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## 2015 Conference update



*"Improving the Quality of Life with Water & Waste Management Solutions"*

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AT THE 24TH ANNUAL CWWA CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

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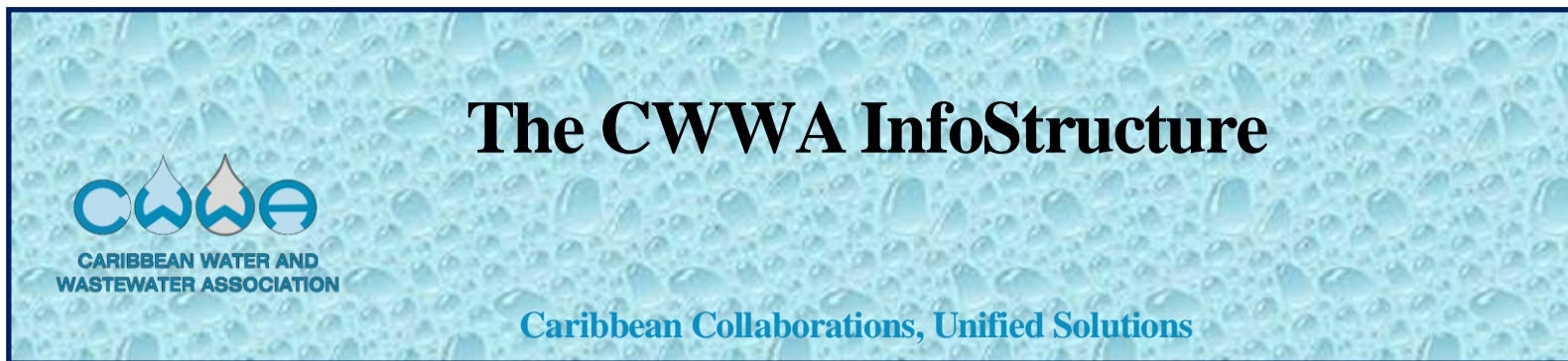
Are you eager to show off a new product or explain your companies services? New this year - Trade Presentations will be going on all day Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday! Reserve your time slot now! \$1,000 Member / \$1,200 Non Member

There are still sponsorship opportunities available at our 24th Annual Conference and Exhibition. Throughout the years, our sponsors have received value for money at our Conferences. The visibility that is achieved as a sponsor is priceless; our members give rave reviews about the information that they receive about our sponsors in the Conference Magazine and once informed they are able to access the services of our sponsors during and after the Conference.

We take this opportunity to thank our past sponsors for returning again this year and we anticipate that a new batch of sponsors will come on board and enjoy all the incentives that we have to offer. We look forward to your sign up and continued partnership with us.

***Further details on participating in the conference are available on the conference page via the link:***

**[CWWA 2015 CONFERENCE DETAILS](#)**



## CARPHA: Food Safety - More than just a Health Threat

**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. May 14, 2015.** Foodborne illnesses are one of the most common public health issues in the Caribbean region, and have increased by 26% since 2010. The fact that thousands of people in the region become sick from tainted food each year demonstrates the need to further safeguard our food supply.

In this regard, the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the European Union, has convened a three day Regional Foodborne Diseases Surveillance and Food Safety Workshop at the Trinidad Hilton in Port of Spain. The meeting runs from May 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Stressing the importance of regional collaboration, Dr. C. James Hospedales, CARPHA Executive Director stated that, “the meeting will continue to build capacity in integrated “one health” food borne disease surveillance and food safety, as well as multisectoral collaboration for improving food safety in the Caribbean.” He informed participants that “this regional programme which was started in 2005 by the Caribbean Epidemiology Center (CAREC), one of CARPHA’s predecessors, is being continued by the Agency.” He also emphasized the food safety was a key factor to the Caribbean tourism dependent economies.

Dr. Hospedales’ remarks were supported by Dr. Theodore-Ghandi. The PAHO/WHO Representative to Trinidad and Tobago congratulated CARPHA on hosting the workshop and stated that PAHO “stands ready to collaborate to strengthen food safety and promote “one health” in the Caribbean.”

In welcoming participants, Dr. Gregg Rawlins IICA Representative for the Caribbean explained that “this workshop has a significant role to play in improving food safety systems in the Caribbean, which appears to be weak in the areas of legislation, coordination and organizational capacity.” In this regard, experts responsible for foodborne diseases surveillance and food safety, including epidemiologists, laboratory directors and environmental health officers, food safety advisors, chief veterinary officers, will develop national policies and frameworks for reducing foodborne diseases and improving food safety.

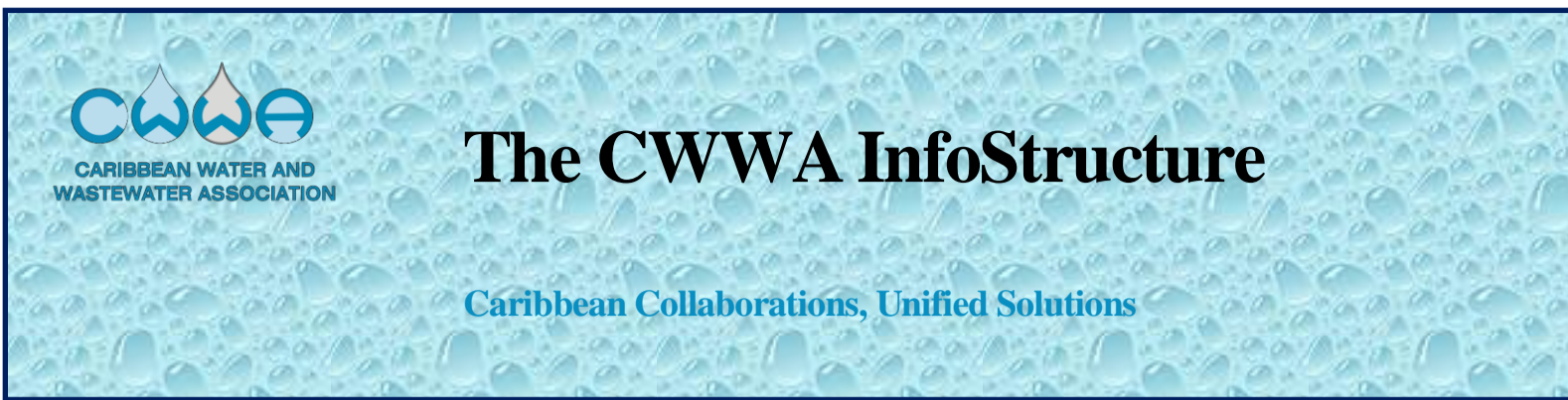
In her welcome remarks to participants, Ms. Kathrin Renner, Programme Officer EU Delegation to Trinidad and Tobago informed representatives of the importance of safeguarding the food supply of the Caribbean region. She pointed out that developing food safety standards is more than just regional health, but also has an economic benefit since it increases the Region's potential to export to the European Union and other international markets. The Minister of Health for Trinidad and Tobago, Senator the Honorable Dr. Fuad Khan in his feature address told participants that he is eager to see a “regional implementation plan for food safety to be able to analyse, investigate and resolve issues as they appear at critical points along the food chain,” and he encouraged the workshop participants to work towards this important goal.

Given the heavy dependency of the Caribbean region on the tourist dollar, the protection of the health and safety of Caribbean visitors, as well as locals involved in tourism, is key to the sustainability and profitability of that sector. Mitigating the impact of foodborne threats to health is also a key component of CARPHA’s Tourism and Health Programme. As such, during the meeting, participants will also review regional early warning and response, hotel and cruise ship health surveillance protocols for addressing travel-related foodborne diseases and other public health issues. For this session, representatives from the Ministry of Tourism and regional tourism agencies including the Caribbean Tourism Organisation, the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association and the Cruise Line International Agency will also participate.

Ensuring the safety of food is a long-standing objective of the Caribbean Public Health Agency. Food safety is paramount to promoting food security as well as tourism sustainability, according to Dr Lisa Indar, Coordinator of the Tourism and Health programme and Lead for Foodborne Disease. The Agency continues to provide technical support to the Caribbean region in the areas of surveillance, monitoring, prevention of illness, disability, and death due to foodborne diseases.

*For further information on food health and other related matters visit: [www.carpha.org](http://www.carpha.org)*





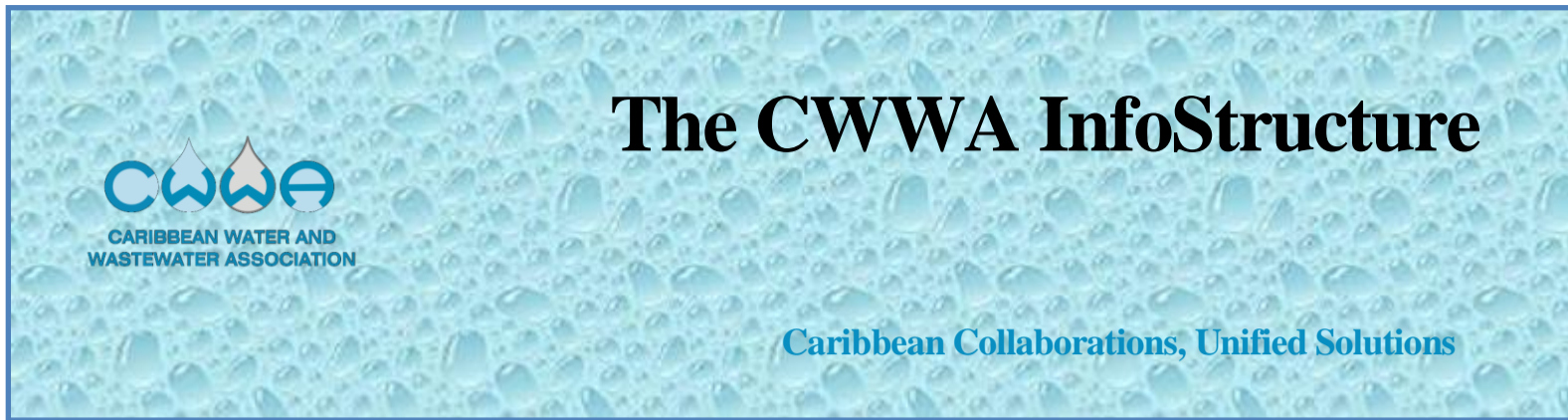
## Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA): Wastewater Projects

Minister of the Environment and Water Resources, Senator the Honourable Ganga Singh, formally launched the San Fernando Wastewater Improvement Project, on Wednesday 13th May 2015, at the site of the new San Fernando Wastewater Plant, Riverside Drive, Gulf View, San Fernando. This was the second such event to be held by the Authority, following the launch of the Malabar Wastewater Improvement Project, Arima, on Wednesday 29th April 2015. These projects form part of the Multi-Phase Wastewater Rehabilitation Programme, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) at an overall cost of US \$546.5 Million. While delivering the keynote address at the launch, Minister Singh stated that with the completion of the Lock Joint wastewater expansion project in the 1960's, Trinidad and Tobago was ahead of Singapore, which today has one of the most advanced wastewater collection, treatment and reuse systems in the world. He said as a nation we had fallen away in this area of our development and this largest ever hemispheric loan provided by the IDB, will bring us back on the path to proper development of our wastewater sector. Minister Singh further elaborated that the IDB has recognized and shown confidence in Trinidad and Tobago, by validating Government's commitment to expand and improve water coverage.

WASA's acting Director Programmes and Change Management, Alan Poon King, while providing an overview of the project, stated that residents of Tarouba, Pleasantville, Ste. Madeleine, Bel Air, Gulf View, Vistabella, Palmiste, San Fernando South, Retrench, Golconda, and Union Hall, will benefit since the project will integrate and centralize the wastewater collection systems from these areas and convey it to a new 45 million litre per day wastewater treatment plant for treatment. The overall programme is anticipated to be completed within an eight (8) year period and will benefit approximately 100,000 persons.



Senator the Honourable Ganga Singh, delivering the Feature Address at the launch of the wastewater treatment project



## Climate services in the Caribbean take a step forward

Representatives from the Caribbean Agricultural Research & Development Institute (CARDI), the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA), the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation (CARILEC), the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) and the Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association (CHTA), representing six regional climate sensitive sectors, met with officials from the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) on May 6-7 at the Institute's Husbands, St. James, Barbados headquarters. The representatives explored avenues for improved, new transformational partnerships to support the development and delivery of sector specific early warning climate information that will inform sector planning and decision-making. Also present at this inaugural meeting were representatives of the CARICOM Secretariat, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCC), the Climate Studies Group of the Mona Campus at the University of the West Indies (UWI/CSGM), the Barbados Office of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean. As part of the meeting, representatives from the Jamaica Meteorological Service, the Barbados Water Authority, the Barbados Coastal Zone Management Unit, and the Barbados Ministry of Agriculture demonstrated the development and use of sector specific climate products and services at the national level. Meeting participants agreed to the establishment of a Consortium to champion the design, development and delivery of tailored climate products and services to inform planning and decision-making in their respective sectors with specifics on the functioning of the Consortium to be finalized. Specific actions to be supported by the Consortium over the next 18-months include: (i) the initiation of plans to develop climate early warning information systems, (ii) increase institutional capacity and infrastructure to enhance climate service development and delivery, and (iii) enhance capacity in the targeted sectors to absorb and effectively utilize climate services. Building and sustaining the actions of the Consortium will enhance the resilience of the participating sectors to long-term climate change and increasing climate variability. The work of the Consortium will be supported under a new initiative – the Programme for Building Regional Climate Capacity in the Caribbean (BRCCC Programme) Under an agreement signed in January 2014, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will provide USD 5.085 million over three years (2014-2017) to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which will work in partnership with CIMH to implement the BRCCC Programme.



*Participants at the First Meeting of the Consortium of Regional Sectoral Early Warning Information Systems Across Climate Timescales Coordination Partners, May 6-7, 2015 at the CIMH Headquarters in St. James, Barbados*

For more information visit: <http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/brccc>





## CWWA Trinidad & Tobago Section – Lecture series



Presenter Camille Roopnarine as she lectures to the attendees

The Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) is well positioned as possibly the only professional society that incorporates the waste sector under its ambit. **How is waste relevant to water and wastewater?** Some may consider this ambiguous, however, the management of waste, or lack thereof has a direct impact on the quality of water which influences human and environmental health.

It is in this context, the national section of Trinidad and Tobago embarked on a solid waste theme for the *Professional Perspectives* lecture series. The first presentation was delivered by representatives of the Solid Waste Management Company Limited (SWMCOL) of Trinidad and Tobago. This session highlighted major programmes the company has initiated to managing solid waste within its jurisdiction. Notably, emerging out of the first session was the realization of a gap in the institutional framework and financial capacity of SWMCOL, to manage the country's waste. The next step entailed seeking a presenter who could contextualize the waste sector and present a comprehensive overview of the legislative, financial, institutional and policy administration of waste. Accordingly, Ms. Camille Roopnarine was identified as the most relevant person to facilitate such discussion, given the experience she has acquired in the sector, as well as her present involvement with the development of the Solid Waste Strategic Plan for Trinidad and Tobago funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

This presentation gave a synopsis of the regulatory framework, which highlighted the government agencies that are mandated to various aspects of solid waste. An overview of the existing waste policies was given, specifically the National Environmental Policy, Integrated Solid Waste/Resource Management Policy and the recently enacted National Waste Recycling Policy.



Ms. Roopnarine also detailed the institutional arrangements for solid waste management, bringing into focus the stakeholders who are responsible for different elements. These stakeholders include: Ministry of Local Government, Tobago House of Assembly, Environmental Management Authority, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, SWMCOL, Ministry of Health and the Community-Based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme (CEPEP) Company Limited.

The systems in place to deal with the various types of waste generated in the country were also discussed. In this regard, Ms. Roopnarine then put forward the issue of payment for waste disposal as this cost is presently fully funded by the government. This led to an engaging discussion among the participants about business opportunities in waste management. Additionally, the researchers in attendance shared the outcomes and experiences of their work in solid waste management. One of the key highlights of this exchange was the recognition of a cultural shift to sustainability, for example, where persons were found to be willing to separate waste, but the systems were not in place to facilitate or encourage this practice.

The *Professional Perspectives* series will continue to focus on topics that are trending and emerging in the water, wastewater and waste sectors. Furthermore, the goal of the forum is to bring together professionals, students and the public to discuss the challenges of the water and waste sector and forge implementable solutions to the issues faced. Members and non-members are encouraged to attend and to network with persons with similar passions and challenges. Interested persons can contact the national section through [cwwatnatsec@gmail.com](mailto:cwwatnatsec@gmail.com) for further information on the lecture series and other national activities.



## 3rd Global WOP Congress and GWOPA General Assembly in Barcelona, Spain 16-18 September 2015

The majority of people on earth get their most essential basic good – potable water – from water and sanitation operators. As cities grow and freshwater is under increasing stress, the work of this often under-valued actor is ever more central to our health and well-being. The 3rd Global WOPs Congress is dedicated to the work of these service providers in contributing to our sustainable development. Utilities, donors, knowledge institutions and key urban water sector stakeholders from around the world will gather to advance knowledge, exchange experience, and initiate support for water and sanitation operators through Water Operators' Partnerships. The event will be held from September 16–18th, 2015 at Barcelona's Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site and will be conducted in English, French and Spanish.

With the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) being launched this year and water and sanitation operators set to play a major role in their implementation, the SDGs will be the focus of this year's Congress. The WOPs Congresses will address a range of issues relating to WOPs practice and the role of water and sanitation operators in Sustainable Development.

Participation in the conference will be free of charge, however space is limited. Registration does not automatically imply acceptance; the GWOPA Secretariat will contact you to confirm your participation. All those interested in participating are encouraged to register early. Registration is now open. Financial support will be made available to a limited number of participants from utilities in the South. Submission of a Utility Profile and WOP profile, where applicable, is required in order to be considered for sponsorship.

Every two years, GWOPA holds a General Assembly, immediately following the Global WOPs Congress. During the General Assembly, half of GWOPA's International Steering Committee – composed of representatives from public water utilities from all regions, development partners, labour unions, civil society organizations and private operators – is turned over through elections. More information on the General Assembly or becoming a candidate for the GWOPA Steering Committee will be available online prior to the event.

The event will welcome those practicing, supporting, studying or curious about using not-for-profit peer support between water operators to improve global water and sanitation services, including: ✓ Water and wastewater utilities ✓ Local and National Governments ✓ Donors and financial institutions ✓ Knowledge and academic institutions in the water and sanitation sector ✓ Civil society organizations ✓ Labour Unions.



**3<sup>rd</sup> GLOBAL WOPS CONGRESS**

Water Operators and the  
Sustainable Development Goals

BARCELONA, 16-18 SEPTEMBER 2015

For further details visit: <http://www.gwopa.org/index.php/what-gwopa-does/global-wops-congress-and-general-assembly>





## NEWS IN THE SECTOR

### ODPM: Making schools safer

**Tacarigua, Trinidad and Tobago, May 28th, 2015 (ODPM)** - The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) kicked off its Safer Schools Programme 2015 with visits to the Guaico Presbyterian Primary School and Moulton Hall Methodist Primary School on Monday 25th June, 2015 and Tuesday 26th June, 2015 respectively – both schools participated in the ODPM's National Primary Schools' Quiz in 2014 with Guaico Presbyterian emerging the winners.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at the end of the 20th century, approximately 66.5 million children were affected worldwide every year by natural disasters. The ODPM, in keeping with its commitment to build the resilience of Trinidad and Tobago, is determined to reduce the vulnerability of our nation's children.

[http://cdema.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1447:odpm-making-schools-safer&catid=57:trinidad-and-tobago&Itemid=283](http://cdema.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1447:odpm-making-schools-safer&catid=57:trinidad-and-tobago&Itemid=283)

### EPA Launches New Portal to Help Communities Improve Environmental Quality and Public Health

Release Date: 05/11/2015

**WASHINGTON** – As part of a commitment to making a visible difference in communities, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching a new website to help local officials and community members find information for improving the environment, public health and quality of life. Developed with input from local, state and federal partners, the Community Resources website provides access to resources that span the range of local concerns – from environmental regulatory compliance to economic revitalization to public health and environmental justice.

“As a former local official, I know firsthand the challenges communities face in juggling responsibilities and navigating multiple information sources,” said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. “That’s why I’m pretty excited about this new resource. It’s just one of many ways EPA is looking to support local officials and community members who are working every day to build a cleaner, healthier, more prosperous future.”

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/bd4379a92ceceac8525735900400c27/0838ee69e53f115e85257e42005396af!OpenDocument>

### UN, NGO Event Considers Inclusive Review of Post-2015 Agenda

May 29, 2015 | 2:49 pm |

18 May 2015: The Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Biovision and the Millennium Institute co-sponsored a side event to build on the outcomes of the High-level Event on Follow-Up and Review Mechanisms for Natural Resource Management and Governance to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which took place on 12-13 May 2015.

Zak Bleicher, IFAD, introduced the panel on 18 May 2015, in New York, US. He said that, while the Co-Facilitators of the post-2015 negotiation processes have proposed what delegates “could do,” the High-level Event identified “what we should do.” He highlighted the need to examine strategies for interlinked targets, and asked what an inclusive review would look like in practice.

[Read More: http://nr.iisd.org/news/un-ngo-event-considers-inclusive-review-of-post-2015-agenda/](http://nr.iisd.org/news/un-ngo-event-considers-inclusive-review-of-post-2015-agenda/)

### Poor land use worsens climate change in St. Vincent By Kenton X. Chance

KINGSTOWN, May 14, 2015 (IPS) - For 32 years, Joel Poyer, a forest technician, has been tending to the forest of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

His job allows him a unique view of what is taking place in the interior of this volcanic east Caribbean nation, where the landscape mostly alternates between deep gorges and high mountains.

Poyer, a 54-year-old social and political activist and trade unionist, is hoping that during the 18 months before he retires, he can get the government and people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to focus on how human activities on the nation's beaches and in its forests are exacerbating the impacts of climate change.

Read More:

<http://caribbeanlifeneews.com/stories/2015/5/2015-05-15-ips-landuse-cl.html>