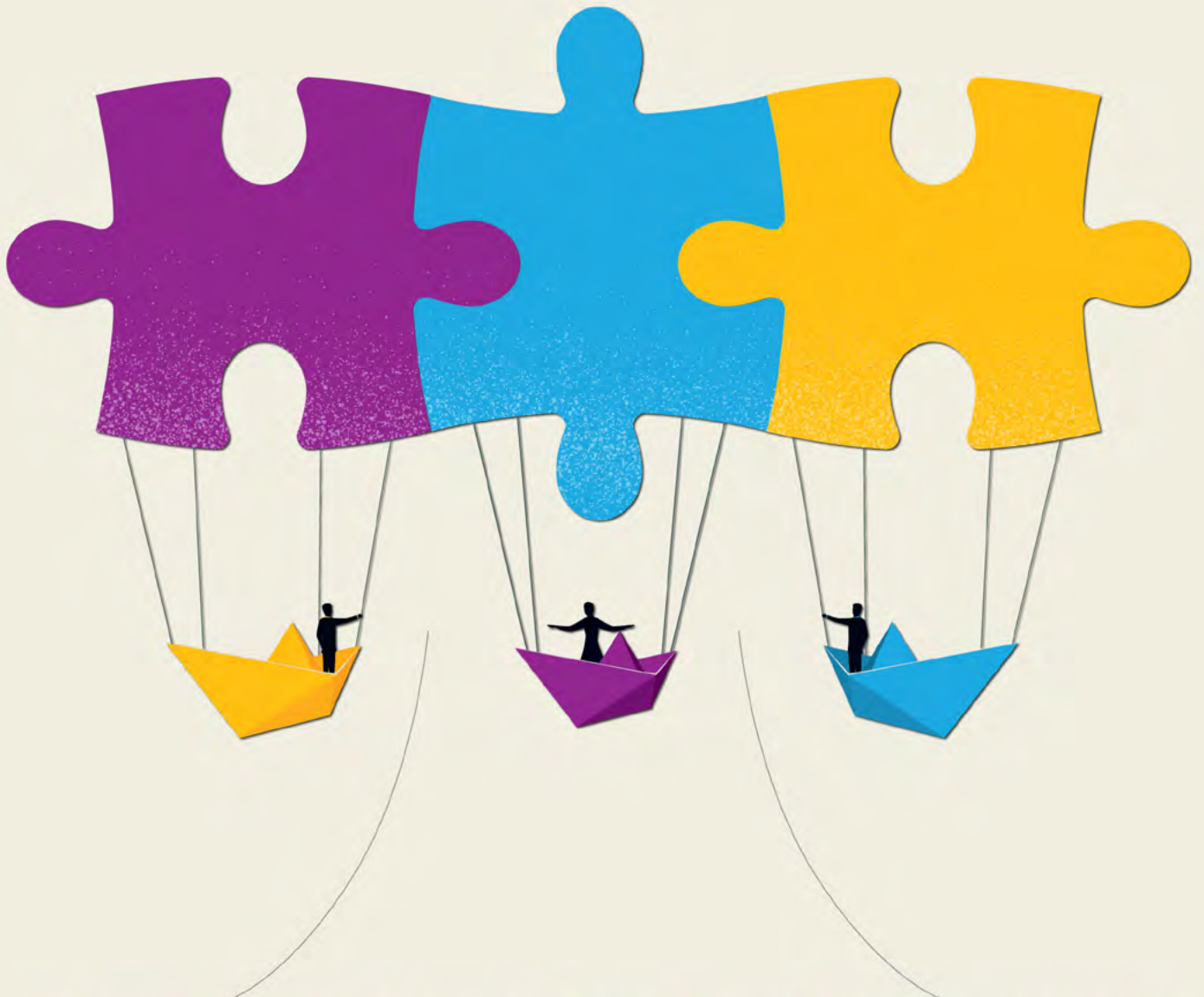




THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE
WEST INDIES

UWI GLOBAL NEWS

Volume 4, Issue 1, October 2022



Maximising Value from Our Partnerships

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Our Mission

To lead The UWI's global engagement strategic initiatives, build robust partnerships, foster collaborations and strengthen opportunities for resource mobilization.

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Message from The PVC

**Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy,
Pro Vice-Chancellor for Global Affairs,
The UWI**

As an SDG-engaged university, leveraging partnerships to advance the 2030 sustainable development agenda is consistent with SDG-17 and our core commitment as a regional university. Whether it is through The University of the West Indies' (UWI's) leadership of networks such as the Global University Consortium on SDG-13, the work of UWI's global centres and institutes or our bilateral MOUs with specific institutions, these partnerships enable The UWI to fulfil its mandate of advancing learning, creating knowledge, and fostering innovation, thus serving as a driving force for the transformation of the Caribbean, its diaspora and the wider world. Moreover, our diverse partnerships have helped UWI's faculty and students become more deeply engaged in addressing developmental issues confronting the Caribbean region, as The UWI contributes to building more just, equitable and sustainable societies.

With the second implementation phase of The UWI's *Triple A Strategy* in sharp focus, the Office of Global Affairs (OGA) continues to pursue engagements with a range of partners including international universities, multilateral development agencies, philanthropic foundations, and the private sector, often facilitated by our alumni in the diaspora and key supporters of The UWI as a thought leader on issues affecting the Global South. These strategic partnerships serve as points of connection linking the skills and expertise of faculty and students with counterparts across the globe. The goal of these engagements is to

maximise opportunities for promoting The UWI's teaching, research and advocacy, bolstering its institutional capacity, enhancing its efforts at internationalization as well as mobilising external resources. The connections forged from these partnerships not only facilitate the sharing of ideas and expertise but also support institutional capacity building in the furtherance of The UWI's strategic objectives.

As The UWI's international ranking by Times Higher Education has continued to steadily improve, the challenge for the OGA has not been in establishing partnerships, but rather, nurturing, managing, leveraging and sustaining the multiple partnerships brokered simultaneously, with a very small team and limited resources. Partnership management is both an art and a science, and requires investment not only in the implementation of the partnership agreements but also in the strengthening of institutional capacity to successfully deliver on the opportunities inherent in these partnerships. Over the past year, significant emphasis has been placed on harmonising and strengthening internal capacities and systems to align the OGA's work programme with The UWI's Strategic Plan 2022-2027 focused on The Revenue Revolution. Our three-step process of identifying, structuring, and managing the implementation of our partnerships allows us to ensure that a systematic approach is deployed in the coordination and implementation of our various collaborations for the benefit of our regional university and our stakeholders.

This issue of The *UWI Global* newsletter underscores the fact that as The UWI advances its strategic mission and responds to the challenges confronting the region, its reach and impact are even stronger as a result of its ability to leverage its global partnerships. The UWI has continued to consistently demonstrate the myriad ways in which partnerships are leveraged to deliver on its mandate. What follows are highlights of a range of initiatives that have been coordinated or executed by the OGA as well as other UWI departments over the past six months. This issue also showcases some newly formed partnerships that are being nurtured to build a foundation for future collaboration and resource mobilization in support of our Revenue Revolution.. The Office of Global Affairs is thankful to our many partners for their continued support to The UWI and remains committed to maximising value from our partnerships for the benefit of our students, faculty and our beloved university. ■

The UWI-CCRIF Partnership: Increasing Access to Capacity Development and Research Opportunities to Support Climate Change Adaptation and Enhance Resilience

By Ms. Lois St. Brice, Programme Officer, Office of Global Affairs

CCRIF SPC (formerly the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility) and The UWI have an enduring partnership that has spanned more than a decade. Having first signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in 2013 to formalize the partnership between the two institutions, in 2020, The UWI and CCRIF recommitted to deepening their collaboration in pursuit of common strategic interests, providing support for UWI students and staff in the areas of climate change adaptation, disaster risk management, disaster risk financing, and resilience.

This partnership, which began in 2010 with the provision of scholarships to students at The UWI, has now developed into a multi-programmatic engagement which sees CCRIF providing support not just for undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships, but also for internships, research grants, sponsored research consultancies, new course development and other ad hoc support. This ad hoc support commendably included need-based tuition support for 55 students during the pandemic. Nearly US\$1.5M has been invested to support these various programmes and initiatives to date.



In implementing this MOU in 2022 onwards, the OGA will seek to improve the governance, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and impact reporting on the varied programmes supported by this MOU. These measures will assist in maximising the value of these opportunities by improving the social and economic return on investment for the donor while ensuring that we increase the visibility, uptake and impact of these opportunities for our students and staff.

In 2022, CCRIF has supported The UWI by sponsoring five interns working with teams across several campuses, two postgraduate scholarships, and two new research grants supported by their small grants programme. CCRIF also continues to partner with The UWI Open Campus to deliver a 40 contact hour postgraduate programme entitled “*Fundamentals of Disaster Risk Financing for Advancing Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*” which has trained more than 70 persons during its first two cohorts in the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 academic years.



CCRIF has indicated interest in providing even more opportunities for our staff and student members once the university can demonstrate the level of interest and capacity to absorb such support. As we seek to maximize value for our partners and for our stakeholders through the partnerships we build, it is important that we ensure

that our academic and administrative support functions are all aligned to support this goal. Both our academic and administrative departments have critical direct and indirect roles to play in advancing our partnerships and ensuring that we deliver value from these engagements, for our partners, for our stakeholders, and for The UWI.



As a graduate student looking to gain knowledge and experience outside of the classroom, this internship opportunity has been an invaluable experience. It has opened my eyes to the importance of education and capacity building. I will make the most of this internship to further develop my skills.

Ms. Naphtali John, CCRIF intern assigned to The UWI Global Institute for Climate Smart and Resilient Development. Ms. John is working on the project “*Development of a Climate Justice and Education Hub/Platform*”. The Principal Investigator is Dr. Emily Dick Forde, Deputy Principal, UWI Open Campus and Ms. Nicole Hazel is supervising Ms. John’s internship activities.



This internship has allowed me to utilize my field of study while gaining practical experience outside of a classroom environment. It has introduced me to interconnected research projects that track and enable adaptation to climate change, starting with two fundamental aspects, our soils and water.

Mr. Kaveesh Birju, CCRIF intern assigned to the Geography Department, Faculty of Food and Agriculture at The UWI St Augustine campus. Dr. Kegan Farrick is serving as Mr. Birju’s internship supervisor.



I have found the internship to be very illuminating. Before this experience, I had never considered how climate change may impact the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, which are very important to everyday life in many Caribbean countries, even here in Jamaica. I also didn’t think I would ever be programming. I’ve learned so much using the Grid Analysis and Display System (GrADS) software and Python. These are valuable skills that I can’t wait to take with me and contribute to wherever I am employed in the future!

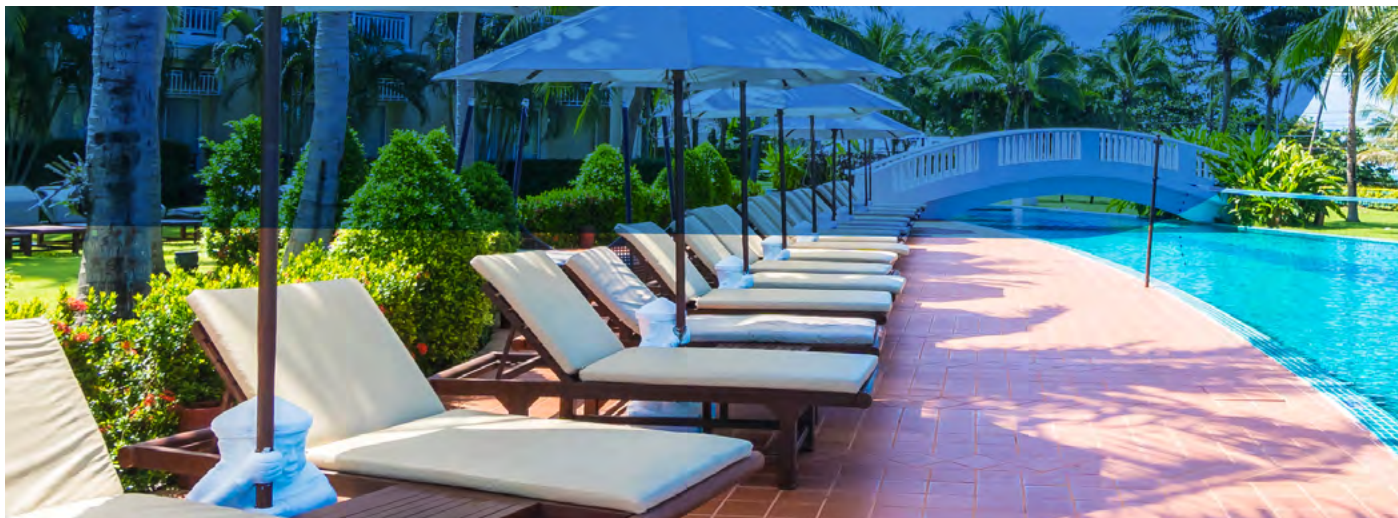
Ms. Soyini Elliot, CCRIF intern assigned to The UWI Global Institute for Climate Smart and Resilient Development. Ms. Elliot is working on the project “*Development of Climate Projections for Fisheries and Aquaculture*” with The UWI Mona Climate Studies Group. Dr. Jayaka Campbell is serving as Ms. Elliot’s internship supervisor. ■

Building from the Pandemic: The United Nations Development Programme Future Tourism Project

By Miguel Guirao, Project Coordinator and Liaison Officer, UNDP Bridgetown

The COVID-19 pandemic dealt a huge blow to the largely tourism dependent countries of the Caribbean. To support recovery efforts, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, together with regional governments and other partners, launched the *Future Tourism: Rethinking Tourism and MSMEs in time of COVID-19* Project. The initiative was designed to help tourism industry stakeholders in the region, build resilience in an ever changing tourism market.

UNDP partnered with The UWI Open Campus, among others, to provide almost 400 MSMEs from across 10 countries and territories in the Eastern Caribbean training as well as technical and financial assistance in order to adapt their businesses to the new normal necessitated by the pandemic. The UWI's participation in this initiative was a strong demonstration of our commitment to aiding our Caribbean societies on the road to economic recovery. Mr. Miguel Guirao, Project Coordinator and Liaison Officer, UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, shared some of the key aspects of the project.



1. What can you tell us about The UNDP Future Tourism project?

“ The UNDP Future Tourism: Rethinking Tourism and MSMEs in times of COVID-19 was the second phase of the UNDP strategy to help countries and territories in the Eastern Caribbean to recover from COVID-19.

The Project had a heavy focus on the tourism sector and in particular supporting MSMEs that had been affected by the pandemic to adapt their businesses to the new reality created by the pandemic.

”

2. What would you say was the catalyst for the initiative?

“ After the outbreak of COVID-19, in the first phase of the recovery programme, UNDP developed Human and Economic Assessment of Impact (HEAT) reports in the Eastern Caribbean countries and territories. A key takeaway from these reports was that tourism was by far the most affected sector by the pandemic in the region. Against this background, UNDP focussed the bulk of its efforts in the second phase of the recovery on supporting the sector, with a specific focus on MSMEs.

”

3. What was the goal of this project?

“ The goal of this project was to rethink tourism in times of COVID-19 and to create a more sustainable and inclusive value chain with the opportunities created by COVID-19. A tourism sector that leaves no one behind. ”

4. The project was a partnership between UNDP, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), The UWI Open Campus and Frankfurt School (FS). What were the envisioned roles of these partners and what value did each bring to the partnership?

“ The project was 80% funded by UNDP and 20% by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). UWI and FS were the main implementing partners that developed the Business Adaptation Programme (BAP) that supported almost 400 MSMEs with Virtual Open Training in Digital Technologies, Marketing and Finances; Technical Assistance & Mentoring; and Financial Assistance (grants). ”

UWI played a leading role in designing the BAP while FS was the supporting partner providing additional support and quality check.

Electronic Guides for the three training modules can be found [here](#). They are free and easy to follow, accessible for anyone but with a heavy focus on MSMEs.

Some of the stories about the beneficiaries can be seen in this [video](#). ”

5. Who were some of the key stakeholders that this project engaged across the region?

“ The project engaged with a multitude of stakeholders, including the governments of 10 countries and territories in the Eastern Caribbean region, the CDB, the UWI, Frankfurt School, the Caribbean Tourism Organisation, UNEP, UNWTO, IADB, the European Investment Bank and others. ”

6. What development impact did this project have in the region?

“ Thanks to the project, almost 400 MSMEs were able to adapt their businesses to COVID-19, and 150 of them received grants of up to US\$6,500. A summary of the project can be viewed [here](#). ”

6. What was particularly innovative about this project?

“ Thanks to the project, almost 400 MSMEs were able to adapt their businesses to COVID-19, and 150 of them received grants of up to US\$6,500. A summary of the project can be viewed [here](#). ”

7. What was particularly innovative about this project?

“ Due to the pandemic, the project was 100% digital, all the training, dialogues, webinars, etc were online. ”

8. What types of innovations and/or entrepreneurial opportunities were expected from this project?

“ The 150 MSMEs that received grants were able to complete almost 300 digitization processes for their businesses, including web development, payment solutions, and social media. ”

Deepening Partner Relations The UWI/IDB Engagements

By Mr. Dale A. James,
Programme Manager,
Office of Global Affairs



My supervisor once told me that partnership management is a dance, it first takes two persons and then multiple attempts to find that rhythm which works for both persons.

Once this dance has been mastered, what essentially happens next? This question is not easy to answer since working in an internationally ranked Higher Education Institution Office responsible for global engagement we need to be very strategic. Nurturing a new partnership is by no means easy but once you have a committed and passionate collaborator the work is a bit easier.

A perfect example of one such partnership where the opportunities for engagement are being realised is with the Inter-American Development Bank.

In 2021, The UWI's Vice Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs led high level discussions with the new IDB President with our team visiting the IDB Headquarters in Washington D.C and a reciprocated visit by the IDB President and his team to our Regional Office at Mona. The latter visit resulted in a new MoU between our institutions, where we both committed our continued support for developing this region through strategic interventions. Fast forward to 2022, our shared value for results led to the creation of the first operation action plan with key measurable activities. The aim of the action plan was to maximize our time by focusing on those activities that would have added value to both our organisations. Essentially, moving from an MoU, to an MoDO.

Our collaboration with the IDB in 2022 thus far has yielded significant benefits. In August 2022, the IDB team collaborated with our Office and conducted a session on best practices in partnership management. This by itself was a major milestone since our office took a proactive approach to work with a partner to augment our skills and bolster our capacity to help position The UWI to become more globally competitive.

Secondly, during the period July to August 2022, our office collaborated with the St. Augustine, Mona and Cave Hill Campus Principals and their respective leadership teams to host bi-lateral discussions with the Resident Representative in the respective IDB Country Office. The main purpose of each meeting was to re-introduce the IDB to The UWI management at these landed campuses and update them on key initiatives at each of the campuses in order to align future initiatives.

Additionally, the office worked with our lead researchers who engaged key IDB sector staff on developing new initiatives in the blue economy; climate change; digitization of data; and human resources development opportunities.

Within the span of approximately eight (8) months, the IDB and The UWI have set out an ambitious, results focused work plan to operationalize our interactions to a new level of productivity. While all this may seem simple, it is not, it requires intense coordination, dialogue, meetings, and research. Most importantly, it requires a committed partner who has the same shared values for this region. This partnership model is now being replicated and adopted so that we can develop meaningful, actionable collaborations that transcend the signatures affixed to an MoU or letter of exchange and deliver tangible value to The UWI and the people of the Caribbean. ■

The UWI and Humber College Partner to deliver a Collaborative Course



By
Dr. Randy Seepersad,
Lecturer,
Criminology Unit,
Behavioural Sciences,
The UWI St. Augustine

From the time it was first established in 2016, a key focus of the Office of Global Affairs (OGA) has been on activating The UWI's many agreements for the benefit of its students and faculty. The partnership between The UWI and Humber College has been no different. Established through an MOU signed in 2019, the agreement affirmed the determination on the part of both institutions to explore opportunities for academic cooperation. Activities under the agreement include student and faculty mobility; course level collaborations; and the exploration of common research interests. With that charge, the OGA worked with faculty at The UWI St. Augustine and Humber College to plan and design a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) course on global perspectives in community policing. This theme is of particular importance to our region as Caribbean societies grapple with growing concerns around crime and citizen security and seek to develop viable home grown interventions to address this issue.

Carried out over the summer, the COIL brought together students and staff from The UWI Criminology programs and counterparts from the Faculty of Social and Community Services at Humber College. This initiative allowed our university to enhance the quality of teaching, learning and student development by applying a broader, more global perspective to the course content. As part of the

initiative, several virtual workshops were conducted from May 24th to June 23rd, 2022. Core areas which were examined included community and police relationships, trust in the police, and innovative practices in policing. The course included a combination of guest speakers and practitioners from within the criminal justice sectors of both Canada and Trinidad and Tobago and provided presentations for students, as sessions were run as seminars with discussions embedded throughout. Students were provided with the opportunity to interact with professionals in the law enforcement field, and to discuss a wide range of issues related to policing. The initiative also created an opportunity for dialogue among professionals from both countries.

According to Ms. Kristin Hart, a UWI student who participated in the COIL "being involved in the first COIL project was an invaluable and treasured experience. Though online, it was a completely immersive experience that provided me with a sense of global togetherness through communication and collaboration, while also acknowledging mutually inclusive differences when pertaining to community policing. I strongly encourage anyone to seize the opportunity to participate; you won't regret it!"

An Intercultural Awareness and Professional Development program

was also part of the COIL experience. This was delivered as a series of seminars, with two seminars devoted to intercultural awareness, and one seminar devoted to professional development. In the intercultural sessions, participants were provided with the opportunity to explore the relationship between their own culture, language and communication, and their personal identity. The workshops explored the cultural diversity that exists in our daily interactions with the community and our peers. Through these sessions, students learnt how to build intercultural capacity and reflect on their ongoing cultural experiences. The Career & Professional Development session was conducted by the Career Centre at Humber College. The workshop explored issues related to mentorship, global learning and future careers. Other issues which were explored included resume building, interview skills and how to market personal skills and experience to potential employers. At the end of the project, students were required to submit a report summarising what they had learned from the exercise. ■

Increasing Access - The UWI Launches Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) Project



**By Dr. Lora Pilgrim,
Director (Interim),
Office of Online Learning**

The Office of Online Learning (OOL) collaborates with other units to plan and coordinate inter-campus arrangements leading to the development and delivery of online programmes/courses for global markets. In addition, the OOL provides support to entities such as the Board of Undergraduate Studies (BUS), Board of Graduate Studies and Research (BGSR), the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETLs), the eLearning Committee and others, as needed to enhance the efficiency, quality and throughput of online courses and programmes. The key strategic objectives of the OOL are:

1. To facilitate the expansion of UWI's online offerings to regional and global markets
2. To support the provision of consistent high-quality online offerings to stakeholders.

In support of those objectives, one of the main projects for the Office of Online Learning this year was the creation of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). MOOCs are freely available to students in the Caribbean region and across the world, and form part of The UWI's contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 4, namely to "*Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*".

The UWI has partnered with FutureLearn, a UK based MOOC provider, to promote its brand to a global market, offer courses online, and earn revenue from learners who upgrade to earn a certificate. The OOL provides project management and instructional design services to ensure that the project is successful.

This year, OOL collaborated with the Faculty of Sport, the Institute for Gender Studies, the Faculties of Medical Sciences in Barbados and Trinidad, and the Mona

Campus Office of Online Learning to develop and launch five MOOCs this year, namely:

1. West Indies Cricket: Our Story - <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/the-history-of-cricket-in-the-west-indies>
2. The True Story of Jamaican Jerk: Cooking and Caribbean Culture: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/the-true-story-of-jamaican-jerk-cooking-and-caribbean-culture>
3. Key Principles of Palliative Care - <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/key-principles-of-palliative-care>
4. Introduction to Medical Cannabis: [Seed to Sale-
https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/introduction-to-medical-cannabis-seed-to-sale](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/introduction-to-medical-cannabis-seed-to-sale)
5. Powerful Women and the Principles of Feminist Transformational Leadership <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/feminist-transformational-leadership>

The OOL continues to expand the project with other MOOCs which are in development. As a key partner, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) supported the creation of videos for some of those courses including *Powerful Women and the Principles of Feminist Transformational Leadership* and *Red Flags for the Elderly*. The CDB also supported the creation of the first video in the Digital Pedagogies series.

Through the support of the Office of Global Affairs, the OOL secured funding for both the first two years of the FutureLearn project and for the creation of videos through UWItv. Additionally, the initiative received support from University Marketing and Communications with promoting the MOOCs.

As the OOL moves forward in its MOOC journey, it welcomes the opportunity to engage with you. To participate by creating a MOOC, please visit https://uwi.edu/ool/making_a_mooc and watch: <https://youtu.be/xquQGbkY7qM>

If you are interested in learning more about online learning or creating a MOOC, contact us at ool.rhq@uwi.edu - we are here to help! ■

JamCoders - Using Coding to Ignite Minds

By Dr. Gunjan Mansingh, Head of Department, Computing, The UWI Mona Campus

Dr. Daniel Fokum, Lecturer, Computing, The UWI Mona Campus



Students at work in the computer lab. Prof. Boaz Barak and Mr. Tyler Hou are also shown in the foreground assisting a student

Over the summer, forms 3-5 students from high schools across 12 parishes in Jamaica, were selected to participate in “JamCoders” - a free residential summer coding camp on algorithms and programming. Held at The UWI, Mona campus from July 3rd to 29th, 50 students including 30 girls and 20 boys from both urban and rural areas across the island, participated.

The camp was organized by the Department of Computing at The UWI, Mona campus in collaboration with Prof. Jelani Nelson – founder of AddisCoder—and members of the Caribbean diaspora. It was funded by Mr. Jamar McNaughton (aka Chronixx), Survival and Flourishing Fund and The D.E Shaw Group.



Mr. Jamar McNaughton being shown some codes by one of the camp participants



L-R, Prof. Jelani Nelson, Dr. Gunjan Mansingh, and Mr. Jamar McNaughton

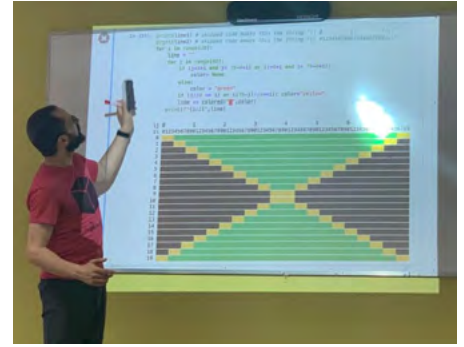
Campers attended lectures and lab sessions Monday through Friday conducted by lecturers and teaching assistants from different institutions. Lecturers included Prof. Boaz Barak – Harvard University, Dr. Gunjan Mansingh – The UWI, Prof. Jelani Nelson – UC Berkeley, and Dr. Adam Kalai – Microsoft Research. In the computer lab, students were assisted by 11 teaching assistants from several institutions, including – The UWI, UC Berkeley, Harvard, Columbia, and Stanford. As it was designed as a residential camp, most of the students opted to stay on hall. While there, they were chaperoned by 6 students from the Faculty of Science and Technology, who were each responsible for no more than seven campers.



Teaching Assistant, Annamira O'Toole, assisting a student



Teaching Assistants on a field trip to the North Coast



Prof. Boaz Barak demonstrating code that can be used to draw a version of the Jamaican flag

For one student, the idea of the camp sounded too good to be true. “It is FREE, it is sponsored by Chronixx and has lecturers and teaching assistants from some great institutions”.

An innovative approach to knowledge sharing, the camp allowed the high schoolers to exchange ideas, stories and knowledge with local and overseas university students as well as benefit from additional tutoring by the teaching assistants. Campers were exposed to advanced Computer Science topics, including some taught in the advanced levels of Computer Science baccalaureate programmes. Given JamCoder’s cutting-edge course on algorithms, the goal was to build the foundation for good habits and discipline in Computer Science for the next generation of Science and Engineering leaders in Jamaica.

With the adage “all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy,” as a guide, camp organizers balanced academic and recreational activities. Through weekend activities

including excursions and fun activities such as Sports Day, Crazy Dress-up Day and a graduation evening dinner, students were able to build camaraderie. This was achieved with the support of many in the community including Dr. Thera Edwards, the Guardsman Group, Hope Zoo, Island Grill, StarApple AI, and Holywell National Park.

An initiative with sustained impact, not only did the 4-week long camp increase student exposure to algorithms, but promoted their interest in the knowledge of computer science and their Industry 4.0 readiness. What’s more, 50 strangers met on July 3rd and 50 friends parted on July 29th. This opportunity was only realised through the efforts of the Organising Committee and sponsors and their commitment to building the digital competencies in the nation by leveraging The UWI’s expertise, facilities and reputation to convene a diaspora-spanning global engagement. A success story to be repeated, organisers are in discussions to explore running the camp in 2023. ■



Students, chaperones, teaching assistants, and camp organizers on the last day

The UWI and Global Health Law

By Dr. Nicole D. Foster, Law Lecturer & Head,
Law & Health Research Unit, Faculty of Law, Cave Hill



Public health and food law and policy are critical to Caribbean development. However, the significant role law plays in advancing public health and food policy often goes unappreciated.

In July 2022, with the support of the Office of Global Affairs, The University of the West Indies and the Global Center for Legal Innovation on Food Environments, housed at the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University Law Center, Georgetown University, signed a memorandum of understanding to promote legal research and scholarship and facilitate capacity building and technical assistance in the area of food law and policy.

The O'Neill Institute is a premier center for global health law scholarship and policy. Georgetown University's Oscar A. Cabrera, Director of the Global Center for Legal Innovation on Food Environments, Director of the Health and Human Rights Initiative, and Visiting Professor at Georgetown University Law Center, who led the establishment of the partnership with The UWI said, 'This partnership with The UWI is important to achieving the O'Neill Institute's mission to find innovative solutions for pressing public health concerns.'

The partnership between The UWI and the Global Center will be executed by the Faculties of Law at Cave Hill, Mona and St Augustine. It is expected to lead to joint research and scholarship, the development of new courses in global health law, student and staff exchanges and internship opportunities. Ultimately, the collaboration is designed to create a cadre of Caribbean legal professionals who can advise on the development and implementation of healthy food policies.

The MOU consolidates and expands the Global Center's existing work with the three UWI Law Faculties. The Global Center and the St Augustine Law Faculty, through the instrumentality of then Dean Professor Rose Marie Antoine, collaborated on development of a course on Global Health Law for the LL.M programme. The course was offered by St Augustine and Cave Hill in 2021 and 2022 respectively. At Mona, the Global Center is

collaborating on a special food law moot court competition for law students. In addition, with the Global Center's support, the Cave Hill Law Faculty launched its Law and Health Research Unit in 2021. Led by Mrs. Nicole Foster, the Unit has offered two short courses on 'Introduction to Global Health Law' and 'Introduction to NCDs and the Law' for legal, medical, public health and public policy professionals. The unit was also involved in publishing a number of articles and reports and is currently preparing a special issue of the Caribbean Law Review on 'Unhealthy Food, Alcohol, Tobacco and the Law, which is scheduled to be published in 2023. This special issue is to be co-edited by faculty from both The UWI and Georgetown University.



The team from the Global Center and Cave Hill Law Faculty meeting with Campus Principal, Prof. Clive Landis at the close of a scholars' workshop jointly hosted and organised by the Law and Health Research Unit at the Cave Hill Campus and the Global Center.

Front L-R: Ms. Kimberley Benjamin, Fellow, O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law; Ms. Margherita Melillo, Associate, Health and Human Rights Initiative, O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law; Prof. Clive Landis, Principal, The UWI Cave Hill Campus; Ms. Isabel Barbosa, Senior Fellow, O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law; Mrs. Nicole Foster, Lecturer & Head, Law & Health Research Unit, Faculty of Law, Cave Hill

Back - L-R: Mr. Shajoe Lake, Fellow, O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law; Professor Eddy Ventose, Dean, Faculty of Law, Cave Hill Campus and Dr. Antonius Hippolyte, Deputy Dean, Graduate Studies & Research, Faculty of Law, Cave Hill Campus.

An important element of the UWI-Global Center partnership will be a substantial research grant to support an MPhil law student undertaking legal research on food law and policy at either St Augustine, Mona or Cave Hill. This aspect of the partnership is another effort to ensure that The UWI's graduates are aligned to the Caribbean's needs and can contribute meaningfully to creating healthy Caribbean societies. ■

Nurturing Partnerships with the Diaspora

By Ann-Marie Grant, Executive Director, American Foundation for the University of the West Indies (AFUWI)

The death of George Floyd focused the world's attention on the fate of minority populations, black and brown people in America in particular, and the institutionalized disadvantages, biases, and prejudices which have plagued such communities for hundreds of years. Caribbean American Heritage month commemorations in June 2022 became a suitable platform for many organizations to shine a spotlight on the plethora of impactful accomplishments and the immense contribution of these persons to their local communities and the national development agenda of the United States.

Within this context, the Caribbean Employee Resource Group (CERG) at HSBC Bank New York proposed a panel discussion for its membership in recognition and celebration of Caribbean-American Heritage Month this year. The aim of the panel was to showcase The UWI because of its stellar contribution to the education and development of the peoples of the Caribbean and, by extension, the world. This contribution was highlighted by the fact that several of the banks' employees were UWI alumni, serving successfully at all levels of the institution. Held under the topic, "University of the West Indies – Impacting Global Economies," the panel featured guest speaker Dr. Stacy Richards-Kennedy, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs, The UWI, who shared her insights and personal experiences on the topic "Knowledge Empowers."

Against the backdrop of countries across the globe grappling with recovery from the pandemic, the impact of climate change, and the effects of the war in Ukraine, Dr. Kennedy highlighted how The UWI leverages its global partnerships to provide opportunities for individuals to realize their full potential and contribute to building more just, prosperous and inclusive societies. The informative session was viewed by over 120 HSBC team members from various locations in the USA. In a *Ted Talk style presentation*, Dr. Kennedy encouraged an enthusiastic audience of persons with Caribbean ancestry, to pursue their dreams and passions with determination and zeal. A brief Q & A session followed, and the event closed with both teams exchanging appreciation for the opportunity to work together on this momentous occasion.



Opportunities like this help The UWI to connect with new audiences and create an entry point for establishing partnerships. By communicating UWI's commitment to sustainable Caribbean development, climate action and SDG engagement, as well as its excellence in teaching, learning and research, HSBC leadership was encouraged to request additional information from the university to facilitate the process of identifying areas of alignment that can form a framework for meaningful collaboration. This request was facilitated by The UWI's Office of Global Affairs. Led by Mr. Jeff Barden, Senior Executive Vice President, Head of Strategy & Planning & Chief of Staff to CEO at HSBC Bank USA, the HSBC team was particularly interested in The UWI's research and leadership in the area of Climate Action and possible synergies with the bank's ESG goals and commitments.

Importantly, this engagement also allowed The UWI to reconnect with and re-engage its alumni, instilling pride in what the university has accomplished, bolstering its global reputation in the process, but also validating their own achievements in the eyes of their colleagues. As a result of this initiative, the CERG is well positioned to work with AFUWI to further strengthen the engagement with alumni and the wider diaspora at HSBC and deliver value for The UWI. The connection is already yielding fruit as since the event, the CERG has shared information about HSBC's Global Internships and Graduate Programs with AFUWI and with UWI's Marketing & Communications offices. This information was disseminated across all five campuses, and within the AFUWI network in the US. These internships and programs are meant to lay a strong foundation upon which students can build and grow global professional networks within HSBC's various business units.

As one of the world's largest banking and financial services organizations, HSBC is an exciting and significant global private sector partner to be engaged, and one that can potentially have great impact. Based on the areas of interest identified, The UWI is well placed to pursue meaningful collaboration with HSBC, which can be mutually beneficial to both organizations while advancing the personal and professional development of the young people of the region and the socio-economic development of the region as a whole. ■



Strengthening Macroeconomic Resilience to Climate and Environmental Change

By Mr. Dale A. James,
Programme Manager, Office of Global Affairs

When we speak about climate resilience or the environment the first thing that may pop into our mind is a conscious and well learned scientist/researcher telling us we need to change our behaviour.

At COP26, many of the world's leaders took the stage and declared their support for the climate change agenda. Perhaps deeming the proceedings too relaxed, The Honourable Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Amor Mottley, jolted the audience to attention by declaring that we are in a crisis. The word crisis signaled that our small island states are actively under threat. Scientists, researchers, policy makers and students alike are all now singing from the same hymn-sheet, 1.5 degrees to stay alive, a remarkable little catch phrase, developed by UWI's very own Professor Michael Taylor, which has extreme importance to our survival.

How do we prepare and translate the science policy interface with the public policy interface in order to change the established mode of macro-economic work?

This background is important to better frame an understanding of macrofinancial resilience. We cannot simply state that we are in a climate crisis without creating a new narrative to change this and use this opportunity to operationalize a new way of thinking on economic matters. Essentially, we need to change our traditional economic policy thinking to incorporate the climate crisis we are facing.

The UWI in July 2022, took the strategic decision to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to join the consortium of global universities committed to addressing climate change through capacity building from high-quality teaching and research and strategic partnerships with leading international organisations. The University Network for Strengthening Macroeconomic Resilience to Climate and Environmental Change was launched by the Centre for Sustainable Finance at SOAS, University of London and linked with their London Climate Action Week of 2022.

Joining this network has now brought The UWI closer to other higher education institutions such as Oxford University, University of Nairobi, University of Ghana, University of Dar es salaam and the Association of Commonwealth Universities, all of whom are working in this space to advance climate change matters. *The aim of this network is to promote multi-disciplinary graduate-level academic teaching and professional training and research to build capacity among current and future leaders in government and the private sector.*¹

The UWI's Pro Vice-Chancellor for Global Affairs, noted, "This network will respond to the urgent need that is faced by many countries, particularly the vulnerable island states of the Caribbean, for a more robust capacity to leverage increased financing opportunities and to integrate climate risk considerations into macroeconomic, fiscal, public financial management, procurement, and other processes".²

The network aims to help address those climate related risks at a macrofinancial level and therefore will be an essential adaptation tool that would aid countries which are vulnerable and susceptible to climatic changes, with their economic and financial planning.

Through the work of the network, higher education institutions will collaborate with each other to develop and train students as well as policymakers who are apt at attending to vulnerabilities and risks related to adverse climate changes that impact their respective economies at a macro-economic level. Resultant research collaborations also present the opportunity for our researchers to participate in and even lead research consortia, producing impactful knowledge products that not only inform policy and decision making, but serve to bolster the reputation of the university as well. ■

¹ Extracted from Campus News release of July 14, 2022, UWI; <https://sta.uwi.edu/news/releases/release.asp?id=22472>

² Extracted from Campus News release of July 14, 2022, UWI; <https://sta.uwi.edu/news/releases/release.asp?id=22472>

The UWI Joins the Open Society University Network

By Dr. Daniel Calingaert, Managing Director, Open Society University Network, Bard



The University of the West Indies (The UWI), globally recognized for its contributions to addressing climate change, inequalities, and global injustice, among other issues, joined the [Open Society University Network](#) (OSUN) in May 2022. The full participation of UWI faculty and students in the wide range of OSUN opportunities, will add to the richness of collaboration in research and teaching across OSUN. To ensure that The UWI realizes full value from its partnership in OSUN for the benefit of the entire UWI community, the Office of Global closely manages the engagement in order to connect internal stakeholders with OSUN opportunities.

Launched in 2020, OSUN has grown to encompass [45 diverse institutions](#) across five continents, built dozens of programs, attracted the participation of 1,500 faculty and staff, and served tens of thousands of students. It is distinctive in several respects.

First, OSUN is built on deep, long-term institutional partnerships, rooted in the values of open society. Rather than focus on specific projects or other narrowly defined, time-limited activities, OSUN fosters collaboration at multiple levels concurrently—among students, faculty, and administrators—in different spheres—research, teaching, curriculum development, civic engagement, etc.—across a range of [themes](#).

Second, OSUN integrates courses, curricula, and research across institutions to diversify access to knowledge, break through national, cultural, and economic barriers, foster intellectual innovation across institutional and disciplinary boundaries, and address global challenges, such as environmental sustainability, global public health, and human rights, collectively.

Third, the network makes distinctive contributions in expanding access to and success in higher education. OSUN supports programs for a range of disadvantaged populations, including refugees and incarcerated individuals. These programs share best practices with each other. They identify often overlooked talent, meet learners where they are, adapt liberal arts classrooms to nontraditional settings and students, without compromising quality, integrate students into OSUN online classes, and create pathways to full degrees.

Fourth, OSUN fosters horizontal cooperation, based on reciprocity and mutual respect that draws on the strengths of each partner institution and benefits the network as a whole.

As explained by OSUN partner Sabina Rashid, Dean of the School of Public Health at BRAC University, “knowledge is multi-directional. It’s from many different actors and academics. Co-developing curriculum sends a very strong message from OSUN that this is not something we learn from but something we’re learning together.” OSUN is a network that its partners build together.

For faculty, OSUN provides many opportunities to share knowledge with diverse scholars around the world, collaborate across continents on compelling research questions, and enrich the classroom experience of students. These include opportunities to shape the priorities and design of joint research, offer online courses with students across the world, co-develop and co-teach courses across institutions, and work collaboratively with OSUN partners to update curricular content and refine student-centered teaching methods.

For students, OSUN opens a window to the world. UWI students may learn with and from faculty and students from diverse locations and backgrounds, for example from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Colombia, Germany, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, South Africa, and Taiwan, and from refugee camps in Kenya. They can integrate international experiences throughout their undergraduate studies, deepen their understanding of diverse perspectives around the world, and to build their inter-cultural skills.

In addition to courses and [OSUN Certificate programs](#), UWI students may take part in intensive international programs of study on economic inequality, climate justice, political philosophy, and more, receive funding for civic engagement projects, participate in workshops with student leaders from around the world, or pursue their passions with students across the network in debate tournaments, multi-site arts exhibitions, or OSUN’s student-run publication, *Global Commons*.

We invite you to check out the [OSUN Opportunities](#) listed on our website and to apply. ■

Expanding the Global University Consortium Network

By Mr. Kevin Manning, Project Manager, Office of Global Affairs



The establishment of the Global University Consortium on Sustainable Development Goal 13 (GUC) is a tremendous opportunity for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the area of international development. The Consortium works towards the provision of solutions and engagement on collaborative efforts towards ongoing climatic challenges and events, impacting the planet.

Founded in 2019, the GUC is aimed at integrating international universities with a view to utilising their knowledge and research to influence changes in the lives of citizens the world over. Determined to make up for time lost occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Consortium conducted a series of meetings focused on re-invigorating its work programme and examining the work undertaken by member universities.

As part of its efforts to inject new energy into the consortium, key bilateral meetings were held with choice international universities. Following those meetings, the University of the West Indies (The UWI), through the GUC, extended invitations to three (3) international universities with extensive track records in the area of climate research and advocacy. These institutions retain key and unique synergies with SDG 13 but also incorporate other SDGs within their research. The future participation of the University of Costa Rica, the University of Nairobi and the University of Delaware to the membership of the SDG-13 Consortium is expected to broaden the technical knowledge and abilities of its members and further strengthen their knowledge management, resource mobilisation, advocacy, research and access to institutional knowledge of the cluster and its work.

The University of Costa Rica

The University of Costa Rica (UCR), located in the Central American region, retains significant experience, with over thirty (30) institutions [H1] dedicated to research in areas such as oceanography, geology, geophysics, environmental pollution and a research unit with a focus on protected areas. Its academic and institutional knowledge, coupled

with the ability to suggest new research ideas are beneficial to fostering unique initiatives and hold promise for value added to the Global University Consortium on SDG 13.

The University of Nairobi

The University of Nairobi (UoN), similar to the UCR, brings remarkable opportunities to the Global University Consortium on SDG 13. The UoN retains the institutional lead on SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals, however, in addition to SDG 17, the UoN manages work in the field of Climate Justice. It is this work in Climate Justice that has fostered a close relationship with The UWI.

The two institutions have worked towards an examination of joint initiatives and programmes at a bilateral level. The UoN has demonstrated significant commitment at the Cluster level encouraging other members to focus on Climate Justice and incorporating it within their programmes and research.

The University of Delaware

The University of Delaware (UD) undertakes research in the area of Climate Change and Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and is committed to bringing the experience and knowledge fostered through a multiplicity of partnerships to the development of the SDG 13 Cluster. In addition to working towards membership in the GUC, UD has re-established the Climate Change Hub and is determined to work with other HEIs such as The UWI as an institution that has centered its work in the Caribbean region.

The hopeful addition of these institutions to the Global University Consortium on SDG-13 is a testament to the ability and potential of the work of Higher Education Institutions. The partnerships, knowledge, research and advocacy in which over ten (10) unique institutions with their own direction and experience, demonstrates the potential of the Global Cluster on SDG 13 and capacity for raising awareness and implementing practical solutions to aid in the fight against Climate Change. ■

The United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) welcomes The UWI to its Global Network

By Ambassador Gillian Bristol, Director, Latin American-Caribbean Centre



The University of the West Indies (The UWI) continues to receive international recognition for its contributions to social and economic impact as well as its pursuit of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The latest acknowledgment comes from the UN's global network of students, academics, scientists, researchers, think tanks, institutions of higher education, and educational partners, the [United Nations Academic Impact \(UNAI\)](#). The UNAI welcomed The UWI as a member on April 27, 2022.

UNAI, an initiative of the Outreach Division of the United Nations Department of Global Communications, was established in 2010 under the leadership of former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon. As a member of UNAI, The UWI joins institutions in more than 145 countries that are aligned closely with the United Nations and tap into research, innovation and scholarship towards the realisation of the organisation's goals and mandates.

In its mission of "sharing a culture of intellectual social responsibility", UNAI recognises commitment to partnership in areas such as global citizenship; peace and conflict resolution; addressing poverty; sustainability; the "unlearning" of intolerance; commitment to the United Nations Charter; human rights; educational opportunity for all; higher education opportunity for every interested individual and capacity-building in higher education systems.

Commenting on The UWI's invitation and admittance to the UNAI, Vice-Chancellor Beckles stated, "We took a decision in our last strategic planning cycle to become an activist university; one with its sleeves rolled up in the community, dealing with the big issues of climate change,

social justice, economic development and public health within the Caribbean space. We've used the UN's Sustainable Development Goals as the framework to mobilise ourselves, and that decision has proven very effective to garner our actions, our policies and our decision-making. However, in dealing with those issues, we recognise and value the importance of partnership, so we are honoured to join this network of like-minded, fine institutions and explore opportunities for collaboration that would take us all further."

Chief of the United Nations Academic Impact, Robert Skinner welcomed The UWI to the UNAI community saying, "We are truly pleased to welcome The University of the West Indies as a member of the UN Academic Impact. As a premier institution of higher education that spans the Caribbean, we know that The UWI will bring a great deal of knowledge and expertise to the UNAI global network. With its focus on the SDGs and the climate crisis, The UWI will have truly meaningful impact as we seek solutions from academia to the world's greatest challenges."

The UWI's Coordinator of its partnership with UNAI, Ambassador Gillian Bristol who serves as Director of the University's Latin American-Caribbean Centre (LACC) added, "As a member of UNAI, The UWI not only joins a network of universities from across the globe, but will have the opportunity to partner with them in research, innovation and higher education to impact global sustainable development. Also through the UNAI platform, The UWI will be able to showcase its scholarship, engage with UN agencies and diplomatic missions, and stage educational events to advance the UN SDGs".

This latest global recognition and affiliation further affirms The UWI's efforts as an SDG-engaged University. Global

partnerships like this one allow the regional university to lend its research and expertise, as well as expand the opportunities to tackle development challenges regionally and internationally.

The UWI has quickly become an active partner with UNAI, participating in several events in 2022 with other activities being planned for 2023. On June 18th, at the first UN celebration of the “International Day for Combating Hate Speech”, Ms. Isheba Cornwall, a student at The UWI Mona, shared her experience on how "new media" can be used to battle hate speech. Click here for the article on the UNAI website:

[Combating Hate Speech Through Media: A Young Caribbean Woman's Perspective | United Nations](#) ■

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At the invitation of UNAI, The UWI will participate in a live discussion series “Beyond the long shadow: Engaging with difficult histories”. Set to take place in October 2022, UWI scholar Dr. Tara Inniss, a Lecturer in the Department of History and Philosophy at The UWI Cave Hill, will speak on the transatlantic trade in Africans.



Visit our Website at: <http://www.uwi.edu/oga>

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