



## Stacy Richards-Kennedy

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As the focus of the global development agenda shifted from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, national and regional development actors in the Caribbean began aligning their efforts to support the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This ambitious, inter-sectoral development programme established 17 global goals covering a broad range of social and economic development issues including poverty, health, education, climate change, gender equality, water, sanitation, energy, urbanization, environment and social justice. Universities play a central role in helping to advance the 2030 development agenda, by driving research and innovation as well as providing relevant education, training and public service. The UN-Sustainable Development Solutions Network has underscored the need to ensure greater alignment between universities and development actors to support the localization and achievement of the global goals.

At the UWI, the Office of Development established in September 2016, is focused on strengthening the partnerships between the University and multilateral development agencies and deepening the university's engagement with regional and national development processes. This is consistent with the Outreach perspective of the UWI Strategic Plan 2012-2017, which promotes the university as driving force for economic, social, educational and other critical development needs of the region.

During the period 2016-2017, the Office of Development led a range of initiatives, at both the strategic and operational levels, that served to strengthen UWI's positioning and advocacy on the 2030 development agenda, promote mechanisms for multidisciplinary research collaborations, knowledge brokerage and stakeholder engagement linked to the SDGs, establish key institutional partnerships with multilateral development agencies, support fundraising efforts for strategic initiatives and contribute to the implementation of Balanced Scorecard monitoring and reporting for the new UWI Strategic Plan 2017-2022 led by the Office of Planning.

Some highlights include:

### **Deepening engagement in national and regional development processes**

*Coordination of UWI-UNDP collaboration to launch the UNDP Caribbean Human Development Report (CHDR) 2016.*

- Barbados launch of UNDP Caribbean Human Development Report. Vice-Chancellor Beckles participated in panel discussion chaired by Helen Clarke UNDP Administrator (September 2016).
- Jamaica launch of the CHDR held at The UWI Regional Headquarters. Vice-Chancellor Beckles delivered Keynote Address (October 2016).
- Trinidad and Tobago launch of the CHDR (November 2016).

*Engagement of United Nations Country Team resident in Trinidad and Tobago on UWI's Research Priorities to foster greater research collaborations with UN agencies (November 2016).*

Presentation delivered by Pro Vice Chancellor for Graduate Studies and Research and discussions with the UNCT led to a number of follow-on opportunities:

- ILO-UWI collaboration to host Conference on the ILO Future of Work Initiative (held on December 4, 2017 at the St. Augustine Campus).
- Discussions between UNICEF and Institute of International Relations on the renewal of an inter-institutional MOU to establish a Caribbean Child Rights Observatory Network.
- The UWI's leadership of SDG Youth Advocacy Campaign and Youth Forum for the Action 2030 Regional Conference on the SDGs (June 28-30, 2017).



The UWI Pro Vice-Chancellor for Planning, Professor Densil Williams and other speakers at the launch of the UNDP Caribbean Human Development Report (CHDR) 2016 in Port-of-Spain.

## **Supporting the advancement of the 2030 Development Agenda in the Caribbean**

*Caribbean Action 2030: Regional Conference on the SDGs jointly organised by the Government of Jamaica, The UWI and the UN System in the Caribbean (June 28-30, 2017)*

- Secured UNDP grant to support SDG Youth Advocacy Campaign (March 2017).
- Webinar Launch of the SDG Youth Advocacy Campaign (April 2017).
- Photo Competition: Through the lens of Caribbean Youth (May-June 2017). Photo submissions from university students across the Caribbean. Competition included educational and advocacy components.



Ajay Rameshwarsingh of The UWI St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago, 1st place winner of the photo competition "Through the lens of Caribbean Youth", receives his prize from Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal of The UWI St. Augustine Campus, Professor Brian Copeland.

Winning photographs:

- 1st place: Ajay Rameshwarsingh, The UWI St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago.
  - 2nd place: Terence Thompson, University of Technology, Jamaica.
  - 3rd place: Shilton Doelatip, University of Applied Science and Technology, Suriname.
  - Special mention: Hakeem Thompson, The UWI Cave Hill Campus, Barbados.
- Technology prizes were secured for winners through collaboration with BMobile.



Hakeem Thompson of The UWI Cave Hill Campus, Barbados receives a Special Mention from Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal of The UWI Cave Hill Campus, Professor Eudine Barriteau, for his participation in the photo competition "Through the lens of Caribbean Youth".

*Engagement of The UWI Student Guild Executives on youth advocacy on the SDGs at Inter-Campus Guild Committee Meeting (May 2017)*

*Short Film Series Youth Action on the SDGs in the Caribbean showcasing research and service learning projects of students from all four UWI campuses:*

- *Creative Minds*, Franz Harewood-Hamblin, The UWI Cave Hill.
- *The Reef*, Holly Trew, The UWI Cave Hill.
- *Crafting Sustainable Livelihoods*, Thalia Balkaran, The UWI Mona.
- *Building Sustainable Communities*, MSc Group, SALISES, The UWI Mona.
- *My Community, My Lens, My Voice*, Patrice Jones, The UWI Open Campus.
- *Building for the Future*, Amrita Milling, The UWI St. Augustine.
- *The Journey to Wellness*, Kimberly Badal, The UWI St. Augustine.



At the Youth Forum on the SDGs, pictured are Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator The Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith, The UWI Director of Development, Mrs. Stacy Richards-Kennedy and youth participants.

The film was premiered at the Youth Forum of the Caribbean Action 2030 Regional Conference and was disseminated via UWI tv as well as UWI and UN Caribbean online networks.

View it at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZ5\\_ZnMlrHY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZ5_ZnMlrHY)

#### *Chairing of The Youth Forum on the SDGs (June 29, 2017)*

- The ideas and recommendations of youth advocates, university students and youth NGO representatives informed the Caribbean Action 2030 Partnership Agreement.
- The Office of Development mobilised funding for the participation of UWI Youth Development Programme, thanks to support from the Institute for Sustainable Development.

#### *Secured Feature Speaker for Ministerial Luncheon at Caribbean Action 2030 Regional Conference.*

- Dr. Idris Jala, President and CEO of PEMANDU Associates delivered distinguished lecture and presentation entitled *Transformational Implementation to Achieve Breakthrough SDG Results*.
- Mobilized funding from CDB to support participation of PEMANDU and stimulated additional collaborations for the inaugural Caribbean Leadership and Transformation Forum (CLTF) organized by the Caribbean Development Bank (September 2017).

#### *Conference Paper and Presentation on The Role of Knowledge Brokerage in Advancing the 2030 Development Agenda in the Caribbean.*

- Prepared by Stacy Richards-Kennedy and Lois St. Brice for Special Issue of UWI Social and Economic Studies Journal (forthcoming).

#### **Strengthening national, regional and global partnerships**

The Office brokered collaborations with a range of multilateral development agencies, public and private sector institutions and civil society organizations and facilitating technical and financial support as well as enhanced collaborations in support of several UWI strategic initiatives.



Ms. Jessica Faieta, UN Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and Caribbean and Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The UWI Open Campus, Dr. Luz Longworth sign a MoU between UNDP and The UWI in June 2017.

## *Support for launch of the SUNY-UWI Center for Leadership and Sustainable Development*

- Coordinated the participation of the multilateral development agencies and received the endorsement of UNDP for the establishment of the SUNY-UWI Center.
- At the Launch, UN Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and Caribbean, Ms Jessica Faieta, delivered remarks.

## *Secured UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) Special Accreditation for The UWI for UN Global Conferences (April 2016)*

In June 2017 a UWI team led by Professor Emeritus Robin Mahon participated in the UN Global Conference – ‘Our oceans, our future: partnering for the implementation of SDG 14’ in commemoration of World Oceans Day. For the first time, The UWI established a formal relationship with UN-DESA as a registered institution in the UN international civil society network. This will facilitate accreditations for other global UN conferences and UN clearance of UWI participants.

Memoranda of Understanding and collaboration agreements were signed with:

## ***The United Nations Development Programme (June 2017)***

- Agreement on programme of activities.
- Technical content for online course being developed on SDGs.
- UWI-UNDP junior consultancy programme.
- Technical support for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction.

## ***PEMANDU Associates, Malaysia (June 2017)***

- Joint initiatives to support capacity building on execution of multi-sectoral development programmes.
- Development of online course Transformational Leadership to Achieve the SDGs in Developing States in collaboration with The UWI Open Campus.
- Training in BFR Methodology to support regional implementation of development programmes to achieve the SDG.

## ***The Office of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago (November 2016)***

- Agreement on programme of activities.
- Research and consultancy services for work of parliamentary committees.
- Technical support for implementation of new procurement procedures.



MOU signing with The UWI and PEMANDU Associates (Malaysia). Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The UWI Open Campus, Dr Luz Longsworth and President & CEO of PEMANDU Associates (Malaysia), Dato' Sri Idris Jala sign the MOU.

Collaborations with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) resulted in the preparation of a joint proposal development for International Climate Initiative 2018 Call for Proposals in collaboration with Office of Research (under consideration).

Collaborations with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) have led to a range of joint initiatives as well as technical assistance grants to UWI:

- Technical assistance grant to support the enhancement of UWI<sup>tv</sup>.
- Technical assistance grant for the development of the online course *Transformational Leadership to Achieve the SDGs in Developing States in collaboration with UWI Open Campus*.
- Collaboration on the organisation of inaugural Caribbean Leadership and Transformation Forum (September 2017) and agreement for UWI<sup>tv</sup> to cover CLTF sessions and interview feature speakers.
- Technical input for CDB paper entitled Implementation: Delivering Results to Transform Caribbean Society.