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Rave Reviews for the 23rd CWWA Conference & Exhibition held in The Bahamas

"Our Conference keeps getting bigger and better!"

SYNOPSIS OF THE 23rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION OF THE CWWA

"Our Conference keeps getting better!"

The Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) proudly celebrated its 23rd Conference and Exhibition October 6-10, 2014 in the Bahamas. The official venue for the conference was the Atlantis Resort and Conference Center on Paradise Island. The Bahamas Water and Sewerage Corporation, host utility of the conference, was on point in highlighting the theme of the conference *"Water Waste and Energy in the Caribbean"*

The conference commenced with an impressive performance by the Royal Bahamas Police Band and a flag ceremony by the Bahamas Cadets. Master of Ceremonies and Conference Chairman Cyprian Gibson introduced the Speakers on the packed program. Among others, were, The Hon. Philip Davis, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works and Urban Development of the Bahamas; Mr. Lennox O'Reilly Lewis, CWWA President and the Bahamas Prime Minister, the Honourable Perry Christie. Thereafter, the Exhibition area was officially declared open with the cutting of the ribbon, followed by a tour of the area. Cocktails were served as delegates mingled and enjoyed the gala, met new friends and reacquainted with others.

The CWWA proudly upheld its standards by providing opportunities for networking and dialoguing on water, waste, environmental, climate and energy issues. On the following day, the official start of the conference saw a number of events being organized within the conference framework.

Contributing to this unique event were 400 plus local and international Water, Waste and Solid Waste Practitioners, Technocrats, Engineers, Ministers and High Level dignitaries from across the Caribbean Region, the Americas and Europe. We are proud to have featured 60 Technical Sessions, 60 Exhibits and 4 specialized workshops lead by international experts on Risk Management and Natural Disasters; Water Climate Change and Health; Arbitration/Dispute Resolutions; and ABC Training/Certification for Water Utilities and their associated stakeholders.....[Read more on page 6](#)



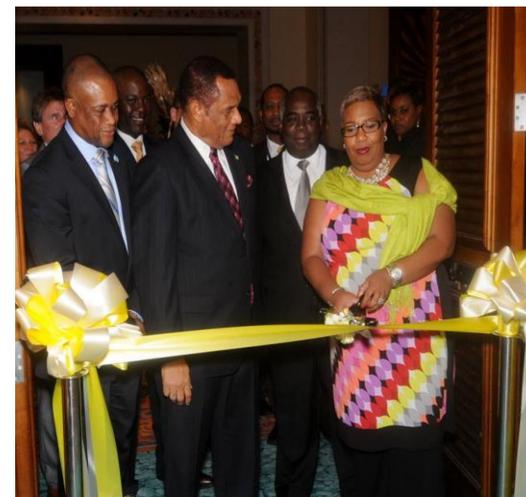
Bahamas Prime Minister, Honourable Perry Christie address the audience at the opening of the conference



The Hon. Philip Davis, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works and Urban Development of the Bahamas as he delivers a speech at the conference



Bahamas showed off some of their culture at the opening



CWWA President O'Reilly Lewis and Bahamas Prime Minister Hon. Perry Christie looks on as the ribbon is cut to declare the 23rd conference and exhibition opened.



All roads lead to Miami for the CWWA 2015 Conference.....



SAVE THE DATE!

CWWA
CARIBBEAN WATER AND
WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION

**American Water Works
Association**
FloridaSection

**CWWA 24th Annual
Conference & Exhibition**
in partnership with the
Florida Section American Water Works Association

“Improving the Quality of Life with Water & Waste Management Solutions”

Keep up to date on conference
information by visiting
<http://www.cwwa.net>

August 24-28, 2015
InterContinental Hotel
Miami, Florida



Here is CARICOM's 10-point strategy to address Ebola

CARICOM finally has agreed on a regional, harmonised policy to tackle Ebola, but at a substantial cost

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, November 9, 2014 (AMG) — CARICOM Heads of Government last week convened a special summit to establish an action plan to deal with the Ebola Virus Disease that has resulted in just over 4,800 deaths in West Africa. While the meeting accepted that the likelihood of penetration by the Ebola virus in the region was low, Summit Chair, Prime Minister Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda, noted that even one case of the disease would mean disastrous consequences for CARICOM Member States.

The plan: Billed as 'Stop Ebola There and Here' (SETH), the plan created a regional rapid response team (Carib React) led by the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), which will be charged with the mandate to deliver an on-the-ground response to suspected cases anywhere in the Caribbean Community within 24-hours of notification.

Leaders also agreed to harmonise travel restrictions, currently unevenly implemented by Member States; develop a region-wide public education campaign; and establish a regional coordinating mechanism, which will include the cooperation of the Government of Cuba. Costs for the implementation of the plan run in excess of US\$7 million, with leaders conceding that as-yet-undefined external funding would be needed to assist with the regional effort.

CARICOM's 10-point action plan in full

Heads agreed to –

1. Strengthen effective, coordinated measures at ports of entry to prevent Ebola from entering the Community, including harmonising travel restrictions;
2. Strengthen health systems including training, equipment, laboratories and containment, and enlist the participation of airlines in the region in transporting specimens and response teams;
3. Create a regional rapid response team (Carib REACT) able to reach any Member State in 24 hours to support the national response team to contain/stop an outbreak early on;
4. Launch an intensive public education campaign for citizens of the region, visitors and those outside;
5. Organize a comprehensive resource mobilisation effort including a possible Stop Ebola There and Here (SETH) Fund, to which governments, citizens and businesses may donate;
6. Finalise and implement the harmonised regional operational response plan by end-November, coordinated with national response plans;
7. Participate in capacity-building efforts at the global and regional levels to gain experience for regional benefit;
8. Establish a regional coordinating mechanism on Ebola (RCME) with CARPHA as chair, including the CARICOM and OECS Secretariats, IMPACS, CDEMA, and the Government of Cuba. The RCME will report to the lead Head of Government on health, Dr Denzil Douglas, Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis, with the immediate responsibility to develop a comprehensive regional strategy to address Ebola preparedness in collaboration with PAHO/WHO;
9. Invite PAHO/WHO, the United Nations, other development partners and contributors to a meeting within one month to expand the effectiveness of the collective response;
10. Review and reinforce the effectiveness of existing at the inter-sessional meeting of Conference in February 2015, and again at the regular meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government in July 2015.

Collective responsibility: Reiterating his previous positions on the Ebola crisis, Prime Minister Browne said that the potentially grave economic and social consequences of the disease meant that no CARICOM Member State should be made to face the public health challenge on its own.

As it relates to funding for the plan, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Kamla Persad-Bissessar, stated that while US\$7 million was earmarked to support the work of CARPHA, there would need to be national, regional and international efforts to secure further financial assistance. Potential sources of these funds, and the excess required beyond CARPHA's cover, were not fully articulated. So far, there have been no reported cases of Ebola in the Caribbean. Outside of the West Africa region, there have been cases in the United States and Spain....

http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Caricom-adopts-10-point-plan-to-deal-with-CHIKV--Ebola_17880830



The CWWA InfoStructure

Caribbean Collaborations, Unified Solutions

ADOPT-A-RIVER STEERING COMMITTEE RECEIVE INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENTS

A WASA Trinidad & Tobago Initiative

The inaugural meeting of the Adopt A River (AAR) Steering Committee was held on Friday 29th November at WASA's Public Education Centre, Farm Road St. Joseph. Advisor to the Minister of the Environment and Water Resources, Dr. Andy Ali, who represented Senator the Honourable Ganga Singh, Minister of the Environment and Water Resources, presented members of the committee with their instruments of appointment, during a ceremony prior to the meeting.

During his feature address, Dr. Ali welcomed representatives of state and public sector organisations; as well as civil society, who will be charged with the responsibility of developing guidelines towards the protection, preservation and management of the country's rivers and watersheds, and noted the significant progress made AAR Programme, since its launch in July 2013. He commended the Authority for its efforts and emphasized the need for creative initiatives, such as AAR, to aid in sustaining the country's surface water resources.

While delivering opening remarks, acting CEO, Gerard Yorke, called for a coordinated, holistic and sustained approach towards water resource management, as he addressed audience members at a ceremony, and hailed the initiative as one that would redound to the benefit of future generations of the country.

Also speaking on the programme was Head- Water Resources Agency, Rajindra Gosine, who stated that the AAR Programme has been developing at a remarkable rate since its launch in July, with several new organisations expressing their commitment towards supporting the initiative. He went on to give an update on project areas throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

The 'Adopt a River' programme aims to bring awareness to local water pollution issues and to facilitate the participation of stakeholders towards reducing many of the challenges negatively impacting the country's watershed and water resources

Following the handing over of instruments to the Steering Committee members, the committee which is chaired by Head WRA, Rajindra Gosine, held its first official meeting in the conference room at the Public Education Center.

Extracted from:

http://wasa.gov.tt/WASA_Media_News_AARSteeringCommitteeGal.html



Gerard Yorke, Acting CEO of WASA Trinidad delivers opening remarks at the meeting



Above, Rajindra Gosine, Head of Water Resources Agency Trinidad, addressing the audience at the meeting



The twelve member committee is comprised of the following: Peggy Ann Baptiste, acting Senior Research Officer, Ministry of the People and Social Development, Donna Ferraz, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Community Development, Hinni Maraj, Civil Engineer Ministry of Local Government, Dianne Joshua-Bochoon, Curriculum Coordinator (Ag.) Ministry of Education, Candace Amoroso, Biodiversity Specialist, Ministry of Environment and Water Resources, Pat Mc Gaw, Secretary, Council of Presidents of the Environment (COPE), Christine Espinosa, Planning Officer II Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs, Ann Marie Dardine, Director of the Engineering Division, Ministry of Food Production, Dr. Vincent Cooper, Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering, the University of the West Indies, Karen Paul, Senior Lecturer, Environmental Studies Department, COSTAATT, Robert Dematas, Forest Management Officer, Tobago House of Assembly, Rajindra Gosine, Head Water Resources Agency, Water and Sewerage Authority.



See details here: [Eye-Sore-I Saw Competition](#)



Eligibility

The competition is open to all citizens of Trinidad & Tobago, aged 11 years and older.

How to Enter

1. Go to the Charlie the Litterbug Facebook Page and post a photograph of a Charlie Spot. A Charlie Spot is any public area that is marred by litter or that has become an illegal dumpsite.
2. Along with the photo, state the location of the polluted area, the date and time the photo was taken, and your recommendation for a sustainable solution to the problem (see sample at right)
3. Then wait and see how many visitors to the site 'like' your photo and recommendation before the competition comes to an end.
4. The three (3) entries that receive the highest number of 'likes' by the end of the competition will receive \$500 in cash and a "Chase Charlie Away" tee-shirt.



Duration

The "Eyesore I Saw" competition runs from November 13th 2014 to December 12th 2014.

Important

- ◆ Please do not post any obscene, profane or inflammatory remarks.
- ◆ Only photos of public spaces are allowed; please do not post private property photos.
- ◆ Purchased 'likes' will not be counted.
- ◆ In the event photos of the same location are submitted and receive the same number of 'likes' in the final assessment, then the one submitted on the earliest date and at the earliest time will take precedence.

What does a trivia game have to do with the IDB?

QuizUp joins forces with the Inter-American Development Bank to promote climate change awareness

The [Inter-American Development Bank](#) (IDB) and [QuizUp](#) invite you to test your knowledge in climate change related issues with a new trivia topic in one of the world's fastest growing games. Each round consists of seven timed questions developed by IDB's in-house specialists.

It is the first time that the Bank uses such a novel learning platform to reach different audiences and achieve, through play, awareness on the challenges in the area of climate change.

With content designed by the IDB; players are able to compete with people around the world, really putting to the test their skills.

The topic features questions on technological innovation, climate policy, energy efficiency, urban transport and water management and sanitation among others.

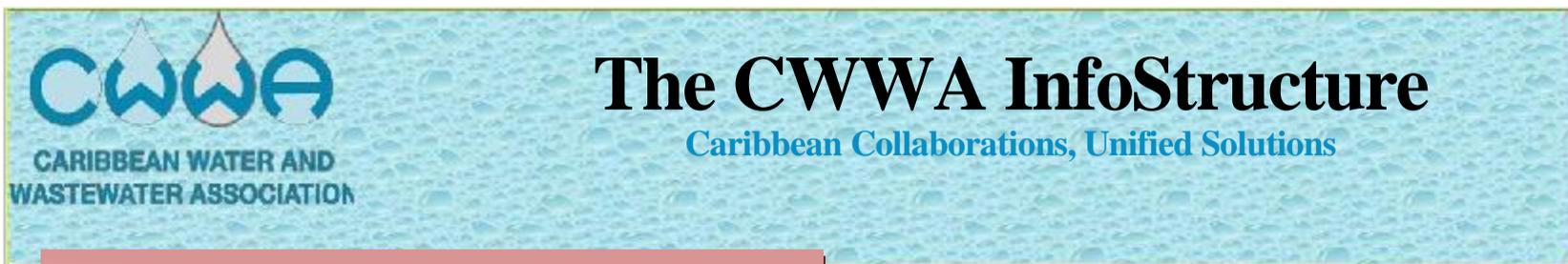
Quizup also lets you view the current rankings and the latest discussions on climate change. It brings an auspicious mixture of play and learning in times where innovation and development, according to the IDB, should go hand in hand.

"We decided to innovate and use such a famous social trivia game to raise awareness in our member countries about the importance of climate change for the region. We know that these platforms not only teach, but entertain. What better way to make people aware of the climate change challenges our region faces than through such a cross-cutting and platform?, " said Hilen Meirovich IDB specialist.

Feel like playing?

As part of the launch of the climate change topic in the application, the IDB has built a booth with access to QuizUp in the heart of the COP20, the climate change conference to be held in Lima, Peru.

For a chance to play LIVE against COP20 attendees, challenge BIDcambioclima – players might end up



More on the CWWA 2014 Conference.....

Participants were also treated to some fun events; anticipated and thoroughly enjoyed were the Caribbean Utilities Water Tasting contest, which saw the National Water Commission, Jamaica emerging winners and securing bragging rights for the third consecutive year; the cultural night, another 'must attend' fun feature, set outdoors of the famous National Art Gallery of the Bahamas and filled with lavish food, drinks and a live band, the enjoyment was ecstatic! Participants also had the option to participate in technical tours where the conference's theme reigned throughout the week. Some delegates opted to visit historical landmarks and attractive locations outside of the conference site to benefit from some of the beauty the Bahamas had to offer.



The 10th High Level Session-Ministerial Forum (HLF), which forms an integral part of the conference, was held in collaboration with the CWWA, Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C) and Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (CRew). Host Minister, The Hon. Philip Davis, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works and Urban Development of the Bahamas welcomed the Government Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and Utility Managers from throughout the region. At the 2 day sessions, emphasis was placed on the HLF theme, *Caribbean Water Security – Risks and Opportunities*. Discussions arose around individual country's experiences, challenges and the possible solutions that could be implemented to improve the Water Sector in the region.



At the CWWA Annual General Meeting, the Executive Council reported to the membership on the achievements of the Association for the period 2013-2014;

The Conference culminated with the prestigious Closing Banquet and Awards Ceremony, where awards for best tasting water, best Booth, best Technical Presentation and distinguished and long service were presented to special individuals and organisations. Yet again, we proudly hosted another successful conference and our heartfelt gratitude goes out to the 2014 Conference Planning Committee lead by Cyprian Gibson and his team and to all those who participated in our unique Caribbean conference. Mark your calendar for the 24th Annual Conference and Exhibition, since we are again looking forward to welcoming you in Miami in August 2015!





NEWS IN THE SECTOR

'New climate normal' poses severe risks to development in the Caribbean

December 3, 2014

As the planet warms further, heat-waves and other weather extremes that today occur once in hundreds of years, if ever, would become the "new climate normal," creating a world of increased risks and instability. The consequences for development in Latin America and the Caribbean would be severe as crop yields decline, water resources shift, sea-levels rise, and the livelihoods of millions of people are put at risk, according to the World Bank Group report Turn Down the Heat III: Confronting the New Climate Normal.

<http://www.caribbeannewsnow.com/topstory-%27New-climate-normal%27-poses-severe-risks-to-development-in-the-Caribbean-23882.html>

Jamaican minister urges Caribbean stakeholders to put forward strategy to deal with climate change

November 12, 2014

Jamaica's minister of water, land, environment and climate change, Robert Pickersgill, has called on Caribbean stakeholders to come up with a strategy to address the issue of climate change. Pickersgill made the call at a strategy meeting and workshop for regional leaders in Kingston last Friday.

<http://www.caribbeannewsnow.com/headline-Jamaican-minister-urges-Caribbean-stakeholders-to-put-forward-strategy-to-deal-with-climate-change-23597.html>

SOS: Cap Haitien a city of some one million inhabitants inundated by water!

November 15, 2014

It has been raining for a whole week in the northern part of Haiti. Sometimes hard, sometimes in pianissimo, the eventual effect is the river of La Bande du Nord that discharges itself into the bay of Cap Haitien could not find an easy way to the sea. A new bridge is being constructed on the isthmus;

<http://www.caribbeannewsnow.com/headline-Commentary%3A-SOS%3A-Cap-Haitien-a-city-of-some-one-million-inhabitants-inundated-by-water!-23655.html>

CWWA would like to take this opportunity to send best wishes to all for the season



We hope you have enjoyed our e-newsletters as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to you!

Keep sending your articles!

We look forward to serving you in 2015!