



Finland and the Caribbean Growing closer



Finland and the Caribbean



Dear Caribbean friends

This publication is an expression of our interest and a proof of our engagement in the Caribbean region. The Caribbean for us is a cradle of some of the most delightful music on earth. We also read works by your wonderful writers, Nobel Prize winners among them.

Like people in the Caribbean, Finns take their sports seriously. We had our first real encounter with your track and field stars when Jamaican runners won gold and silver medals in Finland at the 1952 Helsinki Olympic Games. Our nation, recently ravaged by war, was deeply moved when these outstanding athletes laid flowers at the memorial to our war heroes.

Finnish-built power stations provide electricity all over the Caribbean and Finnish-built luxury cruise ships bring thousands of tourists to your scenic destinations. Finnish companies provide elevators for many of your buildings, supply cranes and trucks that move goods in many of your harbours, and make mobile phones that ring just about everywhere in the Caribbean.

Finland has diplomatic relations with every Caribbean country and honorary consuls in almost all of them. I have personally met with nearly every Caribbean foreign minister and look forward to future

meetings with all of my Caribbean colleagues. Finnish-Caribbean relations - diplomatic contacts, development cooperation, tourism, investments, trade – are multi-faceted and growing, and they benefit all our peoples.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Erkki Tuomioja".

Erkki Tuomioja

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland

FINLAND HAS...

- Diplomatic relations with all Caribbean countries
- Diplomatic representation in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
- Observer status in the Association of Caribbean States (ACS)
- Honorary consuls in almost all Caribbean countries



Photo: Simo Trainen

Finnish steel band "Steely Wonder". The Trinidadian steel pan instrument found its way to Finland and today the country has several steel bands.

The Trade Union Solidarity Centre of Finland has supported women's rights in Haiti since 2005 through a project that concentrates on literacy and vocational training. The project was disrupted by the earthquake in January 2010, but was restarted four months later.

Photo: Laura Ekholm



Finland and the Caribbean – connected on many levels

A HISTORY OF CONNECTIONS

Finland and the Caribbean island states have relatively small populations who live close to the sea. Strong seafaring traditions have developed in both regions. Finnish merchandise began arriving in some Caribbean countries aboard European trading ships in the 19th century.

During recent decades, the relations between Finland and the Caribbean in commerce, development cooperation, culture and other fields have strengthened and expanded.

Today, there are Finns living in the Caribbean islands running their own businesses. Some of them also work there as university professors. A few hundred Caribbean people reside in Finland. High school and university exchange programmes have enabled young people from both regions to explore a different environment and culture.

ECHOES OF CARIBBEAN RHYTHMS

Caribbean music, in its many genres, has been popular for years in Finland. Calypso was brought to the country with a bang by Harry Belafonte, who has visited Finland many times.

The first Finnish musicians fascinated by the Trinidadian steel pan instrument started making pans in the 1980s. Today, there are several Finnish steel bands who perform at home and abroad. “Steel Pan Lovers” attended the annual World Steel Band Music Festival in Trinidad and Tobago in 2000 and won 8th place in the festival’s music contest. The instrument is used in music lessons in Finnish schools.

Reggae was introduced to Finland by Jimmy Cliff and Bob Marley. Nowadays, reggae musicians from Jamaica visit Finland regularly and Finland also has its own reggae artists. Salsa and bachata, too, have grown in popularity and festivals are organized annually.

LITERARY INSPIRATION

The Caribbean region has been explored by Finns through literature. Novels by Trinidadian Nobelist V.S. Naipaul have been published in Finnish, as have poems by St Lucian Nobel laureate Derek Walcott. Finnish writer Marianne Backlén lived in Jamaica in the 1980s and has written about the island in her novels.



Jamaicans George Rhoden (centre) and Herb McKenley (left) won gold and silver medals respectively in the 400 metre race at the Olympic Games in Helsinki in 1952.

JAMAICANS AT THE HELSINKI OLYMPICS

Finland and the Caribbean share a memorable link with the Olympic Games in Helsinki in 1952. There, Jamaican runner Herb McKenley won three medals, thus becoming one of the best athletes of the games. His medals were later stolen but the Finnish Olympic Committee presented him with replicas of the originals.



I studied the map of Kingston and asked the domino-playing neighbors: “Where is Trench Town?”

A journalist, whose name was Clifton, said: “I don’t understand why you tourists always want to see our ghettos. You have such a one-sided view of Jamaica. There is so much else to see in our country, Jani. Why don’t you take a trip to the Blue Mountains or visit the University of the West Indies?” Clifton loved ska music. He taught me how to chew on a piece of sugar cane and to cut open a green coconut. He took me to Port Antonio, which I immediately loved, so very different from Negril.

From the novel “Karma” by Marianne Backlén, Schildts, 2001





Photo: Otava Publishing Company

SWAN YACHTS IN CARIBBEAN WATERS

Swan yachts, sometimes referred to as "Rolls Royces of the seas", and built in Finland, are often seen in Caribbean waters, including one of the leading regattas in the world, Antigua Sailing Week.

A WORD ABOUT HELVI SIPILÄ

The first woman ever to rise high in the United Nations was Finland's Helvi Sipilä. In 1972 she became the first woman to be appointed to the rank of Assistant Secretary General. In that position Sipilä nurtured the careers of Caribbean female diplomats, notably Jamaicans Angela King and Lucille Mair who both later rose to high positions in the UN.



Trinidadian Nobel laureate V.S. Naipaul on a visit to Finland in 1973.



Photo: Oy Nautor Ab

Expertise in high and clean technology

FINNISH COMPANIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

Finland's commercial presence in the Caribbean is strong in many sectors. Wärtsilä power plants generate electricity for 80 per cent of the territories in the Caribbean. In several countries electricity is almost completely generated by power plants delivered by Wärtsilä. Wärtsilä is building a new land-based power plant complex in the Dominican Republic which will be the biggest in the country.

The Caribbean has long been a stronghold for Finnish cargo and load handling technology. The Cargotec company has over 1000 units operating all over the Caribbean. A significant amount of Finnish port equipment has been delivered to important Caribbean harbours such as Freeport in The Bahamas, Cartagena in Colombia and Kingston in Jamaica.

Kone elevators are a common feature in many Caribbean multi-storey buildings. The Vaisala company has delivered weather observation systems to the region. Kemira has enhanced its position with its broad water treatment chemicals portfolio. Nokia has helped to provide access to communications services in the region from both the infrastructure business, through Nokia Siemens Networks, and devices and services.



TRADE BETWEEN FINLAND AND THE CARIBBEAN

In recent years, Finland's main imports from the Caribbean have been basic manufactures and food. Finland also buys machinery, transport equipment and chemicals as well as beverages and tobacco from Caribbean countries. Caribbean countries import mainly machinery and transport equipment from Finland, and also basic manufactures, mineral fuels, and various manufactured articles.



Photo: Rex Features/Lehtikuva

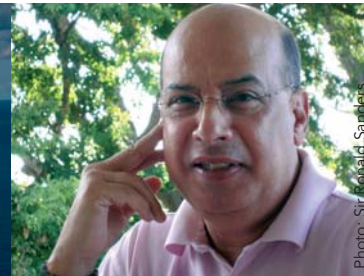


Photo: Sir Ronald Sanders

COMMENTS BY SIR RONALD SANDERS:

"The largest cruise ship in the world will be sailing the Caribbean starting this December [December 2009]. Oasis of the Seas and its sister Allure of the Seas are both presently under construction in Finland. The cruise ships will be of the Royal Caribbean International line built by StxEurope.

Finland's products are major contributors to the economies of several Caribbean countries. For example, all of the 14 largest cruise ships in the world have been built in Finland. Finland has become a modern European nation through its development and application of technological expertise.

I went to see the Oasis and the Allure under construction in Turku, a city on Finland's Baltic Sea coast. StxEurope promote their work on the Oasis as "Creating the Incredible" – and they are right. The ship defies imagination."

From the article: "New mega cruise ships pose challenges for the Caribbean" by Sir Ronald Sanders, August 21, 2009, abridged with permission

The world's largest cruise ship "Oasis of the Seas" was built in Finland.

Sir Ronald Sanders is a writer and former Caribbean diplomat. He visited Finland in 2009.

Wärtsilä delivered one of the largest floating power barges in the world to the Dominican Republic in 2012. Floating power barges bring electricity to places which would be difficult or impossible to reach by other means.



Photo: Wärtsilä



USEFUL BUSINESS CONTACTS

The British and Commonwealth Chamber of Commerce in Finland
www.bcccf.fi

Cleantech Finland
A network of top cleantech companies and experts
www.cleantechfinland.com

Finnpartnership
Finnish business partnership programme
www.finnpartnership.fi

FINPRO
– **Finnish trade center**
Finpro's office in Mexico covers the Caribbean
www.finpro.fi

Invest in Finland
Business opportunities and consulting services for international companies
www.investinfinland.fi

MARKET POTENTIAL ON BOTH SIDES

In addition to its current commercial activities, Finland can offer to the Caribbean region much more in various sectors, including the already strong harbour industry and infrastructure. Finnish companies have wide potential in telecommunications, digital security, health care and water treatment as well as in tourism.

Cooperation in environmentally sustainable technology has become a key item on the agenda for Finland and the Caribbean and there is excellent potential for more partnership. Finnish companies offer sustainable solutions related to climate, energy and waste management.

Moreover, there are untapped opportunities for the Caribbean countries, for example in exporting machinery, beverages and agricultural products to Finland and in promoting tourism.



Photo: Naps Systems



Photo: Mikko Pyhälä

Wärtsilä-built power plant in Grenada. Rodney George is Vice-President of Wärtsilä for the Caribbean and Honorary Consul General of Finland in Grenada.

Solar panels by Naps Systems provide electricity for telecommunication and industrial and rural electrification needs in many Caribbean countries.

Harbour facilities in Cartagena, Colombia. Most of the equipment in this harbour was manufactured by Cargotec and other Finnish companies.

Cooperation for disaster management and sustainable development

Finnish development policy in the Caribbean is implemented bilaterally, at the European Union (EU) level and through multilateral organizations such as the United Nations, as well as in cooperation with NGOs.

At present Finland's development cooperation and humanitarian assistance in the region is largely devoted to the reconstruction in Haiti following the earthquake of January 2010. Finland supports the Caribbean countries also in meteorology, energy and environment issues, sustainable use of natural resources and regional integration.

RESPONSE TO HAITI'S EARTHQUAKE

Finland's humanitarian assistance to Haiti reached 8.7 million euros by the beginning of 2012. Assistance has been allocated in particular to food aid, health care and child protection. Finland has pledged 10 million euros for the reconstruction in Haiti for the period 2010-2013. Finland concentrates its reconstruction efforts on rehabilitation of Haiti's education sector, where Finland has internationally recognized expertise.

IMPROVING METEOROLOGICAL CAPACITY

For many years, Finland has been supporting meteorological capacity building in the Caribbean. Finnish projects have contributed to the development of meteorological services and weather observation systems as well as providing equipment and software.

Finland has directed funding to a major multinational project of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) targeted at Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The project resulted in significant improvements in the meteorological service infrastructure. In addition, Finland has contributed to the renovation of the regional technical laboratory for calibration and maintenance of instruments at the CARICOM Centre of Hydrology and Meteorology in Barbados and to the training of its staff. Finnish support has also been directed to the provision of integrated software technology for the National Meteorological Services of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago with a continuation of upgrades of service tools and training.

Finland has organized side events at the Regional Meetings of the WMO, including a side event in The Bahamas in 2009, in order to identify specific future needs for capacity building. These events led to a project focusing on strengthening the hydrometeorological operations and services in the Caribbean SIDS (SHOCS) executed in partnership with the ACS. The objective of the project is to make Caribbean societies better prepared for the adverse effects of severe weather, natural disasters and harmful impacts of climate change. Finland is looking into the possibility of continuing meteorological cooperation in the region as a follow-up to the ongoing SHOCS project.



Provision of software for the National Meteorological Services of Trinidad and Tobago is just one aspect of Finland's manifold and long-term cooperation with the Caribbean in disaster prevention.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT POLICIES

Finland promotes renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean technology investments through its Energy and Environment Partnership Programme (EEP). The programme is implemented with several countries in the region, including Belize and the Dominican Republic.



Finland has financed a project focused on ecotourism and environmental awareness with the local communities of the Pedernales Province in the Dominican Republic.

Photo: Martti Heikinheimo

Photo: Juhana Kivimäki

Finland has funded a project aimed at conserving biodiversity through the development of birding tourism in Mount Obama National Park in Antigua and Barbuda.



HONOURING THE VICTIMS OF THE SLAVE TRADE

Finland is one of the main donors to the Trust Fund for the "Permanent memorial to and remembrance of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade". The memorial, an initiative by CARICOM, will be built close to the UN Headquarters in New York.



Photo: Johanna Kivimäki



Photo: Alfred Aaron



Photo: Embassy of Finland in Mexico

COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Finland has engaged in cooperation with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) ranging from ocean governance, meteorology and sustainable energy to education and tourism. In 2010, Finland financed an Expert Consultation on the Operationalisation of the Caribbean Sea Commission in Barbados in cooperation with the ACS, and with support from the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission HELCOM.

Finland has made a financial contribution to the CARICOM Development Fund. Our contribution will be allocated to projects of a social charac-

ter, assisting the adaptation of poorer member states to the CARICOM Single Market. Finland funded the International Conference on Education for CARICOM countries in Jamaica in May 2011 organized by the Ministry of Education of Jamaica together with the Caribbean Examinations Council CXC and the Commonwealth of Learning. Finland has offered to finance the Third Caribbean Sustainable Energy Forum organized by CARICOM, planned to be held in Saint Kitts and Nevis in September 2012. Finland will also organize together with UNEP a course on environmental diplomacy in Grenada in 2012.

Furthermore, Finland finances projects carried out by local and Finnish NGOs in a number of Caribbean countries.

Beach patrollers installing a satellite transmitter in the shell of a hawksbill turtle in Rosalie Beach, Dominica, as part of a Finnish-supported project for protection of sea turtles.

Students in an electrical installation course in Albouystown, Guyana. The course is part of a technical training project supported by the Free Church Federation in Finland.

A village meeting related to a project funded by Finland on the right to land ownership among the Maya population in Belize.

Finn Church Aid (FCA) has completed the first pilot school centre in Léogâne, Haiti. It serves as a model for subsequent school building projects implemented by FCA with Finnish Government support. People from the local communities are employed to work on the construction. Finland's total assistance to Haiti amounts to 22.1 million euros from 2010 to 2013 taking into account reconstruction support, humanitarian aid and debt relief.



Active EU member building relations with the Caribbean

As a member of the European Union, Finland supports strengthening of the bi-regional partnership between Europe and the Caribbean. We welcome the high-level political dialogue between the EU and the CARIFORUM launched in March 2010 and we look forward to the announcement of a Joint Caribbean–EU Partnership Strategy as agreed by the Heads of State and Government at the summit meeting held in Madrid in May 2010.

A substantial part of Finland's development funds for the Caribbean are allocated through the EU, which is the world's largest donor in international development.

ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CARIBBEAN

The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the EU and the CARIFORUM, signed in October 2008, is now being provisionally applied. The agreement covers not only trade in goods but also services, investment, and trade related rules. The agreement aims at strengthening Caribbean–EU trade relations and enhancing the trading capacity of the CARIFORUM states.

The agreement has already reached the implementation stage. The CARIFORUM states need support to maximize the benefits of the agreement. Finland emphasizes the importance of monitoring and evaluating the impacts of the EPA so that future revisions can be made as necessary.



Finland shares the view that it is important that the costs and benefits of the EPA are spread equally and that the positive potential of the agreement, for example promotion of regional trade and integration, is supported by appropriate accompanying measures.

The European Commission on Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) is funding a project in partnership with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, aimed at enabling Caribbean communities to be better prepared for disasters. The project is implemented by the Red Cross Societies in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and in Trinidad and Tobago. The Finnish Red Cross offers technical support for the project, which has co-financing from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Ambassador-at-Large to the Caribbean and Embassies of Finland in the Caribbean Region

Brazil

Embassy of Finland in Brazil is accredited to Suriname. sanomat.bra@formin.fi

Canada

Embassy of Finland in Canada is accredited to The Bahamas. sanomat.ott@formin.fi

Finland

Ambassador-at-Large to the Caribbean is accredited to Barbados, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, CARICOM and OECS. asa-31@formin.fi

Mexico

Embassy of Finland in Mexico is accredited to Belize, Cuba and Haiti. sanomat.mex@formin.fi



Photo: Plug/Markus Kauppinen

HONORARY CONSULS (GENERAL) OF FINLAND IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION

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Barbados

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Belize

Mr. Glenn D. Godfrey, attorneys@godfreylaw.net

Dominica

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Dominican Republic

Mr. Ramón José Puig Ordeix consuladofinlandiard@hotmail.com and Mr. Pasi Kapanen, Honorary Vice Consul pasi@kapanen.info

For more detailed contact information on Finnish Embassies and Honorary Consulates (General) please see the web page of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland www.formin.fi --> Diplomatic missions --> Finnish missions abroad by country.

Grenada

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Saint Kitts and Nevis

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Saint Lucia

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Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Mrs Louise Mitchell Joseph mitchelljosephchambers@gmail.com

Suriname

Mr. Dilipkoemar Sardjoe, rudisa@rudisa.net

Trinidad and Tobago

Mr. H. Peter Ganteaume, ganty@tstt.net.tt



Embassies of Caribbean Countries Accredited to Finland

A list of Embassies of Caribbean countries accredited to Finland is found on the web page of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland www.formin.fi --> Diplomatic missions --> Representation of foreign states in Finland or in the nearest country to Finland.

Finland funded a project on restoring Fort Duvernette as a site of cultural, historical and environmental value in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

HONORARY CONSULS OF CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES IN FINLAND

Barbados

Mr. Veikko Vuoristo, veikko.vuoristo@haikko.fi

Dominican Republic

Mr. Mats Kockberg
mats.kockberg@interpersona.fi

Haiti

Mrs Eeva-Liisa Savilahti, office@feminett.fi

Jamaica

Mr. Heikki Kyöstiä
heikki.kyostila@planmeca.com

Trinidad and Tobago

Mr. Jukka Ant-Wuorinen
jaw@antoninvest.com



FINLAND: BRIEF FACTS

Population:
5.4 million

Surface area:
338 145 sq. km

Capital:
Helsinki

Independence achieved in
1917

Member of the European
Union since 1995

Republic, parliamentary
democracy

Official languages:
Finnish and Swedish

Currency:
Euro since 2002

**Official development
assistance 2011:**
1 013 million EUR/
1 409 million USD

**Gross domestic product
per capita 2011:**
35 559 EUR

Main exports:
electronic and electrical
products, pulp and paper,
machinery and equipment,
metal products



Photo: Jenni-Justina Niemi/CMJ

NORDIC COUNTRIES: MODEL IN COOPERATION

In today's globalized world it is not easy for small states to be effective players. Both the Nordic and the Caribbean people share a high appreciation of regional integration and cooperation.

The formal inter-parliamentary and inter-governmental cooperation among Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden is amongst the oldest and most extensive regional cooperation in the world. Since the 1950s Nordic citizens have been able to travel across Nordic borders without a passport and for over half a century the countries have also had agreements on a common labour market and social security, just to mention three reciprocal accords.

Nobel Peace laureate Martti Ahtisaari linking the former adversaries at the signing of the Aceh peace agreement in Helsinki, August 2005.

MARTTI AHTISAARI, INTERNATIONAL PEACE NEGOTIATOR

The Nobel Peace Prize 2008 was awarded to Martti Ahtisaari for his lifetime achievement. Mr. Ahtisaari, a diplomat and negotiator, is internationally praised for helping solve conflicts in Namibia, the Balkans, Aceh in Indonesia and other troubled areas. He served as president of Finland from 1994 to 2000.



Advanced Finnish wind power technology providers are significant players worldwide. Today, Finland is one of the world's leading users of renewable energy.



Photo: F. Damm/Huber-images/Lehtikuva



Photo: Martti Kainulainen/Lehtikuva

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Finland to the UN Security Council in 2013–2014



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