

**THIRTY-FOURTH MEETING OF
THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF
CARIBBEAN STATISTICIANS****SCCS/2009/34/10****Gros Islet, Saint Lucia****26-28 October 2009****25 October 2009**

**CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FUNDED MULTI-PROGRAMME TRAINING IN
DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS****1. BACKGROUND**

The Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) will recall that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat received grant funding from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) under an Agreement dated 31 May 2007. This Grant was to finance the cost of conducting a multi-year training programme in the area of Demographic Analysis. The programme comprised three seven-week training workshops in Demographic Analysis over the period 2007-2009.

The training programme also comprised a Monitoring and Evaluation System to assess the impact of the training through the post-training activities and performance of participants trained in demography; and a Short Course on the Principles of Demography for Senior Statisticians who are not directly involved in demographic analysis or for those statisticians that were trained several years ago and who required a refresher course in Demography. A first workshop in this area was conducted in 2006 which was funded out of a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Project.

The seven-week training programme targeted suitably qualified personnel from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs), from relevant government agencies in CARICOM Member States/Associate Members, as well as from the CARICOM Secretariat.

The intervention in the area of demographic analysis centred on the lack of capacity for data gathering and analysis in this area; the unavailability of baseline social statistics data, and inadequacies relative to the timeliness and the accuracy of social statistics for integration into national planning frameworks, and for the preparation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) reports and other analytical reports such as from the Population and Housing Censuses.

The development of a regional project to build the research capacities of statistical institutions, to provide the requisite data for policy formulation and decision-making, including MDG reporting was viewed as critical. This regional training programme was also aimed at providing the basis for development of a harmonised framework, achieved through the training, to improve the comparability of statistics produced in countries across the Region. A Project Advisory Committee (PAC) was also set up to monitor the training programme, and comprised representatives from the CARICOM Secretariat, the CDB, UWI and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC).

2. Objectives and Scope of Training

The objectives of the workshops were:

- (i) To strengthen and sustain the capacity of Member States in the conduct of demographic analysis;
- (ii) To promote demographic research on available data from censuses, vital statistics and surveys;
- (iii) To develop a cadre of trained personnel in demography in Member States;
- (iv) To encourage networking and south-south co-operation amongst practitioners in this area.

The scope of the seven-week workshops generally covered the following subject areas of demography: Sources of Data, Assessment of the Quality of Data, Demographic Theories, Measures of Fertility, Nuptiality, Internal and International Migration, and Mortality, Model Life Tables and Stable Populations, Indirect Techniques of Estimation and Population Estimates and Projections. Assessment of the participants was based on assignments and examinations.

The lecturers/facilitators were drawn from the Mona and St. Augustine Campuses of the University of the West Indies and the venue was the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), U.W.I., St. Augustine. There was also a tutor from UWI for the practical laboratory sessions. The seven-week workshops were held during the period June to August of the respective years while the short course was held in January of 2009 over a period of two weeks.

The scope of the short course covered the following topics: Measurement Issues, Mortality Measures, Fertility Measures, Life Tables, Model Life Tables, Indirect Techniques of Estimation, Migration Theories and Measures, Population Projections and draft questionnaire for the 2010 Population and Housing Census.

The Short Course on the Principles of Demography was held at Sunset Jamaica Grande Resort, Ocho Rios, Jamaica between January 12 and 22, 2009. Fifteen officials (9 females and 6 males) from national statistical offices of 12 CARICOM countries participated in the Short Course. The Short Course lasted approximately two weeks and two thirds of the participants felt that the duration was adequate.

3. Summary of Outputs of Training Programme

Table 1 provides a summary of the number of participants who completed training in the seven-week and short course workshops, the number of countries that sent participants as well as an idea of the performance of the participants where applicable.

Table 1. Summary of Participation and Performance in the CDB Programme of Training

Year	No of participants	No of countries represented	Percentage obtaining A- or higher	Remarks
2007	22	15	68	<i>15 females and 7 males</i>
2008	20	16	75	<i>12 females and 8 males</i>
2009	16	13	69	<i>14 females and 2 males</i>
<i>Short Course 2009</i>	15	12	<i>Not applicable</i>	<i>9 females and 6 males</i>

Seventy-three (73) persons were trained/retrained under the programme. In addition to the persons trained under the CIDA-funded training workshop, approximately 95 persons have been trained in Demographic Analysis in CARICOM.

The success of the training is measured against the utilization of these graduates post the training which would enable them to contribute to the improvement in the availability and quality of statistics in their respective countries. Many of the persons that were trained in this programme are involved in the preparation for the 2010 Census Round and have benefited under training workshops conducted in this and other areas of statistics. The Secretariat would continue to monitor the placement of the graduates from the seven-week training workshops, any challenges with respect to the retention of their services and any related outcomes with respect to the training. Efforts would be made to replicate the approach to training under the CDB-funded programme in other

areas of statistics relative to a combination of seven-week training for less-experienced statisticians and short courses for those with more experience.

The Secretariat would like to commend the Caribbean Development Bank for its support and can assure this organization that the training has already contributed to the work of the National Statistical Offices and would continue to contribute bearing in mind a total of 73 persons were trained or re-trained in Demographic Analysis. Graduates in this area should be encouraged and be placed in positions by the NSOs to enable the use of the skills gained during the training since they have a lot to learn once they commence putting the knowledge into practice. The Secretariat also would like to express appreciation to UWI for its tireless efforts in training the participants and on behalf of the SCCS to acknowledge the contribution by Professor Chukwudum Uche, the principal lecturer in the training, to the Region. The contribution of UNECLAC in serving on the PAC is also acknowledged.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN

The **Meeting** is **invited** to:

- **note** the report of the Caribbean Development Bank-funded multi-training programme in Demographic Analysis and encourage heads of statistical offices to enable the graduates to use their skills gained in this area.
