



CDEMA News

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9th CDM Conference a Success!

The 9th Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) was hailed a success. A review of the outputs of the sessions of the conference clearly demonstrates that all the objectives of the conference were satisfactorily achieved. A number of new initiatives were unveiled: the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) Framework for the CDM Strategy 2014-2024 and the baseline study. Together, these tools will provide decision-makers with information related to progress, gaps and lesson learnt in the implementation of CDM. The conference also created a space for reflection on the progress of CDM over the last 10 years. A total of 183 persons attended CDM9 and a total of 36 countries were represented. Each session at the conference focused on a thematic area that was

aligned to one of the four outcome level results of the CDM strategy 2014-2024. Notable is that the overall direction of change is positive but between 2001 to 2006 there was slow performance, while



the period 2007 to 2012 can be considered a period of growth and development. The CDM Coordination and Harmonization Council (CHC) has played an integral role in promoting the objectives of the strategy through enhanced coordination and collaboration among the agencies on these committees. The Conference was held at the Melia Nassau Beach Resort, Bahamas

from November 30 – December 4 and was convened under the theme: "The Road to Resilience: Checkpoint 2015". As the theme suggests, and as was agreed to with stakeholders in 2013, this forum was the first checkpoint for reporting on the progress made after two years of the implementation of the 2014-2024 Caribbean CDM Strategy.

The Conference is the region's largest gathering of professionals in the fields of disaster management and professionals from sectoral and thematic fields who have specific responsibilities in this area. The Conference is also the regional event of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and is structured to promote good practice, share ongoing research and chart the way forward for the advancement of CDM in the Caribbean.



Mr Ronald Jackson, Executive Director, CDEMA (left) joins the Hon. Adriel Brathwaite, Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs, Barbados and Chairman of the CDEMA Council of Ministers (right) in presenting the award to Mr. Jeremy Collymore.

Jeremy Collymore receives CDEMA Council Award

Jeremy MacArthur Collymore received the highest award of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) at the Closing Ceremony, Awards & Gala Dinner of the 9th CDM Conference held on Thursday, December 3, 2015, at Melia Nassau Beach Resort.

The CDEMA Council Award was bestowed upon Mr. Collymore for his dedication and commitment to the advancement of Comprehensive Disaster Management throughout the region and globally. The presentation was a significant part of the official launch of the CDEMA Awards

Programme, aimed at honouring individuals for their outstanding contributions to disaster management in the region. The Honorable Adriel Brathwaite, Attorney General and Minister of Home Affairs, Barbados and Chairman of the CDEMA Council of Ministers presented the award to Mr. Collymore. The CDEMA Council Award is the highest award of CDEMA and the 2015 Award was sponsored by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) through the Community Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (CDRRF).

From the ED's Desk: Is the Caribbean Ready for Climate Change?



By Ronald H. Jackson, Executive Director, CDEMA

We have been faced with the urgency of building climate resilience in the Caribbean region now for the last two decades. The evidence of climate related impacts has been there for some time and the warnings have consistently been issued, first as the threat of global warming and now as climate change.

In recent times, there has been a global intensification of the call to action to address climate change backed by promises of associated financial resources. At the Paris Climate Conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever Global Climate Agreement. So, we may ask ourselves whether the Paris Climate Agreement goes far enough to address the concerns of the Caribbean region. In answering this question we must pay specific attention to the fact that only some aspects of the Agreement are legally binding and therefore many of the requirements are not enforceable. Additionally, there are no penalties in place for non-compliance aside from the associated social pressure. There is therefore a challenge related to accountability, which is of particular concern for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) such as the Caribbean countries. How will we hold the large emitting countries accountable? What will be our response should they fail to honour said Agreement?

Given the above, the Caribbean SIDS must institute stronger measures to protect its resources and people. However, there are a few key considerations that we must bear in mind:

1. The reduction in emissions if started today will not restore the climate immediately perhaps not for another two generations at least.
2. The threat to Caribbean SIDS are in the area of Floods, Droughts, Environmental Health Epidemics and potentially pandemics, massive population displacement due to coastal flooding from storm surge and sea level rise and food insecurity.
3. We will have tremendous Humanitarian Response needs generated given the forecast/prognosis at points 1 and 2.

The threat outlined at point 2 has prefaced most if not every statement made by Government and scientific representatives around the region with respect to climate change. Yet the responses have largely tended to lean more heavily towards the areas of Energy Security and Sustainability. This is not to suggest that the focus on energy as a means of creating efficiencies in our economy is not an appropriate response. It is quite appropriate, especially if the savings realized through the utilization of more renewable sources are applied towards the areas of resilience building and preparedness for response. The CARICOM Region's response must feature in an equitable way an adaptation and mitigation agenda so that we can achieve and sustain economic prosperity for the people of the Caribbean whilst preserving a safe and harmonious environment.

A signal of readiness would therefore be reflected in the policy and programmes being undertaken to reflect this balanced or equitable approach. It would also be reflected in the quality of financing allocated to address these policy and programme prescriptions. So even as we wait for the Developed world to make good on the promised US\$100 Billion per annum, in climate financing there are things we need to "get on with" domestically that we have

failed to do for many years. These are related to better consideration of the interface between the built environment and our natural resources. There is a need to reintegrate hazard Information into the development planning and control processes. We need to take better stock of our risk, vulnerability and exposure to hazards (climate related and otherwise) in our Macro Economic Planning so that we can plan for and account for these shocks that have come. We must build and sustain robust national and regional humanitarian response systems capable of responding at least to National and Regional Level events.

Given our risk exposure and the fact that a reduction in emissions within the Caribbean SIDS will have negligible effect on the impact that climate related hazards will have on our society and economies, the Operational Readiness for Response is a must. Sadly this is an area where very little investment has and is occurring nationally and regionally. The current situation of conflict in the middle east and the displacement it is creating will no doubt affect in the near term, the level of external humanitarian support that would come to the Caribbean after climate related disaster events. As such any signal of readiness for climate change must involve a robust national and regional response architecture.

CARICOM therefore must build on its foresight in the creation of CDEMA and several key institutions to recommit its support for these institutions so they may better ably support the national thrust on all fronts in the efforts to cope with a "Changing Climate".



Post Hurricane Joaquin DANA training in the Bahamas



Participants at the DANA Training in the Bahamas

In efforts to strengthen the capacity of the National Disaster Management System in The Bahamas, the CDEMA Coordinating Unit facilitated a Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) training with 28 technical personnel between January 12th and 15th 2016. The training was conducted in collaboration with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The training was facilitated through CDEMA's post Hurricane Joaquin impact mechanism by ensuring adequate emergency disaster response capabilities are enhanced in the Bahamas.

The DANA process provides a systematic approach for conducting damage assessment and determining needs in an effective and timely manner in order to positively influence response and recovery actions in an impacted State. The process ensures the collection of damage data after any hazard impact to inform immediate

needs; standardizes the procedures used for damage assessment and needs analysis, inclusive of estimating costs of impact and recovery, and facilitates the recovery phase by identifying the facilities for urgent rehabilitation and long-term reconstruction.

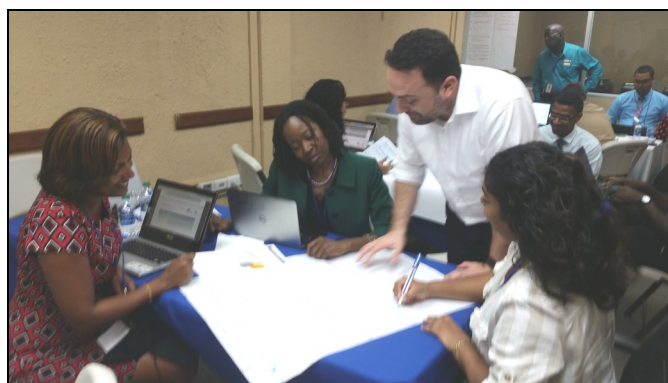
On September 30th, 2015, Hurricane Joaquin became the tenth named hurricane of the 2015 Atlantic Hurricane Season which affected the CDEMA Participating State of the Bahamas (southern and central Islands). With maximum sustained winds near 125 mph (205 km/h), the Islands of the Bahamas primarily impacted were those to the South, including Acklins Island, Crooked Island and Long Island.

CDEMA deployed three Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment Teams (RNATs) in response to a request from the National Emergency Management Agency.

Risk Analysis Training

CDEMA CU staff members - Elizabeth Riley, Deputy Executive Director; Joanne Persad, Programme Manager Preparedness and Response and Donna Pierre, Disaster Risk Management Specialist along with other representatives from regional agencies including the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and the Regional Security System (RSS) benefited from a Risk Analysis training course. The training course was held at the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) in Port of Spain, Trinidad between January 18th – 22nd, 2016.

The purpose of the training was to provide participants with a comprehensive introduction to the discipline of risk analysis and the risk management process. Each participating agency was able to identify and evaluate the assets they wish to protect, the vulnerabilities they must guard against, determined risk control strategies, and defined the most suitable approaches to risk communication. The training in Risk Analysis benefited the CDEMA team in



CDEMA CU Staff members at the Risk Analysis training held at IMPACS, Trinidad. L-R Donna Pierre, Elizabeth Riley, Chris Pallaris (Instructor) and Joanne Persad.

further developing the Agency's organizational risk management system and informing the process for undertaking risk analysis for specific hazards. The training course was funded by the European Union through the Global Crisis Response Support Programme (GCRSP).

Highlights of 9th CDM Conference—The Road to Resilience...



1. Cpt. Stephen Russell, NDC NEMA Bahamas extending welcome to Bahamas and 9th CDM Conference
2. Mr. Rick Murrell, CEO Tropical Shipping and Mr. Ronald Jackson, CDEMA CU signing MOU
3. Official Opening of CDM9 Exhibition. Front Row - Left to right, Most Hon. PJ Patterson, Hon. Adriel Brathwaite, Mr. Ronald Jackson and Hon. Arnold Forbes view the Milo Butler display
4. Launch of UNFPA State of World Population Report. Mr. Ronald Jackson Executive Director, CDEMA and Ms. Siti Batoul Ousseini Deputy Director, UNFPA Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean
5. Mr. Ronald Jackson (centre) and Mr. Darren Turnquest (4th from left) Director, Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, Bahamas flanked by the Youth representatives to the 9th CDM Conference

Highlights of 9th CDM Conference—The Road to Resilience...



6. Closing Ceremony, Awards and Gala Dinner: Ms. Chrystal Ginton, First Assistant Secretary of NEMA Bahamas receiving her Silver Star of Merit award for 16 years of service from Hon. Arnold Forbes
7. Conference delegates participating in the Opening Ceremony
8. Gala Dinner cultural performance
9. Closing Ceremony, Awards and Gala Dinner: Conference delegates participating in the Awards and Gala Dinner
10. Marisa Clarke-Marshall (left) of the IFRC and Donna Pierre of CDEMA presenting the Strategic Targeting Methodology at the CDM knowledge Marketplace
11. Opening Ceremony - lively interlude delivered by youths from the Eva Hilton Primary School, formerly Oakes Field Primary School

Targeting vulnerable communities to strengthen national resilience

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) in partnership with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) are seeking to strengthen and sustain national resilience through prioritized targeting of the most vulnerable communities.

In efforts to promote and enhance resilience at the national level, it is vitally important to accurately measure the level of exposure faced by communities in light of disasters. To address this issue, the CDEMA, IFRC and National Disaster Offices are hosting a series of Strategic Targeting Methodology (STM) workshops. So far, workshops have been held in Suriname (January 26th – 29th, 2016) and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (February 23rd–26th).

The objectives of each workshop were:

- To share the STM tool and process with stakeholders.
- To collate/map past and current community resilience actions

- To begin framing the National Community Resilience Action Plan and measurable indicators.
- To initiate the development of a working system for targeting and reporting on community action among resilience partners.

The STM is one tool that has been developed to provide the relevant information needed to select communities that are considered most vulnerable to natural disasters. It supports a joint prioritization of communities at the national level so that the most vulnerable communities are targeted.

The STM is promoted as part of the IFRC's Caribbean Communities Organized and Prepared for Emergencies (CCOPE) Regional Programme. Specific activities are currently being implemented in four (4) countries – Grenada, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname. This programme is funded by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO).



Participants at STM workshop in Suriname



Participants at STM workshop in St. Vincent

CDEMA represented Caribbean region at second annual HNPW

In efforts to further the region's capacity in providing humanitarian assistance to affected CDEMA's Participating States, the region's institution with responsibility for disaster risk management participated in the 2nd annual meeting of the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW).

The event was held under the theme 'Effective Preparedness and Response' from February 1st - 4th, 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland. The purpose of the event was to provide a platform for networks and partnerships to explore ways to strengthen their interoperability, and to improve their cooperation in areas of common interest. As co-chairs of the Consultative Group, the Department for International Development (DFID UK) and the United Nations



Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) led the event.

CDEMA's representative, Joanne Persad, participated in the week's activities on behalf of the region. She participated in the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) and the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) sessions as the Regional Focal Point. The HNPW brought operational and service-oriented response and

preparedness networks together on the basis of shared, practical challenges that cannot be solved by any singular network or organization. The forum enabled participants to inspire and learn from one another, compelled networks to explore new and innovative approaches to perennial challenges and facilitated the development of collective solutions and the mobilization of shared resources towards these ends.

The 2nd annual meeting brought together 825 representatives from several emergency preparedness and response networks supported by UNOCHA's Emergency Services Branch including national institutions, regional organizations, research and academic institutions, NGOs, UN agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and the private sector.

Executive Director's High Level Visit to Suriname

The Executive Director of CDEMA, Ronald H. Jackson, facilitated a high level visit with key government officials of Suriname between January 25th and 27th.

The Executive Director had meetings with Mr. Faizel Mohamed Noersalim, Minister of Home Affairs with responsibility for Disaster Management; Mr. Patrick Pengel, Minister of Health; Mr. Gillmore Hoefdraad, Minister of Finance; Mr. Rudie Roeplal the Deputy Director of the Bureau of National Security in the Cabinet of the President and Colonel Jerry Slijngard, Head of the National Coordination Center For Disaster Relief (NCCR).

The objectives of the consultations were to provide the key officials with an overview of CDEMA's mandate and to share the priorities targeted under the CDM Strategy 2014-2024. Discussions were also held on how CDEMA has so far supported the NCCR of Suriname and could further support going forward. Mr. Jackson also articulated the value proposition that CDEMA presents through the provision of the Regional Public Good related to Emergency Preparedness and Response through the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) as well as the importance of resource mobilization to support national priorities.



L-R: Colonel Jerry Slijngard, Coordinator of NCCR, Mr. Faizel Mohamed Noersalim, Minister of Home Affairs and Mr. R.H. Jackson, ED CDEMA.

2nd Meeting of the Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG)

The Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG) has as one of its main objectives, to develop standards to guide the use of risk information in the development approval and planning processes.

To achieve this objective, the RTWG at its second meeting held at the Organisation of American States (OAS) in Barbados on February 12, 2016 outlined a road map that begins with the creation of a benchmark to facilitate the auditing of current planning practices in the region. Once developed and applied this will give the members a clear understanding of the best practices, as well as, the priority challenges that may require interventions.

In his opening remarks to the Working

Group, Mr. Jackson, Executive Director of CDEMA reminded the Group that Small Island Developing States remain extremely vulnerable to hazards inclusive of those climate related. He added that time was running out to fortify the region and that the sector central to addressing this challenge is the physical planning.

The RTWG was established in August 2015 as a sub grouping of the Physical and Environmental Planning Sector Sub Committee to address the need to develop fact based mechanisms to enhance decision making in the development environment. It combines the scientific community with that of the planners,

engineers, and educators among others.



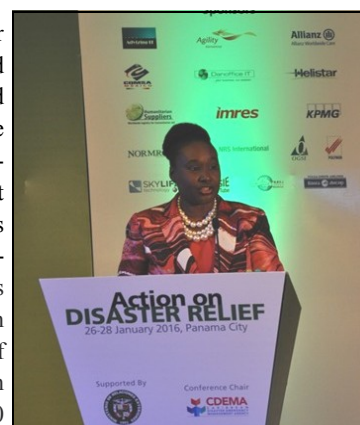
Members of RTWG at the 2nd meeting held on February 12, 2016, Barbados

CDEMA chaired inaugural Global Action on Disaster Relief Conference

In its inaugural year, Action on Disaster Relief 2016 was heralded as a major success. For the very first time, senior government, UN and disaster agencies, NGOs, chamber and trade officials from across the Latin America and Caribbean region, convened at the Wyndham Panama Albrook Mall Hotel (26-28 January) to meet face-to-face with some of the world's leading business operators from across the disaster relief and humanitarian sectors.

Andria Grosvenor, Planning & Business Development Manager, CDEMA chaired the proceedings and reminded the delegates that the region

could achieve better preparedness, disaster risk reduction and relief through continued collaboration and partnerships. Not only had delegates been able to hear directly from the region's leading disaster agencies and governments, but they had been able to meet them personally, discuss potential solutions and create long-lasting contacts for the future. Supported by the Republic of Panama's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the focus was on direct, personable engagement; a mix of themed plenary sessions featuring more than 20 speakers and facilitating upwards of 400 public-private sector meetings.



Conference Chair - Andria Grosvenor, CDEMA

Participating States

Anguilla
Antigua and Barbuda
Commonwealth of the Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Commonwealth of Dominica
Grenada
Republic of Guyana
Haiti
Jamaica
Montserrat
Saint Kitts & Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines
Suriname
Republic of Trinidad & Tobago
Turks & Caicos islands
The Virgin Islands

Resilient States...Safer Lives!

Thank you Ms Pamela 'Pam' Knights!

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency Coordinating Unit (CDEMA CU) wishes to extend a heartfelt gratitude to Ms Pamela 'Pam' Knights for her invaluable contribution to the advancement of CDEMA's mandate over the past thirteen years.

Friend, confidant, dependable, approachable, committed, determined, loving are all words that co-workers have used to describe Ms Knights.

Ms Knights rejoined the CDEMA Coordinating Unit in 2003, after having completed a previous one year stint as an Information Officer, a position she held for three years. She then carried the portfolio of Information Officer/Documentalist from 2007 to 2012.

Upon her retirement from the Agency, Ms Knights was the Communications Specialist. She held this position from 2012 to 2015.



Ronald Jackson, Executive Director of CDEMA, presenting Ms Knights with a plaque from the CDEMA CU.

On behalf of the Council and Governance Committees of CDEMA, we extend congratulations to Ms Knights on her retirement and wish her all the very best.

Upcoming Activities (April—May 2016)

- April 14-16** Caribbean Early Warning System Workshop, Barbados
- April 18-22** Seventh (7th) Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Barbados
- April 25-29** Tradewinds 2016-Training in Plans Review, Upgrade and Development and Incident Command Systems, Grenada
- April-May** Introduction to Comprehensive Disaster Management in the Caribbean, Online Course

Natural disasters

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