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UWI GLOBAL NEWS

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**Advancing Global Partnerships for Resilience, Security,
and Sustainable Development**

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Welcome to the latest edition of UWI Global News.

As Pro Vice-Chancellor for Global Affairs, I am pleased to share updates on the work of the Office of Global Affairs (OGA) over the past few months with our students, staff, partners, and the wider community of friends of The University of the West Indies (The UWI).

As I reflect on the activities and engagements featured in this edition of UWI Global News, one message resonates clearly: meaningful partnerships remain central to advancing The UWI's mission and strengthening the Caribbean's place within the global community.

Over the past months, the OGA has continued to deepen strategic relationships across regions and sectors—engaging universities, governments, development agencies, diplomatic partners, and international organizations in ways that create tangible opportunities for our students, staff, and the wider Caribbean community. These initiatives reflect The UWI's enduring commitment to global leadership grounded in regional responsibility.

Importantly, these engagements represent investments in people, communities, and the future resilience of the Caribbean region, helping to shape pathways toward a more sustainable, connected, and equitable future.

At a time of significant geopolitical uncertainty and shifting global dynamics, institutions such as The UWI have an increasingly important role to play in fostering dialogue, strengthening regional capacity, and building partnerships that promote resilience, innovation, and sustainable development across the Global South.

I wish to thank our many partners, colleagues, and stakeholders whose continued support and collaboration make this work possible. I also extend my sincere appreciation to the dedicated staff of the OGA whose commitment continues to drive these initiatives forward.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding opportunities for international engagement while ensuring that our work continues to deliver meaningful impact for the Caribbean and the wider Global South, and reinforces The UWI's position as the premier regional institution in the Caribbean. I encourage everyone to take the time to read through the articles and remain engaged with the many opportunities ahead.

Thank you for being part of our community, and I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter.

Warm regards,

Sandra Maynard
Pro Vice-Chancellor



Photo (L-R): Ms. Rhea Reid, from the Caribbean Regional Security System and PVC Sandra Maynard, exchange welcome gifts.

Strengthening Security and Regional Resilience

The UWI has taken significant steps to enhance regional security through a landmark partnership with the Caribbean Regional Security System (RSS). On January 28, 2026, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Sandra Maynard hosted a visit from the RSS, Barbados.

RSS is responsible for deploying military, technical, and other resources to Member States whose national security architectures are overwhelmed. Their support also includes diagnostic capabilities for national crime and security problems, enhancing legal, regulatory, investigative, and prosecutorial procedures to address financial crimes, strengthening compliance with international Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards, improving capacities for maritime pollution prevention and response, and enhancing maritime surveillance and regulation capabilities.

The visit follows the formal signing of an MOU between The UWI and the RSS that will focus on issues including joint training and capacity building, internship programme, research and development, crisis management and emergency response, community engagement, and innovation and technology development. The first major activity under the MOU will be hosting a criminal justice symposium in October 2026.

The UWI Hosts Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities in Historic Summit

From February 10 to 13, 2026, The UWI hosted a 22-person delegation from the Committee of Vice-Chancellors (CVCNU) of Nigerian Universities at the Regional Headquarters. This event marked the first visit of the CVCNU to the island. The CVCNU is the umbrella organization for Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Federal, State, and Private Universities and represents over 200 universities across Nigeria. The team from Nigeria was headed by Prof. Andrew Harunana, Secretary-General of CVCNU and Dr. Sylverina Olaghere, Deputy Secretary-General.

The three day event, which was led by



Photo (L-R): Sandra Maynard, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs, The UWI; The Hon. Dr. Dodridge Miller, Chancellor, The UWI; Dr. Sylverina Olaghere, Assistant Secretary-General, Projects and Programmes, Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities; Prof. Andrew Harunana, Secretary-General, Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities; Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor, The UWI and Prof. Justin Robinson, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, The UWI Five Islands Campus

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles, the five Campus Principals, three Pro Vice-Chancellors and other members of the Executive Management team, saw newly minted Vice-Chancellors from Nigeria engaging with academic leaders from across The UWI in a wide range of discussions on issues including, strategic planning, global partnerships, higher education and research, programme quality, accreditation and financial efficiency and accountability.



Photo: UWI and CVCNU delegates with the Nigerian Charge d'Affaires at the opening of the three-day event on Feb. 11, 2026.



Photo: Ms. Sandra Maynard, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs- during her panel presentation on Feb. 11, 2026.

Dr. Gervan Fearon, President of George Brown Polytechnic College in Canada, was specially invited by the Vice-Chancellor to deliver a keynote address to the delegation.



Photo: Dr. Gervan Fearon, President, George Brown Polytechnic, during his keynote address to the audience on Feb 12, 2026.

The highlight of the event was the signing of a historic MOU that, amongst its objectives, will seek to enhance global rankings and visibility, produce research and innovation, build diversified financing programmes, strengthen cultural/historical connections, and pioneer digital learning/research platforms, artificial intelligence, and cyber security capability. Caribbean and Africa-based staff, students, and researchers can expect to benefit from the full range of educational and academic activities in the near future.



Photo (L-R): Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles and Secretary-General of CVCNU, Prof. Andrew Haruana, hold up the signed MOU agreement on the final day

The planning team for the event was co-chaired by PVC Sandra Maynard and PVC Justin Robinson, with Dr. Shakira Maxwell from the OGA, Dr. Allison Fung from the Office of Planning and Mr. Jhomone Leslie from the Office of Administration as the other members.



Photo (L-R): Dr. Dr. Gervan Fearon, President, George Brown Polytechnic; Ambassador Bob Rae Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations; Ms. Sandra Maynard, Pro Vice-Chancellor Global Affairs; Prof. Rose-Marie Belle Antoine Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, The UWI, St. Augustine Campus; Dr. Rhonda McEwen President and Vice-Chancellor, Victoria University in the University of Toronto and Co-Chair, Canada Caribbean Institute; Professor Selwyn R. Cudjoe, Chairman, The University of Trinidad and Tobago Board of Governors; His Excellency Michael Ryan Callan High Commissioner for Canada to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; Dr. Talia Esnard Senior Lecturer & Head of Department, Department of Behavioural Sciences, The UWI St. Augustine Campus and Chair, CCI Scholarship and Research Activities Committee

Building Resilience with the Canada-Caribbean Institute (CCI): Security in Focus

On February 19–20, 2026, the Canada-Caribbean Institute hosted its 4th Annual Research Symposium at The UWI St. Augustine Campus under the theme “Securing Our Future: Canada & the Caribbean Deepen Partnership to Tackle New Security Challenges.” The event underscored the urgent need to strengthen collaboration between the Canada-Caribbean regions in the face of traditional and emerging security threats.

The symposium brought together researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and stakeholders from across Canada and the Caribbean to examine practical solutions to a wide range of security-related challenges confronting the regions.



Photo: Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles delivering opening remarks at the 4th Annual Canada-Caribbean Institute's Research Symposium



Photo: Section of the crowd at the 4th Annual Canada-Caribbean Institute's Research Symposium



Section of the crowd at the 4th Annual Canada-Caribbean Institute's Research Symposium

Over the two days, discussions explored security through multiple lenses, including economic and social stability, digital governance, climate change, mental health, youth development, and cultural identity. Speakers emphasized that deeper regional cooperation—supported by international partnerships—is critical to building resilience and enabling sustainable growth. Key proposals included expanding trade agreements, strengthening regional security assessments, and fostering greater collaboration among academia, governments, and civil society.

To learn more about the event and to view presentations from key speakers, visit: <https://canadacaribbeaninstitute.org/2026-research-symposium/>



Dr. Rhonda McEwen, President, Victoria University and Co-Chair of the Canada-Caribbean Institute delivering remarks



His Excellency Michael Ryan Callan High Commissioner for Canada to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago delivering his Keynote address on February 19, 2026



His Excellency Michael Ryan Callan High Commissioner for Canada to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago delivering remarks at the Opening Ceremony of the Symposium



Prof. Andy Kinght delivering his Keynote address on February 20, 2026

Deepening Partnerships: The UWI and Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) Expand Academic Cooperation



Photo (front: L-R): Ms. Odesha Coates, Administrative Secretary to the Dean, Customer Service Representative, Faculty of Law, The UWI Mona Campus; Ms. Marjorie Henry, Senior Admin. Assistant, Faculty of Law, The UWI Mona Campus; Mrs. Lisa Hamilton Braithwaite, Programme Officer, Office of Global Affairs, The UWI; Ms. Sandra Maynard, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs, The UWI; Dr. Donna Young, Dean and Prof. of Law, Lincoln Alexander School of Law, TMU; Prof. Peter Halewood, Prof., Department Law and Business, Ted Rogers School of Management, TMU; Prof. Shazeeda Ali, Dean, and Prof. of Corporate and Financial Law, Faculty of Law, The UWI Mona Campus; Dr. Celia Brown Blake, Associate Dean (Outreach and Continuing Legal Education) and Senior Lecturer; Dr. Ramona Biholar, Deputy Dean (Graduate Studies and Research) and Senior Lecturer.

Following the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding and exchange agreements between The UWI and TMU in May 2025, the Office of Global Affairs has been coordinating a series of virtual and in-person meetings with faculty at both institutions as part of a targeted effort to deepen engagement.

This initiative included a visit on January 12, 2026, by Dr. Donna Young, Dean and Professor of Law at the Lincoln Alexander School of Law, TMU, to The UWI Mona Faculty of Law.

Following the Canada-Caribbean Institute Research Symposium held at the St. Augustine Campus in February 2026, colleagues from TMU participated in a follow-up discussion with the Dean of the Faculty of Law at the St. Augustine Campus, Dr. Alicia Elias-Roberts. The meeting explored

opportunities for collaboration, including student and staff exchanges, certification pathways, and support for TMU in the development of its academic law programme.

Further engagements are planned to advance a coordinated programme of work that is mutually beneficial to both The UWI and TMU.



Photo (L-R): Ms. Lois St. Brice, Programme Officer, OGA; Ms. Sara Berman, Executive Director, Global Engagement & Partnerships, TMU Global, TMU; Ms. Marisa Gray, Manager, Global Learning and Engagement, TMU Global, TMU; Dr. Alicia Elias-Roberts, Dean, Faculty of Law, The UWI St. Augustine; Mr. Dale James, Programme Manager, OGA



Photo (L-R): Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh, Vice-Provost, International Affairs, McMaster University and Ms. Sandra Maynard, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs, The UWI

Expanding Horizons: The UWI and McMaster Connect

The Office of Global Affairs at The UWI recently welcomed Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh, Vice-Provost for International Affairs at McMaster

University, during his visit to Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. Dr. Ibhawoh was hosted by Sandra Maynard, Pro Vice-Chancellor. Dr. Ibhawoh was hosted by Sandra Maynard, Pro Vice-Chancellor for

Global Affairs, and engaged in discussions focused on strengthening collaboration between the two universities, with particular emphasis on expanding research partnerships and academic exchange opportunities. Conversations also explored opportunities to enhance faculty mobility, including potential linkages between The UWI's Institute for Sustainable Development and the McMaster Planetary Health Forum.

This visit builds on the longstanding relationship between The UWI and McMaster University, including their ongoing collaboration through the Canada-Caribbean Institute.

Establishing Global Partnerships for Climate Action: The UWI and Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences

From March 17 to 23, 2026, the Office of Global Affairs (OGA) coordinated a multi-campus visit by a delegation from Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences (VHL) in the Netherlands to The University of the West Indies' campuses in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados. The visit created a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, allowing the VHL team to share insights into their work while identifying opportunities for meaningful collaboration.



Photo (front: R-L): Ms. Lois St. Brice, Programme Officer, Office of Global Affairs, The UWI; Jannet Lavalette, Manager International Affairs, VHLU; Karen Batjes-Sinclair, Lecturer, BSc International Development, VHLU;

(Back) L-R: Niek de Boer, Director of Research, VHLU; Mr. Dale James, Programme Manager, The Office of Global Affairs, The UWI.

The visit commenced with a strategic meeting at the University's regional headquarters with Pro Vice-Chancellor Sandra Maynard, followed by a series of high-level engagements with senior academic staff across the three landed campuses. While initially exploratory, the engagement has already progressed to a second phase, focused on developing a structured pipeline of programmatic initiatives to be implemented in the coming years.

This collaboration underscores The UWI's role as a global leader, actively engaging with like-minded international partners to advance academic innovation and promote a more sustainable future.



Photo (R-L): PVC Sandra Maynard receives a gift on the last day of the engagement from Head of the Delegation and Director of Research at VHL Niek de Boer

With its strong focus on climate justice and recognition as a leading institution in sustainability in the Netherlands, VHL is a natural partner for The UWI. The University continues to play a pivotal global role as the lead institution for SDG 13 (Climate Action) within the International Association of Universities (IAU), and as Chair of SDG 13 under the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI).

Exploring New Frontiers: UWI Engages Poland's Education Development Agency

In line with the Office of Global Affairs' (OGA) mandate to foster collaboration with global partners for the benefit of our faculty, staff, and students, PVC Sandra Maynard and members of her team met with representatives from the National Center for the Development of Education, Poland, at The UWI's Regional Headquarters on March 10, 2026. The meeting was aimed at exploring potential opportunities for collaboration. The delegation was on a visiting educational and research trip to the island.

Meeting with Students from the University of Pennsylvania

On March 11, 2026, Dr. Shakira Maxwell delivered a special lecture to a group of law students from the University of Pennsylvania, USA. The contingency, led by Professor Dorothy E. Roberts, Professor of Africana Studies, Law & Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, were visiting Jamaica on a research trip, meeting with scholars, advocates, and stakeholders whose work relates to the theme of reproductive rights and justice (RRJ). Dr. Maxwell provided a historical overview of issues, including family planning, abortion, maternal mortality and adolescent sexuality in the region,

Discussions centered on the proposed establishment of a two-year apprenticeship programme, to be piloted in Jamaica, focusing on business management and entrepreneurship. Further engagements are planned to advance a coordinated programme of work.



Photo: L-R: Dariusz Maciejak, Director, National Center for the Development of Education, Poland; Dominika Żukowska, Head of Global Partnerships & Development Office, National Center for the Development of Education, Poland; Sandra Maynard, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs, The UWI; Dr. Shakira Maxwell, Senior Programme Officer, Office of Global Affairs, The UWI; Jan Maciejak, National Center for the Development of Education.



Photo: Dr. Shakira Maxwell (fourth from far right), Senior Programme Officer, OGA with Professor Dorothy Roberts (third from far right), and students from the University of Pennsylvania in front of The UWI Museum.

with special emphasis on Jamaica. She further discussed issues of accessibility, policy, and governance in relation to RRJ.

Expanding Regional Climate Finance Capacity through Strategic Partnership: The UWI and CFAN



Mona Campus In-Person Session: L-R UWI Pro Vice-Chancellor Global Affairs Sandra Maynard, Shalenie Madho CFAN Advisor, Shehryar Sarwar Head of Development Cooperation for Jamaica and Belize, Global Affairs Canada, Rowena Tolentino CFAN Advisor, and Christena McCarthy Planning Institute of Jamaica/ JaNAP Project

The Office of Global Affairs (OGA) successfully supported the delivery of a regional Climate Finance Training Programme held March 17–19, 2026, in partnership with the Climate Finance Access Network (CFAN) and the Planning Institute of Jamaica. More than 150 participants from across the Caribbean benefitted from this hybrid programme, with simultaneous in-person sessions hosted at The UWI Mona and Cave Hill campuses complemented by region-wide online delivery.

Delivered in collaboration with the Climate Studies Group Mona (CSGM) and the Faculties of Science and Technology at Mona and Cave Hill, the training provided highly practical insights into accessing multilateral climate finance. Participants strengthened skills in project concept development, climate rationale and investment criteria, problem- and solution-tree analysis, and learned directly from successful Adaptation Fund and Green Climate Fund case studies.

In March 2026, UWI and CFAN also marked the launch of an introductory biodiversity module, the culmination of collaboration initiated in Q3 2025 with the Department of Life Sciences, UWI St Augustine. The module is intended to highlight the critical intersection between biodiversity and climate change, equipping participants to understand how protecting ecosystems through approaches such as nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation is essential to effective climate action and resilience.

These achievements build on the earlier contribution of the Global Campus to CFAN's regional training in Grenada in 2025, which laid critical groundwork for this phase of engagement. This collective university-wide effort truly exemplifies OGA's continued championing of the One UWI approach—matching regional and global demand with expertise drawn from across The UWI system and facilitating strong, results-focused internal collaboration across the University.

Looking ahead, OGA will continue to support upcoming engagements with CFAN focused on climate science and climate justice, reinforcing The UWI's role as a trusted educational partner advancing climate resilience for the Caribbean and other Small Island Developing States.

["The integration of climate finance fundamentals into educational architecture stands as a critical pillar for unlocking national-scale investment and driving long-term economic resilience. CFAN's partnership with The UWI exemplifies how the synergy between academic rigour and technical capacity building creates immediate, practical impact in the field. By bridging these worlds we are not just teaching concepts, but fundamentally strengthening the institutional foundations required to secure a sustainable future." Nnyeka Prescod, Manager – Caribbean Region, CFAN]



A Tribute to our Colleague and Friend **MR. KEVIN MANNING**

The Office of Global Affairs had the privilege and pleasure of having Mr. Kevin Manning as a team member. A proud Barbadian, Kevin joined the team in 2020, initially supporting grant identification and communications and later, becoming a Programme Officer.

Reflecting on Kevin, Mr. Dale James, Programme Manager said *"Kevin was a thoughtful, deliberate, and quietly exceptional colleague whose impact extended far beyond his formal role. He approached his work with discipline and integrity, consistently demonstrating a depth of insight and commitment that strengthened every initiative he supported."*

We miss Kevin's quiet yet intentional style, his forward-thinking contributions and his dedication to making a difference for the region. He leaves a lasting legacy defined by integrity, dedication, and impact.

We are committed to continuing to honour his memory as we advance the various collaborations with our international and regional partners.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

"We will always remember Kevin not only for what he accomplished, but the integrity and care with which he did it" - Sandra Maynard, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Affairs



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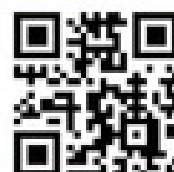


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