

PRESS RELEASE

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Rhetoric versus Reality: Local Government examined at Caribbean Urban Forum 2016



Paramaribo, Suriname: Delegates from nine Caribbean countries debated the role of local government and local economic development in supporting growth and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at a workshop on Friday, April 29, 2016 during the Caribbean Urban Forum 2016.

Thirty – six participants sponsored by CARILED took part in a half-day policy workshop on the role of local government in achieving, meeting and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals. The workshop was co-facilitated by Ms. Odette

Gauthier, Director, Federation of Canadian Municipalities International, and Mrs. Marion Villanueva, Program Director, CARILED. Participants from Belize, The Bahamas, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as representatives from the Caribbean Association of Local Government Authorities, the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, and the Caribbean Network for Urban Land Management, discussed a range of approaches to local, national and regional achievement of local economic development and, as a consequence, meeting the SDGs. The policy dialogue was the first in a series of regional discussions that will be hosted by CARILED to support sustainable local economic development policies in the Caribbean.

A meeting of the CARILED Technical Working Group, a regional body made up of representatives from ministries with responsibility for local government in seven countries, was also held in Suriname on April 27, 2016.

The Caribbean Urban Forum, hosted by the Anton De Kom University, in collaboration with Blue Space Secretariat and the Caribbean Local Economic Development Project (CARILED), as well as other partners, was held from April 27 – 30, 2016. Just shy of 200 delegates from over 22 countries, including 14 Caribbean countries, took part in the two day conference on a range of topics that included local economic development, local government and decentralization and sustainable urban development.

About CARILED

CARILED is funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada. The program launched in May 2012 with a regional Head Office in Trinidad and Tobago and sub-offices in the Caribbean and Ottawa, Canada. The program is being implemented by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, in partnership with CALGA, CFLGM and CLGF. CARILED currently works in seven Caribbean countries to develop models of LED that can be shared throughout the region. It partners with local government authorities to support the growth and development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). For more information on CARILED, please visit www.cariled.org or contact cariled@fcm.ca. FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES ONLY, please contact kizzannleesam@fcm.ca