

Shaping a Trade Agenda to Promote Regional Integration and Competitiveness for CARICOM: the EPA and other negotiating challenges

SPEAKERS

Havelock Brewster has led a distinguished career in the service of international institutions and government. Ambassador Brewster has been Ambassador of Guyana to the European Union, Austria, Belgium and Germany. He was also Executive Director for the Caribbean at the Inter-American Development Bank and previously Special Research Advisor and Director for Trade in Primary Commodities at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. He has served as a consultant and advisor to a number of international organizations, governments and universities. He began his career in academia at the University of the West Indies and was the first Professor of Economics at the Cave Hill campus. He graduated in Economics from the University of Durham, England, and Dalhousie University, Canada. Mr. Brewster's numerous publications are in the fields of trade and development, economic integration, and development finance.

Paul Brenton is a Senior Economist in the Trade Department of the World Bank. He contributes to the Department's work on trade policy analysis and advice and assists with diagnostic trade studies for individual countries. He joined the Bank in August 2002, having been Senior Research Fellow and Head of the Trade Policy Unit at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels. He has a PhD in Economics from the University of East Anglia.

Geza Feketekuty is President of the Institute for Trade and Commercial Diplomacy, a non-profit organization devoted to training in Commercial Diplomacy. He is the Distinguished Professor of Commercial Diplomacy at the Monterey Institute for International Studies, where he developed a graduate degree program in Commercial Diplomacy. He writes, lectures and consults on a wide range of trade policy topics, and provides customized training courses in the area of trade policy and international trade negotiations. Mr. Feketekuty previously served with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the Council of Economic Advisors and the Office of Management and Budget in various senior leadership positions. He has an undergraduate degree in economics from Columbia, a graduate degree in economics from Princeton and graduated from the Advanced Management Program of the Harvard Business School.

Randy Cato has been Director of the Economic Affairs Division at the OECS Secretariat since 1997, responsible for overseeing regional and international trade issues; economic development issues; and relations with regional and international finance and development institutions. He is a lead representative of the OECS Secretariat and of the Member States in trade related negotiations, as well as in other activities addressing the development options and directions for the OECS. Before joining the OECS Secretariat, Mr. Cato held a number of high

level positions during more than a decade in the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines including: Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Planning, Planning Division; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Culture,(at the time of appointment, January 1986, was one of the youngest persons to be so appointed in St. Vincent); Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade Industry and Agriculture; and, Director of Planning, Central Planning Division, Ministry of Finance and Planning. During this period, he represented the country and participated in numerous regional and international conferences and meetings dealing with tourism, trade, finance, economic and social development matters. Prior to his work in the government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Mr. Cato worked at the Development Agency of The Caribbean Conference of Churches (CADEC) as Projects Officer, Head of the Projects Development Programme, and Secretary of the Development Fund. He holds a B.Sc (Upper Second Class Hons.) and a M.Sc in Government (Economics and Political Science) from the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica.

René A. León was appointed Ambassador of El Salvador to the United States of America in 1997. He currently is the Dean Ambassador for the Latin American Diplomatic Corps in Washington, DC. Before joining the Salvadoran Diplomatic Service, Mr. León held leading senior positions in the academic, private and government sectors of El Salvador. In 1994, he became Vice Minister of Economy responsible for Trade Policy, International Trade Negotiations and Investment Promotion. During his tenure as Vice Minister, he chaired the Market Access Group of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and led the negotiation of bilateral and multilateral trade arrangements.

Mr. León received a bachelor degree on Economics from the Universidad Centro Americana in San Salvador and was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to complete a master degree in Economics from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana.

Ambassador León dedicated exceptional time and effort to promote negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement between Central America and the United States (CAFTA). El Salvador was the first country to sign, ratify and implement CAFTA. In search of new foreign investment and the promotion of Salvadoran exports and investments in the United States, he dedicates considerable time and efforts to make new contacts and establish business opportunities from and to El Salvador. His significant contributions in favor of the Salvadoran community in the United States have made him a recipient of numerous awards and recognitions from the Salvadoran-American community, The National Assembly of El Salvador, and institutions from the United States.

Claudius Preville joined the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (RNM) on January 1, 2004, as Trade Policy Adviser and Representative to the OECS Secretariat and its member states. In this capacity he is responsible for advising the OECS countries in developing their trade policy positions for the various

negotiating theatres, and serves as the RNM's representative. Since commencing this assignment Dr. Preville has worked extensively in the area of market access, developing models for gains and losses from trade liberalization, creating lists of sensitive products for OECS countries in the various negotiating areas and providing strategic advice for engagement in negotiations.

After completing his Ph.D. with a published thesis entitled "Trade Liberalization under Imperfect Competition" in January 2003 from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, Dr. Preville worked as a consultant to the Commonwealth Secretariat (London), the Institute of Social Studies (The Hague) and the University of the West Indies (St. Augustine). Additionally, he has taught and provided advice to students at the masters and doctoral levels within the field of economics in the Netherlands. Among his scholarly works recently published are a chapter in a book entitled "Establishment of the CSME: A Manifestation of Sir Arthur Lewis's Vision for the Caribbean", published by Commonwealth Secretariat, 2007; a chapter in another book entitled "Impact of Changes in the European Union's policy for banana imports on the Eastern Caribbean Region (1992-2002)" published by Cambridge University Press, 2006; and a chapter in a book entitled "Caribbean Economies in the FTAA Negotiations" published by the Commonwealth Secretariat and University of Malta, 2004. In addition, he regularly writes on the FTAA, WTO and EPA negotiations and undertakes speaking engagements on these issues in various forums. He also holds a B.Sc. Honors degree with a double major in computer science and physics from UWI, and an MA in economics of development from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague.

Sherry M. Stephenson is Acting Director of the Department of Trade, Tourism and Competitiveness of the Organization of American States. Her responsibilities include, among others, management of the staff of the Department and provision of analytical and capacity-building assistance in the area of trade to the OAS Member States in their negotiation and implementation of trade agreements, where her expertise lies particularly in the area of services trade. She received a Ph.D. in International Economics from the University of Geneva, Switzerland. Prior to her position with the OAS, Dr. Stephenson was an Advisor to the Ministry of Trade, Government of Indonesia, Jakarta, for three years. Previous positions have been with the GATT and UNCTAD Secretariats in Geneva and with the Trade Directorate of the OECD in Paris.