the child.

The duty to enable child rights whether by planning and implementing suitable programmes carries with it the corresponding duties of regularly monitoring and periodically evaluating/reporting their status, the role that the state has envisaged for itself as well as for other actors such as parents, family, civil society and academics. However, reporting on the CRC is substantially delayed in the Caribbean. The

common delays CRC reporting could indicate either that this process is either not a priority for the Caribbean countries or that relevant up-to-date data are not readily available, that there is limited capacity or a combination of these factors.

As part of strengthening the coordination and evaluation of the implementation of the CRC and its optional protocols, the Committee on the Rights of the Child suggests 'the establishment of a cross-sectoral **Child Rights Observatory**, consisting of both national and regional authorities and NGOs, for policy coordination' (UN, CRC: 2007).

This suggestion is also reflected in a specific request from CARICOM to the UN for establishing a child rights observatory for the CARICOM member states. In response to the above, UNICEF proposes to work with the CARICOM and its member states in the establishment of a child rights observatory.

In the past few years, UNICEF Country Offices in the Commonwealth Caribbean (Jamaica, Guyana, Belize and the Office for the Eastern Caribbean Area in Barbados) have individually supported the establishment of Centres of Knowledge or Excellence and in the case of Belize, a Child Observatory. Such individual office efforts can be made more effective when linked across the Caribbean under the aegis of the CARICOM.

Goal and Objectives

One over-arching goal of the proposed Caribbean Child Observatory is to have an accurate analysis of the situation of children in the region and to give feedback and support to member states in developing evidence-informed policies for children as well as to serve a role as an advocate for children's issues, thus giving a voice to the most vulnerable groups in the region.

Other more specific objectives are to have the Caribbean Child Observatory work closely with Governments, CARICOM and other partners to:

- Provide technical assistance in CRC reporting and to monitor the progress of implementation of the CRC;
- Monitor (specific) rights violations of children and in particular discrimination and exclusion;
- Monitor and report on the status of the CARICOM Framework for Action for Children;
- Provide technical assistance to monitor and evaluate the impact of policies and legislation on children's rights and identify the contradictions and conflicting provisions;
- Provide technical assistance to collecting and consolidate data and information regarding children and children's rights in the Caribbean;
- Provide technical assistance to develop effective knowledge management strategies and compelling communications platform to create visibility and inform change for key issues impacting children.

Structure of the Hub

While a physical centre could be located in one of the CARICOM member states, and to avoid establishment and operational costs of a new structure, a virtual network with one institution (IIR) serving as a "hub" is a more practical approach. Such a network composed of all universities of the region could build on the existing network of The University of the West Indies Campuses and its Open University structure and linking them to other state or private universities such as those in Guyana, Belize and Grenada. The University of Belize already functions as a Child Observatory with support from UNICEF Belize and could provide insights on the overall establishment of a Caribbean-wide network. An assessment of IIR capacity for data use, equity-focused analysis and reporting on Children's rights was made by an independent group. Capacity gaps at the IIR can be further developed either through direct technical assistance provided by UNICEF and other UN Agencies or through increased South-South Cooperation. The network would also link up with various government statistical offices/services in order to support and strengthen their respective efforts in improving

social statistics, analysis and presentation of data using tools such as DevInfo already being promoted through CARICOM.

During an initial phase, this network would mainly focus its work on the current equity issues faced by children of all ages and all socio-economic background. With time, it could expand to integrate additional members (representative of the Civil Society, media, private sector, etc.), cover emerging cross-border issues (climate change, disaster risks reduction, etc.) and emerge as a recognised knowledge centre for the entire region capable of taking part to global and regional consultations to come (world summits, post MDG agenda, etc.).

Proposed functions

Some of the proposed areas of work for the Observatory network could be to:

- Review and report on the government' implementation and monitoring of the state of children's rights, seeking to ensure that statistics are appropriately disaggregated and other information collected on a regular basis in order to determine what must be done to realize children's rights;
- Coordinate with partners on data and information gathering and research and ensure centralization of data on children in the Caribbean with Centers of Knowledge or Excellence in the Caribbean;
- Provide technical assistance to regular collection, compilation, analysis and reporting of Caribbean-wide data and information pertaining to the realization of all aspects of children's rights and well-being;
- Assesses structural, policy environment, budget and attitudinal related issues
 that impede/accelerate the realization of these rights and help identify major
 bottlenecks and remedial measures to address and improve them.
- Monitor and report on states performance and assist them in the formulation and development of pro-child policies and interventions;
- Provide technical assistance to harmonization of national child friendly and sensitive policies, legislation, regulations and practices with CRC, its Optional

Protocols and other international human rights instruments relevant to children's rights and promote their effective implementation;

- Provide technical assistance to facilitate the consideration of children's rights by national economic policy makers in setting and evaluating national economic and development plans;
- Support public understanding and awareness of the importance of children's rights and work closely with the media and coordinate research and educational activities in the sub-region;
- Coordinate and support governments in the development of a regional research agenda based on analysis of available data with regard to areas needing further investigation.

Commitments of Partners

For such a network of academic institutions to be effective in performing these functions, access to data and information available in the various government Statistical Offices is critical. As member states of CARICOM, the benefits of having such a resource within the region would off-set the cost of individual country efforts. While technical and financial support from multilateral and bilateral Development Partners can be sought for the initial establishment phase, the CARICOM Secretariat and its operational structure would need to be the foundation for the longer term effectiveness of the virtual Child Observatory.

Member States are thus requested to:

- Confirm continued interest in establishing a Child Observatory for the benefit and use of the member states;
- Request UNICEF or any other international organization in working with the CARICOM Secretariat to develop a strategy and budget for the establishment of a virtual hub and network for their consideration.

Outreach to Youth Leaders

The CSC Leaders for Students Programme, a four-day leadership development programme, took place in Trinidad from 20th – 23rd May, 2014. The programme is usually held in cities where significant numbers of students across the Commonwealth study. It attracted 173 applications from students hailing from 11 different countries throughout the Caribbean. The programme was actualized thanks to sponsorship by BP, allowing a number of senior staff to make contributions.

Professor W. Andy Knight, Director of the Institute of International Relations, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, was invited to be a guest contributor to the programme. The **CSC** Leaders for Students Programme proved to be very successful and highly appreciated by the youth participants, who described the programme as an excellent value for their time. They also commented that they were able to grow in confidence and took a great deal from meeting with the host of contributors.

Memorandum of Understanding

1) Between The Institute International Relations and UNICEF Office for the Eastern Caribbean Area on behalf of UNICEF Offices in the English-Speaking Caribbean, signed on January 14, 2014 for the establishment of a Hub in the process of creating and facilitating the Caribbean Child Rights Observatory Network (CCRON) that will ensure collection of relevant data, accurate analysis and dissemination of information on the situation of children in the region, while providing feedback and support to programme countries in the implementation and development of evidence-informed policies and programmes for children. Moreover, the Hub and network is to serve a role as an advocate for children's issues, thus giving a voice to the most excluded and disadvantaged groups in the region.

2. Between The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States through its Department of Human Development, Education and Culture and The University of the West Indies for the cooperation of awarding scholarships to students for graduate degree programs at The University of the West Indies.

The graduate program covered under this Scholarship Program is the Master of Science in Global Studies to be provided onsite.

3. Between The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago **and** The University of the West Indies **for** the establishment of the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean.

Bibliochats

On Wednesday 13th November, 2013, the space of IIR Library was literally transformed for the hosting of a discussion a series, Bibliochats, the brainchild of the IIR Library Staff. The first instalment featured an hour long discussion by Dr. Matthew Bishop on his recent publication 'The Political Economy of Caribbean Development'. The library recorded full participation and feedback on the hosting of the event was extremely positive.

Past Activities

August 2013

Tuesday 22nd August, 2013

Director Professor Andy Knight and Dr. Anthony Gonzales met with His Excellency Amiram Magid Ambassador of The state of Israel on 22 August 2013 to discuss Israel's vulnerability as a small state in a hostile, turbulent region. His Excellency Ambassador Amiram is a non-resident Ambassador to Trinidad & Tobago as well as to several states in the CARICOM area.

Wednesday 21st August, 2013

IIR Director met with His Excellency Yoshimasa Tezuka, the Japanese Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago to discuss among other things possible collaboration between the IIR and the Japanese Embassy on a number of projects in 2014, when Japan celebrates 50 years relationship between Japan and Trinidad and Tobago.

October 2013

Monday 28th – Wednesday 30th October, 2013

"Recent Developments of International Human Rights and Sustainable Development" Workshop organized by the Institute of International Relations for Senior Officials from Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago. It was held in Paramaribo, Suriname and it focused on the international human rights framework and the new and emerging issues on the international development agenda, and their practical implications for CARICOM countries.

January 2014

14th January, 2014

Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Institute of International Relations and UNICEF.

February 2014

Wednesday 5th February, 2014 – Friday 7th February, 2014

"National Security Policy and Strategy Drafting Workshop"

Thursday 6th February, 2014

Diplomatic Dialogues "Saving CARICOM" by: Hon. Frederick Mitchell, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bahamas

Thursday 13th February, 2014

MPhil Upgrade Seminar – Mr. Rueben Martordjo

Thursday 27th February, 2014

Panel Discussion

"Assessing the current situation in Venezuela"

Members of the Panel: Dr. Mark Kirton, Dr. Anthony Gonzales, Dr. Michelle Scobie, Dr. Amando Garcia.

March 2014

Tuesday 18th March, 2014

Lecture by Sir George Alleyne, Chancellor, The University of the West Indies "Health Diplomacy; Science Diplomacy. Can the twain meet?"

April 2014

Wednesday 2nd April, 2014

MPhil upgrade Seminar Miss Geneve Phillip, MPhil in Economics

Topic: Deconstructing the Good Governance Agenda: A Comparative Analysis of Selected Caribbean Small Island Developing States and Sub-National Island Jurisdictions (Open to all interested)

MPhil/PhD Seminars Natasha Lalla, MPhil in International Relations Candidate

Topic: "Post Preference Adjustment and Development in the OECS" (Open to all interested)

Monday 14th April, 2014

Lecture by Dr. Cary Fraser - Former President of the University of Belize; Former student of the IIR "1962- Revisiting the Context of West Indian Independence"

May 2014

Tuesday 6th May, 2014

Official Launch of the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean

Wednesday 7th – 12th May, 2014

The First Module of the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean: *Contemporary Diplomacy: Issues and Processes*

Tuesday 13th May, 2014

Closing Ceremony of the First Module of the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean, attended by The President of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago, His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aguinas Carmona ORTT, SC.

Thursday 15th May, 2014

Official Launch of the Caribbean Child Rights Observatory Network

Thursday 15th – Friday 16th May, 2014

Deliberations on the Child Rights Observatory Network.

Wednesday 28th May, 2014

Visit by the British High Commissioner to the Eastern Caribbean, Her Excellency Victoria Dean and Political Officer of the British High Commission of Trinidad & Tobago, Mr. Matt Nottingham for a Panel Discussion and Q&A on the topic: "The UK-Caribbean Forum: Strengthening ties or highlighting differences?"

June 2014

Tuesday 3rd June, 2014.

Forum hosted by Institute of International Relations, The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean in collaboration with Trinidad Saudi Chamber of Commerce entitled: "Saudi Arabia, The Middle East Outlook and Possibilities for Cooperation" featuring guest speaker, His Excellency Dr. Anwar Majed Eshki, Director of the Middle East Centre for Strategic and Legal Studies of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Monday 23rd June – Friday 27th June, 2014

Diplomatic Academy Module 2 (Session 1): Protocol and Diplomatic Law: Rules and Procedures.

Monday 30th June - Friday 4th July, 2014

Diplomatic Academy Module 2 (Session 2): Protocol and Diplomatic Law: Rules and Procedures.

July 2014

Wednesday 16th July, 2014.

The Institute of International Relations hosts an Open Lecture by Professor Fidel Castro Díaz-Balart, son of former Prime Minister and President of Cuba, Fidel Castro. Prof. Diaz-Balart currently serves as the Scientific Advisor to the State of The Republic of Cuba. The lecture is entitled: "Global Challenges in Science and Innovation for Sustainable Development: Remarks from a Cuban Perspective."

Monday 21st - Friday 25th July, 2014.

Diplomatic Academy Module 3: Climate Change Diplomacy: The SIDS Scenario

Monday 28th July, 2014.

The Australian High Commission in partnership with the Institute of International Relations and the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean hosted a Round Table Discussion led by Mr. Daniel Sloper, Deputy Sherpa for the G20 which outlined plans for Austria's hosting of the G20 Leaders in Brisbane, November, 2014 and provided and update on the meeting on G20 Trade Ministers and the B20 meeting of business leaders.

E. Projected Activities for the 2014/2015 academic year

August 2014

Monday 11th - Friday 15th August, 2014

Diplomatic Academy Module 4: Understanding the United Nations

Sunday 17th - Sunday 24th August, 2014

IIR Students Study Tour to Cuba and Panama

September 2014

Monday 8th - Friday 12th September, 2014

Diplomatic Academy Module 5: Intelligence, Statecraft and Multidimensional Security in the Caribbean.

Wednesday 10th - Thursday 11th September, 2014

IIR Collaboration with Project Ploughshares on IDRC funded project- Private Security Industry in the Caribbean and Latin America.

October 2014

Thursday 2nd October, 2014.

Prof. Abdelwahad Hechiche to deliver a lecture "Arab/Israeli Conflict: Towards a Peaceful Resolution of the Crisis" Israel/Palestine Conflict.

Tuesday 7th October, 2014

The Caribbean Child Rights Observatory Network and UNICEF Office for the Eastern Caribbean Area will be hosting a discussion on the Use of Data and Technology for informing Children's Policy. Speakers will include Jamir Nazar, Director of policy, Strategy and Government Performance Management Division at the Office of the Prime Minister; Asia Jutla, a public servant; Kenfield Griffith, entrepreneur and a 16-year old

secondary school student who will show how his generation is navigating through the multiple platforms available to keep issues critical to children on the public agenda.

Wednesday 8th October, 2014

Proposed Meeting with the President of Haiti and a committee of academics and senior administrative staff, and few postgraduate students of The University of the West Indies, on the topic "Education Policy of President Martelly in Haiti".

Thursday 9th October, 2014

The International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC), in collaboration with the Institute of International Relations (IIR) at the University of the West Indies (UWI), to host a working breakfast on "The Role of Research and Partnerships in Stimulating Competitiveness and Innovation in the Americas". – Guest Speaker Dr. Howard Alper, Chair of the Government of Canada's Science, Technology, and Innovation Council (STIC), and Distinguished University Professor at the University of Ottawa. Dr. Alper will speak on "The Changing Landscape for Partnerships and International Collaboration in Research for Development in the Americas" (Specially Invited Guests Only).

Monday 20th October – Friday 24th October, 2014

Diplomatic Academy Module 2 (Session 3): *Protocol and Diplomatic Law: Rules and Procedures*.

Tuesday 21st October, 2014

Workshop on "Challenges in the Energy Sector: The Case of the Caribbean"

Monday 27th - **Friday 31**st **October, 2014** – Diplomatic Academy Module 6: Summit Diplomacy: G7/8, G20, CARICOM, Summit of the Americas, CHOGM

November 2014

Tuesday 25th **November, 2014** – Special Guest Lecture "Cuba in the Changing Global Environment" Professor Jorge Mario Sanchez, University of Havana, Cuba.

Wednesday 26th November, 2014 Owen Arthur – Distinguished Lecture – Topic – "Caribbean Regionalism in the Context of Economic Challenge

December 2014

Tuesday 16th December, 2014 – Dr. Benjamin Selwyn – Special Lecture and launch of his book, "The Global Development Crisis."

January 2015

Monday 19th – **Friday 23**rd **January, 2015** – Diplomatic Academy Module 7: *The Rise of China and its impact on the Caribbean.*

Monday 26th – Friday 30th January, 2015 – Diplomatic Academy Module 8: *The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Business, Politics and Culture.*

February 2015

Monday 23rd – Friday 27th February, 2015 – Diplomatic Academy Module 9: *Small States in Trade Diplomacy: The Caribbean Perspective.*

March 2015

Monday 16th **March – Friday 20**th **March, 2015** – Diplomatic Academy Module 10: Humanitarian Affairs and the Responsibility to Protect: Issues, Processes and Critiques.

April 2015

Monday 13th April – Friday 17th April, 2015 – Diplomatic Academy Module 11: *Towards Latin America.*

May 2015

Monday 18th – Friday 22nd May, 2015 –Diplomatic Academy Module 12: *The Caribbean in the World: the BRICS, the USA, the European Union.*

June 2015

June 2015 (Date TBA) – Diplomatic Academy Module 13: *Disaster Management and Risk Reduction in the Caribbean.*

Monday 22nd – Friday 26th June, 2015 – Diplomatic Academy Module 14: *The Law and Politics of the Sea: focus on the Caribbean Sea.*

July 2015

Monday 6th July – Friday 10th July, 2015 – Diplomatic Academy Module 15: *The Art of Diplomatic Communications.*

Monday 27th **July – Friday 31**st **July, 2015** – Diplomatic Academy Module 16: *Good Offices, Missions, Mediation, Negotiation and Track II Diplomacy.*

E. Distinguished Visitors to the Institute

H.E. Luis Fernando Ayala Gonzalez

Ambassador,

Embassy of Chile,

Trinidad and Tobago

Hon. Mervyn Assam

Ambassador of Trade,

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Trinidad and Tobago

Mr. Michael R. Borders

Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies,

Washington D.C.

H.E. Chelston Brathwaite

Barbados Ambassador to China

Mr. Satya Das & Mrs. Mita Das

Edmonton, Canada.

Mr. Fidel Castro Díaz-Balart

Scientific Advisor of the State Council of the Republic of Cuba Cuba

Mr. Desmonde Dominicé

Geneva,

Switzerland.

Mr. Patrice Gumbs

Directorate of Foreign Relations, Bureau of Foreign Relations, St. Marteen.

H.E. Fidelia Graand-Galon

Ambassador,
Embassy of Suriname,
Trinidad and Tobago.

Dr. Ivelaw Griffith

President,
Fort Valley State University,
Georgia, USA.

Mr. Gideon Hanoomansingh

Director of Communications, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dr. James Hospedales

Executive Director
Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)

Rear Admiral Richard Kelshall

Office of the Prime Minister, Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Umar Khan

Co-ordinator,
Trinidad Saudi Chamber of Commerce,
Trinidad and Tobago.

H.E. Amiram Magid

Ambassador,

Embassy of Israel,

Trinidad and Tobago.

Major General K. Maharaj

TT Defence Force Headquarters

Trinidad and Tobago

Hon. Frederick Mitchell

Minister of Foreign Affairs & Immigration,

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

The Bahamas

H.E. Lucita MoenirAlam

Ambassador,

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands,

Trinidad and Tobago

Kevin Newmeyer

Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies,

Washington D.C.

Mr. Ajay Parsaram

Department of Political Science

Carleton University,

Ottawa

Ms. Faith R. Puppin

Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, Washington D.C.

Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin

Assistant Secretary General,
Organization of American States.

Sir Shridath Ramphal

Chancellor Emeritus,
The University of the West Indies

Nikolay Smirnov

Ambassador, Embassy of Russia, Trinidad and Tobago.

Tatyana Smirnov

House of Russian Ambassador Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Scott D. Tollefson

Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, Washington D.C.

Mr. Frédéric Unterreiner

UNICEF Office for the Eastern Caribbean Area, Barbados

H.E. Guillermo Vazquez Moreno

Ambassador

Embassy of Cuba,

Trinidad and Tobago

Ms. Latoya Williams

Executive Assistant to the Ambassador of Suriname,

Embassy of Suriname,

Trinidad and Tobago

Zhang Xiaotong

Executive Director

Wuhan University Centre for Economic Diplomacy (WHUCED)

Wuhan University, China

Conclusion

The 2013/2014 academic year was an outstanding year for the Institute of International Relations. The Institute has become better known globally as its staff expanded its reach beyond the Caribbean by attending more international conferences and taking up positions in international bodies.

The IIR strove to plug into The UWI Strategic Framework 2012-17 by ensuring that its teaching, research, innovation, public service, intellectual leadership and outreach contributed to The UWI's goal of advancing education and knowledge creation. In so doing, the IIR has been helping to ensure that The UWI is better recognized globally as a regionally integrated, innovative and internationally competitive university.

It should be noted that with the establishment of the Diplomatic Academy, the IIR has revitalized one of the early mandates of the institution – i.e. to train the next generation of diplomats in the region. This project has brought in significant revenue over the first months of operation.

The IIR has also strengthened its capacity for teaching by adding new courses and ensure that students have greater options to pursue their education via distance and blended learning. We still have a long way to go in this area. But during the year under review, significant progress was made in the right direction with the hiring of a technical person to assistant lecturers in transforming their traditional teaching methods and becoming more at ease with the utilization of moodle e-learning.

In terms of research and innovation, the IIR has created an enabling environment to foster an increase in the output of research. The Director has introduced a new mentoring system to help junior academics learn how to become more productive while at the same time ensuring that their work finds itself in top tier journal and impactful books. Along the way, the IIR has supported financially both faculty and students to make sure that they can have international exposure for their work.

One area in which we need to do much better is in the area of Marketing and Communications. The Director indicates that in the next academic year this will be his focus.

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