



**THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
TRADE & COMMERCE
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

Diplomatic Courier

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From the Desk of Foreign Minister

**Hon. Sir Louis Straker,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Commerce**

June 7, 2019 is a day that will stand out in the history of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Approximately a decade ago, this little nation set out on a quest to become a Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Some say it couldn't happen, but it did! The N.D.P. Opposition said it was "a fool errand", but we were wiser than they. We started off by declaring our candidacy for the Security Council in 2010, challenging Colombia. The Columbian contingent pleaded with us to withdraw to avoid a contest in the GRULAC group. We withdrew our candidacy after negotiating for their support and that of GRULAC ten (10) years later - the only date available.

Quietly, but persistently, we waged our campaign. The Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce and the then Permanent Representative to the United Nations Hon. Camillo Gonsalves, provided a solid foundation by negotiating with every country around the world.

The Prime Minister continued in office, the Foreign Minister retired, Camillo Gonsalves returned from the U.N. to Capital to become Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Commerce succeeding Hon. Dr. Douglas Slater who immediately succeeded me as Foreign Minister, then later took up an appointment at CARICOM; but by dint of extraordinary exertion and a well



The flag of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was raised at a ceremony in front of the General Assembly building of the United Nations on 17 September 1980. At the opening meeting of the 35th session of the General Assembly, the country was admitted as the 154th Member of the Organization.

-planned road map, the mission was accomplished.

H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King succeeded Camillo as Permanent Representative to the United Nations. She rose to the top of the learning curve in no time. She worked hard to secure "Reciprocals" and other endorsements for our candidacy and on June 7, 2019, for the election of St. Vincent and the Grenadines as a non-permanent member of the UNSC which was a historical milestone to all Vincentians; a surge of exuberance of pride and joy was felt by all Vincentians across the globe. Oh what humble pride welled up in our hearts as we gave God thanks for bringing us thus far by faith – amazing grace! The smallest country by geography and population – ever to be elected as a Non-Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council.

El Salvador came up against us, prodded by its mentor, but we were agile and carefully locked all the gates behind us so that they could gain no entrance. We won El Salvador 185 to 6. What an accomplishment! This was the zenith of ten (10) years of diplomatic outreach to our sister CARICOM countries, to the other countries of Latin America, Asia, Africa, Europe and the Pacific, including Australia and New Zealand.

If we can achieve this with the help of the Almighty God, we can achieve anything. So on January 1, 2020, we take our seat in the Security Council chamber, sitting at the table with the most powerful countries on earth, militarily and economically.

To God be the glory, GREAT THINGS HE HATH DONE.



H.E. Archbishop Fortunatus Nwachukwu, Apostolic Nuncio-Ambassador accredited to St. Vincent and the Grenadines



H.E. Archbishop Nwachukwu met with H.E. Vilma Reyes Valdespino, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Dean of the Diplomatic Corp



H.E. Archbishop Nwachukwu met with Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

His Excellency, Archbishop Fortunatus Nwachukwu, Apostolic Nuncio-Ambassador to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, presented his Letters of Credence to His Excellency, Sir Frederick Ballantyne, Governor General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on Wednesday May 29, 2019.

The Apostolic-Nuncio, Ambassador Nwachukwu is resident in Trinidad and Tobago and also has concurrent accreditation to Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Barbados, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Saint Lucia, Dominica, Guyana, Bahamas and Belize. As Apostolic Nuncio for the Antilles Episcopate Conference (AEC), His Excellency's main duties are to maintain relationship between the Pope, the Church, the Government and the Peoples where he is accredited. Saint

Vincent and the Grenadines and the Holy See (Vatican) established relation on April 17, 1990. Archbishop Fortunatus Nwachukwu was ordained as priest on the June 17, 1984, with incardination in the Diocese of Aba (Nigeria). He possesses a Doctorate in Dogmatic Theology and a Doctorate in Canon Law. He served in the Apostolic Nunciatures – Holy See Embassies in Ghana, Paraguay, Algeria, at the UN Offices and Specialized Institutions in Geneva, and at the Secretariat of State at the Vatican – Section of Relation with States.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce and by extension the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines welcomes His Excellency and wishes him great success as Apostolic Nuncio to the countries to which he is accredited.



His Excellency, Dr. Jaushieh Joseph Wu, Foreign Minister of the Republic of China (Taiwan) visited St. Vincent and the Grenadines as part of his Caribbean Region Tour

His Excellency Dr. Jaushieh Joseph Wu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan) visited St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Wednesday, May 29 – 30, 2019 as part of his official tour of the Caribbean.

His Excellency Dr. Jaushieh Wu was accompanied by his spouse Mrs. Wu, along with other senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan) including the Director-General of the Department of Latin American and Caribbean Affairs, Ambassador Tah-Ray Yui.

During the official visit, Foreign Minister Wu toured several places of interest on incumbent St. Vincent and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the procurement of vehicles to assist the Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force, followed by a tour of the terminal building at the Argyle International Airport, which was funded by the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Foreign Minister Wu also met with other senior government officials during his official visit.



Signing of the MOU.

L-R:
PS Sandy Peters-Phillips,
Minister Wucand
Ambassador Chen Ho.



Arrival of Minister Wu and his Delegation at the Argyle International Airport (AIA) along with Minister Caesar, Minister Stephenson, PS Sandy Peters-Phillips and 2018 Miss SVG.



Minister Wu visited the National Botanical Gardens, engaged with the National Bird of St. Vincent and the Grenadines; the Amazona Guildingii



‘With Strength, Honour and Dignity, we stand Resolute at 40 and Beyond’

St. Vincent and the Grenadines celebrated its 40th year of Independence on October 27, 2019. In celebration of this year’s milestone in the nation’s history, the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines launched a Renewal at 40 programme on July 20, 2019 at the Villa Campus of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College.

A number of initiatives and activities have emerged from the Renewal at 40 programme which will be held under the theme: *“With Strength, Honour and Dignity, we stand Resolute at 40 and Beyond”*.

At the launch on Saturday July 20, 2019, Chairman of the Renewal at 40 Committee, Mr. Elvis Charles stated that “the programme will target all sectors of the Vincentian Society.”

Some of these Renewal at 40 initiatives include:

1. School and Learning Resource Centres Refurbishment;
2. Kingstown clean-up;

“As SVG prepares to enter its fifth decade of post-independence development, “it is an appropriate time to reflect upon the path we have trod, celebrate our accomplishments, and refresh ourselves for the next stage of our independence journey.”

***Hon. Camillo Gonsalves,
Minister of Finance,
Economic Planning,
Sustainable Development
and Information
Technology***

3. Fort Charlotte and Bridge rehabilitation;
4. Heritage Square rehabilitation;
5. Development of Joseph Chatoyer National Park;
6. Community Centre refurbishment;
7. Renewal at 40 Unit and programmes;
8. History of St. Vincent & the Grenadines Documentation and Publication;
9. Peace Memorial Hall rehabilitation;
10. Garifuna and Diaspora Homecoming event.

The initiatives put forward are not an extensive list and thus, the Ministry will continue to work with agencies for initiatives geared towards the national development of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Presidential Visit to SVG



H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo
President of the Republic of Ghana

His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, visited St. Vincent and the Grenadines for a two-day official visit from June 12 – 13, 2019.

His Excellency President Akufo-Addo and delegation, which include the Foreign Minister, the Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchway were greeted by a Guard of Honour at the Argyle International Airport.

During the official visit, President Akufo-Addo delivered a public lecture at the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College to an audience which comprised of Students, Business Executives, representatives of the Civil Society and the Ghanaian Association in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. A Special Sitting of Parliament also took place at the House of Assembly during the afternoon of Wednesday, June 12, 2019, following which he toured the St. Vincent Botanical Gardens and participated in a tree planting ceremony.

The Republic of Ghana and St. Vincent and the Grenadines established diplomatic relations on August 1, 2008. Since then, our countries

continue to strengthen the relationship to foster greater prospects for trade, people-to-people exchanges, and cooperation in oil and gas, agriculture, education, health and tourism, as well as investment opportunities.

Prime Minister Gonsalves made an Official Visit to the Republic of Ghana in November, 2018 as part of the process of cementing deeper cooperation with the African continent. The Ghanaian President's visit to this country will seek to

further deepen existing diplomatic relations. This is of particular significance as the Government of the Republic of Ghana celebrates the "*Year of the Return*", four hundred (400) years after the start of the slave trade.

The President's visit was part of his 5-day Caribbean region tour which included visits to the Republic of Guyana, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and Jamaica.



Presidential Visit to SVG



President of the Republic of China (Taiwan) Her Excellency Tsai Ing-wen visited St. Vincent and Grenadines for a two-day state visit from July 16 – 17, 2019.

Her Excellency's visit to St. Vincent and the Grenadines was part of a Caribbean region tour which has been deemed as "*President Tsai Ing-Wen Journey of Freedom, Democracy, Sustainability – Haiti, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Saint Lucia*". President Tsai tour of the region was to further strengthened cooperation, exchanges and friendship between Taiwan and its four (4) Caribbean allies.

President Tsai's delegation comprised of high government officials including the Foreign Minister H.E. Jaushieh Joseph Wu and the Secretary-General of the National Security Council Dr. David Tai Lee, as well as legislators and business representatives. President Tsai's trip was her first to the Caribbean region as Head of State and seventh abroad since assuming Office in May, 2016.

While in the country, President Tsai held talks with Prime Minister Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves; met with representatives of "Taiwan MOFA Alumni Association" and the 2019 "Taiwan Scholarship" Recipients. Her Excellency also attended a Special Sitting of Parliament at the House of Assembly and visited the St. Vincent Botanical Gardens for a tour and tree planting ceremony.

In honour of the President's visit and the long standing relationship between both countries an Achievement Exhibition of the Technical Cooperation was held at the National Public Library followed by a free cultural showcase by the Taiwan Formosa Circus Art at the Victoria Park on July 16 and 17, 2019.



President Tsai Ing-Wen (second from left) and Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves (third from left) pose with their countries' Foreign Affairs Ministers, Wu Jau-shieh (extreme left), and Sir Louis Straker respectively, after witnessing them signing the two bilateral agreements



SVG TRIUMPHS IN ITS BID FOR A NON-PERMANENT SEAT ON THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL FOR THE TERM 2020-2022

On June 7, 2019 St. Vincent and the Grenadines with the support of 185 Member States; over 90% of the United Nations membership, became a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The seat that is allocated to the Group of Latin America and Caribbean States (GRULAC) for the period of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021.

Present at the voting which was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, were Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Air and Sea Port Development, Honourable Sir Louis Straker, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce and Her Excellency Inga Rhonda King, Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

With the success of this campaign, St. Vincent and the Grenadines has to date, become the smallest Member State, in terms of population and

territorial mass, to be elected to serve on this very important organ of the United Nations. In keeping with the theme of *"Friends of All: We Strive for a Better World"*.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is committed to demonstrating that all states no matter the size or military and economic might are able to contribute to maintaining international peace and security. Further, as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), St. Vincent and the Grenadines will work tirelessly towards addressing the unique plight of SIDS, especially as it relates to the nuanced and unprecedented challenges posed by climate change which is an existential threat. The recognition of the link between climate change, sustainable development and international peace and security which is an absolute imperative for the survival of SIDS.

In addition, St. Vincent and the Grenadines will continue to actively promote the principles of sovereign equality of states and respect for international law, non-interference and non-intervention into the internal affairs of states, collective in solving global problems, as well as the concept of small island exceptionalism. Moreover, St.

Vincent and the Grenadines will seek to work with fellow Council Members over the period, to address issues of international peace and security, particularly those which concern Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce and the Government and people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines says 'thank you' to the hardworking Team at the Permanent Mission, and other overseas missions for their commitment and hard work towards the success of this important achievement for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.





One of the essential contributions to be made by small states like ours is the tireless advocacy for timeless principles enshrined in international law. With no ideological or geostrategic axes to grind, we consider it our solemn obligation to not only articulate these principles, but to ensure that they are applied consistently and upheld in the international community as universal truths, rather than selective, uneven and unpredictable tools to further hegemonic or great power ambition.



Friends of all; We strive for a better World

The Amazona Guildingii Parrot is the National Bird of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It derived part of its name from Mr. Landown Guilding (1797-1831) who was best known for his works on the flora and fauna of St Vincent and the Grenadines, in particular, and the Caribbean in general.

MOFA 2019 Essay Writing Competition - A Success



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce held its annual Awards and Prize-Giving Ceremony for its 2019 Essay Writing Competition on Friday May 31, 2019. The ceremony was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Commerce's Conference Room.

The Minister with responsibility for Youth, the Hon. Frederick Stephenson, Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Sandy Peters-Phillips, along with senior officials, principals and teachers, students and parents were there to witness the students' accomplishments.

The sponsor for the competition, Digicel, was represented at the ceremony by Country Manager, Ms. Fanta Williams.

The participating primary schools were: Brighton Methodist School, Kingstown Preparatory School and the Lowmans Leeward Anglican School. The participating secondary schools were: Bishop's College Kingstown, Buccament Bay Secondary School, St. Vincent Girls' High School, St. Vincent Grammar School and the Thomas Saunders Secondary School. The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College was the only participating tertiary institution.

The competition was divided into two (2) categories: The Envoys category (Age range of 9 – 13 years) and the Ambassadors category (Age range of 14 – 18 years). The prizes for the Envoys Category were: 1st - Trophy, Phone & EC\$300.00, 2nd - Trophy, Phone & EC\$200 and 3rd - Trophy, Phone & EC\$100.

The prizes for the Ambassadors category were: 1st – Trophy, Phone & EC\$500.00, 2nd – Trophy, Phone &

EC\$400.00 and 3rd – Trophy, Phone & EC\$300.00.

The St. Vincent Girls' High School took the 1st, 2nd and 4th positions in the Ambassadors category. Miss Milan Compton won 1st place, Miss Mikayla Friday won 2nd place, and Miss Zuania Baptiste won 4th place. Cimalon Alexander won 3rd place for his essay and Miss Aaliyah Henry won 5th place. They both represented the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College.



PS, Sandy Peters-Phillips (far right) and Ms. Tamira Browne, Senior Foreign Service Officer (far left) with the winning recipients

For the Envoys category, Ms. Ajani Dyer of the Girls' High School won 1st place, Jhamari Henry of the Lowmans Leeward Anglican School took the 2nd Prize, Jodee Glasgow of the Bishop's College Kingstown won the 3rd place and Jair Patrick of the St. Vincent Grammar School won 4th place with Tyler Matthias of the Kingstown Preparatory School placing 5th in the competition.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Commerce

takes this opportunity once again to congratulate the winners and the participants of this year's Annual Essay Writing Competition and to express its appreciation to Digicel for its sponsorship and continued support.

The Ministry's Annual Essay Writing Competition is an initiative by the Ministry to foster the continual development of our nation's youth through the promotion of research, improving reading and writing skills and discussion on issues related to trade, bilateral, regional and multilateral diplomacy as well as consular affairs.

In addition to the prizes that were won, the Ministry published a Special Edition of its Diplomatic Courier to share the essays of the top 5 winners in each category.

Championing Education for Youths — The Cenio Lewis Bursary

The Cenio Lewis Bursary continues to impact the lives of many Vincentian students across St. Vincent and the Grenadines. One hundred and twenty-three (123) envelopes amounting to EC\$43,050.00 were disbursed to scores of students across the island at an official ceremony which took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce's Conference Room on August 23, 2019.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce, Hon. Sir Louis Straker presented the featured address and thanked High Commissioner Cenio Lewis and donors for the bursaries to assist the students with financial constraints. Hon. Sir Louis Straker in his remarks encouraged the students to make valued use of this contribution and to ensure that they work hard and smart. Minister Straker also encouraged the parents to work along with the teachers and to be more involved with their children's education, and, do the best that they can to ensure that their children are well-equipped with the learning tools and the discipline to work hard in nurturing their minds with the education that they received. High Commissioner Cenio Lewis reached out to the Honorary Consuls in Greece, Egypt and other countries from the Europe and Africa regions with residency in the United Kingdom. The Diaspora in England has contributed to funding the bursaries for the previous years. However, this year, High Commissioner Lewis decided to reach out the Honorary Consuls.

H.E. Cenio Lewis, has been this country's High Commissioner in London since 2002. Since then, the High Commissioner has been working assiduously with the Ministry and the Diaspora to provide assistance to this country in various sectors. Through His Excellency's hard work, over five hundred (500) Vincentian men and women are currently enrolled in the UK Navy. It was also through His Excellency's efforts that the UK Mission worked closely with officials from the Global Learners programme of Health Education England to commenced a one (1) week recruitment process of Vincentian Nurses to the National Health Services of the United Kingdom. A total of thirty-four (34) persons were selected from the recruitment process which took place in January 2019.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce and by extension the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines express gratitude to H.E. Cenio Lewis and his team at the SVG High Commission in London, and the countries that have assisted in providing the financial support to assist the vulnerable families of this country towards their children's education.



Hon. Sir Louis Straker, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Commerce delivering the featured address



Hon. Sir Louis Straker, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Commerce presenting bursaries to the recipients of The Cenio Lewis Bursary

TRADE WINDS EXERCISE 2019



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was among countries across the region participating in Phase-I of the 2019 Tradewinds Exercise, which got underway in the Dominican Republic.

Representatives from the United States, and 21 partner nations, participated in the 35th Annual Tradewinds Exercises, a U.S. Southern Command-sponsored, multi-national Caribbean-focused exercise.

Phase I was completed from May 30 – June 08 in the Dominican Republic, while Phase II was held from June 14 – 21 here in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

A release from the local Police Force said that both phases provided opportunities to conduct joint, combined and inter-agency partner nation capacity-building, focused on increasing regional co-operation in complex multi-national security operations, as well as humanitarian disaster response operations.

The release stated that the strong relationships forged during Tradewinds, through the exchange of knowledge and expertise, are key to maintaining regional security and prosperity throughout the Caribbean.

A twenty-two member delegation, comprising officers from the Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force, participated in the exercise in the Dominican Republic.



The delegation was headed by Deputy Commissioner of Police, Frankie Joseph, who was also the lead planner for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, for Phase Two.

The National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO), participated in Tradewinds Exercise 2019, which commenced on Friday 14th June, and ended on 21st June, 2019. One of the objectives of the Tradewinds Exercise was to test the National Emergency Response Mechanisms. As part of the Tradewinds Exercise, the National Emergency Management Organisation conducted a simulation (mock

drill), which involved scenarios related to an eruption of the La Soufriere Volcano. As such the National Volcano Emergency Plan (NVEP), was activated, which involved issuing information and news releases to the public via its FACEBOOK page, website, emails, radio stations, the mobile application CAP and other communication modes.

A National Export Strategy on The Way for St. Vincent and the Grenadines



Mrs. Sandy Peters-Phillips
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce

The development of a National Export Strategy (NES) is an important initiative for the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines as articulated in the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025. Under Trade Com II—ACP Trade Capacity Building Programme the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has been provided with support for the Development of a National Export Strategy.

To this end, on 23rd July, 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Commerce officially launched the consultancy to develop this country's National Export Strategy.

The aim is to revitalize the economy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines into a more globally competitive, inclusive and prosperous economy through the smooth and gradual integration into the regional and global economy, thereby contributing to job creation, poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Director of Trade, Mrs. Okolo John-Patrick, in her welcoming remarks, said that she was happy to see so many persons in attendance. John-Patrick said that the NES will assess the trading performance and prospects of St. Vincent and the Grenadines; identifies the key issues that are impeding the country's competitiveness; and suggests a strategic process and framework for overcoming the obstacles to further export development. She added that the Consultants will be in the State until August 9, 2019 and will present the final document in December, 2019.



Mr. Andrea Serpagli,
Team leader of Consultancy Firm
PRYMSA

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce, Mrs. Sandy Peters-Phillips expressed her pleasure to be at the launch of the National Export Strategy. PS, Peters-Phillips said that "the strategy is a symbol of the Government's commitment to businesses and civil society, to use trade as a tool to create economic opportunities for a young and growing population, using trade as a means to achieve sustainable economic growth that will assist in the changing in our external trade position". According to PS, Peters-Phillips, the Export Strategy will include an analysis of this country's trade performance, and help to reduce the cost of doing business, and, promote St. Vincent and the Grenadines as a business partner of choice, among others.

Team leader of Consultancy Firm PRYMSA, Mr. Andrea Serpagli, urged participants to actively participate in the consultancy. Serpagli emphasised that their collaboration and support are of utmost importance. He noted that participants will be able to identify present constraints and gaps in the system, and point out solutions. The document is a tool to "support the private sector in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to export better and more", Serpagli stated.



Mrs. Okolo John-Patrick
Director of Trade
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and
Commerce

The plaque for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' new embassy was unveiled on Thursday (August 8) by the Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves. Right of the photo is Vice President of the Republic of China (Taiwan) H.E. Chen Chien-jen.

SVG OPENS EMBASSY IN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (Taiwan)



On Thursday August 8, 2019, St. Vincent and the Grenadines further cemented its relations with the Republic of China (Taiwan) with the official opening of an Embassy in the Republic of China (Taiwan). The opening of the Embassy of SVG in Taiwan will not only seek to further enhance the bilateral cooperation between the two countries but will also provide consular services and support to over 100 Vincentian students and citizens that are currently residing in Taiwan.

During his remarks, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves informed that "the new Embassy will contribute to a further strengthening of relations between our two countries, and add great value to the bilateral diplomatic ties." Vice President Chen Chien-jen also reiterated this in his remarks by stating that "The Embassy bears testament to the fact that our bilateral relations have reached a major milestone, thereby opening a new chapter in our future cooperation,"

The newly opened embassy in Taiwan is the fifth Embassy that St. Vincent and the Grenadines has established around the world. Prime Minister Gonsalves also called for more cooperation in dealing with the volatility of global politics and economy and the challenges of climate change in the pursuit of security, sustainability, and mutual prosperity.

Head of Mission, H.E. Mrs. Andrea Keizer-Bowman, presented her Letters of Credence to the President of Taiwan H.E. Tsai Ing-wen on Wednesday August 7, 2019 as the first Resident Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of St. Vincent and Grenadines to the Republic of China (Taiwan)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce expressed sincerest gratitude to everyone who assisted in the planning and preparatory process of the opening of the Embassy of SVG.

*H.E. Mrs. Andrea
Keizer-Bowman,
Ambassador of the Embassy
of Saint Vincent and the
Grenadines in the Republic
of China (Taiwan)
presented Letters of Credence
to President Tsai Ing-wen
on August 7, 2019.
The Government and people
of St. Vincent and the Grena-
dines wish Her Excellency
tremendous successes
throughout her tenure.*



BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION TO OFFICIALLY REOPEN ITS DOORS HERE IN SVG IN NOVEMBER, 2019



*Mr. Steve Moore, Resident British High
Commissioner and H.E. Dame Susan Dougan,
Governor General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines after
the presentation of His Credentials to the Governor General*

The United Kingdom Government expanded its diplomatic presence across the Eastern Caribbean with the establishment of new offices in several countries, including St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

On August 22, 2019, British High Commissioner to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, H.E. Janet Douglas, introduced the new Resident British Commissioner to St Vincent and the Grenadines, Mr. Steve Moore, to Prime Minister, Dr the Hon Ralph Gonsalves and Foreign Minister, Hon. Sir Louis Straker. High Commissioner Douglas regarded the decision to reopened the High Commission a welcomed step forward in strengthening UK-Caribbean relations.

The Ministry welcomes to our shores, the new Resident British Commissioner to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Mr. Steve Moore and looks forward to working with him to advance SVG-UK relations.

Mr. Moore paid a courtesy call on Governor General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Her Excellency Mrs. Susan Dougan at Government House on August 21, 2019.

DID YOU KNOW...

ABOUT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TRADE AND COMMERCE WTO REFERENCE CENTRE?

TRADE UPDATE

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is a Member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which is the only international organization dealing with the global rules of trade. Its main function is to ensure that trade flows smoothly, predictably and freely as possible. WTO issues affect us all in one way or another as it deals with goods and services of which we consume daily. The WTO can cut living costs and raise living standards, settle disputes and reduce trade tensions, stimulate economic growth and employment, cut the cost of doing business internationally, encourage good governance, help countries develop, give the weak a stronger voice, support the environment and health, and contribute to peace and stability.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce is the Ministry responsible for the coordination of WTO matters and as part of its remit, the Ministry currently houses the WTO Reference Centre. The objective of the Reference Centre is to enable government officials, the private sector and the academic community to have a regularly updated and direct privileged link to the trade information resources of the WTO Secretariat, Geneva. The Reference Centre serves as a good resource tool for policy makers, technical practitioners and students of international economics, trade and international political economy. More specifically, the Reference Centre houses information on trade issues regarding the WTO, OECS, and CARICOM. It is equipped with books, reports, publications, and computers to access online databases and e-learning platforms.

The Ministry extends an invitation to all public officers to visit and utilise the Reference Centre. Furthermore, persons are encouraged to enroll for free e-courses at the WTO E-Campus. Upon successful completion of these courses a certificate will be issued.

Further information can be found in the flyer on the right. Please do not hesitate to contact the Ministry should you require any assistance in this regard.



The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TRADE, AND COMMERCE



TRADE UPDATE



WTO Reference Center
St. Vincent and the Grenadines

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THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TRADE & COMMERCE



ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION 2020



Group Prizes

Envoys Category – Trophy, Smart Phone & \$300

Ambassadors Category – Trophy, Smart Phone & \$500

1ST
PLACE

Envoys Category – Trophy, Smart Phone & \$200

Ambassadors Category – Trophy, Smart Phone & \$400

2ND
PLACE

Envoys Category – Trophy, Smart Phone & \$100

Ambassadors Category – Trophy, Smart Phone & \$300

3RD
PLACE

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Prizes
from the
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ESSAY QUESTIONS

ENVOYS CATEGORY: Age range - 9 to 13 years

1. 195 countries, hundreds of official languages and opportunities galore...every Vincentian should learn a foreign language. Discuss. **OR**
2. Travel is fun but visas are not. Why do countries impose visa requirements? **OR**
3. "My exporting journey" - Imagine that you can manufacture and export one product from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, what product would you export and why?

ESSAY QUESTIONS

AMBASSADORS CATEGORY: Age range - 14 to 18 years

1. St. Vincent and the Grenadines makes history - the smallest country to be elected to serve on the UN Security Council. What is the significance of our two year tenure? **OR**
2. Opportunities Abound! St. Vincent and the Grenadines opens new Mission in Taiwan. Discuss. **OR**
3. Consumers have no rights in this country! Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement.

ESSAYS MUST BE SUBMITTED – in font size 12, double spaced, Times New Roman – to email address svgforeign@gmail.com

Submission Deadline: 27th March 2020



THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TRADE & COMMERCE



ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION 2020

All participants in the 2020 Essay Writing Competition should ensure that the following guidelines are followed:

1. The ESSAY COMPETITION is open only to nationals and residents of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
2. EACH participant must select a category depending on their age by 1st April, 2020.
3. Participants in the Envoys category MUST be aged 9 to 13 years.
4. Participants in the Ambassadors category MUST be aged 14 to 18 years.
5. SUBMISSIONS must be written in Standard English.
6. SUBMISSIONS must have a cover page.
7. SUBMISSIONS must include the following details in the header of the document: Name of Participant, School of Participant, E-mail Address, Telephone Number and Word Count.
8. SUBMISSIONS must include page numbers at the bottom of each page.
9. PLAGIARISM is NOT ACCEPTED in the submission. All participants guilty of plagiarism will be disqualified. Research is expected but be sure to write the source of your information if necessary.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

10. WORD COUNT- All participants are required to strictly adhere to the word count. In the Envoys category (300 – 600 words) and in the Ambassadors category (1,000 –1,500 words). Submissions must have a clear introduction, body and conclusion.
11. THE FINAL COPY submitted must be the participant's own work and should not be excessively corrected or improved by another person.
12. EACH participant, through entering the competition, agrees to the publishing of their name and essay on the website and social media pages of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Commerce.
13. SUBMISSIONS must be typed and in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx.), or in PDF Format (.pdf). Each submission must be typed in Times New Roman font size 12.
14. ALL SUBMISSIONS must be submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce by 5:00 p.m. on 27th March, 2020.
15. ALL SUBMISSIONS must be made via e-mail to svgforeign@gmail.com.

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