Reform of CARICOM 8-9 March 2012

Reform of CARICOM was the major item on the agenda at the 21st Meeting of the Heads of Government held in Aruba on 8 and 9 March 2012. This follows delivery of the Landell Mills Report on 9 March 2012, which recommended new directions for the Community and a restructuring of CARICOM Secretariat.

Commenting on the report, outgoing CARICOM Chairman, Dr Denzel Douglass, Prime Minister St Kitts & Nevis and CARICOM lead for Health, insisted that the in-depth analysis of our institutions must lead us to a better way of doing things, a faster response to false starts and wrong directions, and, more importantly, to the meaningful and effective participation of our citizens in all areas and throughout the entire region.”

He went to emphasis the need for greater integration across the Caribbean Community and he stated that the people of the Community not only expect technical competence from its leaders but demanded visionary leadership.

The creation of CARPHA as a single Regional Public Health agency will support further integration across the Caribbean Community. The Agency’s ability to provide the visionary leadership required to tackle the health challenges posed by lifestyle changes.

During the Opening of the meeting the Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago, Ms Kamla Persad-Bissessar, praised CARPHA and reaffirmed her Government’s commitment to the new Agency, which will spearhead a Regional approach to Public Health.

The meeting recognized the work of Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Lolita Applewhaite who will complete her tenure in June 2012.

The meeting also agreed that it would meet again 4 June 2012.

CARPHA Accelerates Implementation

3rd Meeting of the Executive Board

On 5th March, CARPHA’s Executive Board held its third meeting, Chaired by the Honourable Dr. Bheri Ramsaran, Minister of Health for Guyana. The Executive Board responded to host Dr Fuad Khan’s (Minister of Health for Trinidad and Tobago) challenge to accelerate implementation of CARPHA, by making significant headway.

Among some of the actions, the Executive Board:

- Decided that it would hold operations and take over responsibilities from the five Regional Health Institutes from 1st January 2013
- Welcomed to CARPHA the Environmental Programs Director, Dr Jerome Walcott, and noted the progress of his team on CARPHA’s financial and institutional development.

Agreed to the following:

- Implementation of a policy of collaborations with the private sector, banning associations with the tobacco industry
- Appointment of its Technical Advisory Committee, the final piece of CARPHA’s Governance structure
- Advancing its work in design of the CARPHA Laboratory, which will be located at the Caura Site in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago
- Finalizing the work of the Human Resources Committee before reporting back to the 4th Meeting of the Executive Board
- Establishing expert committees to advance progress on CARPHA’s Surveillance, Research & Development; and Information Technology
- Expanding its approach to resource mobilization to include Brazil and other non traditional partners
- Exploring practical forms of collaboration with PANCAP, Collaborating with the Pan American Health Organisation Health Research Conference (PAHO/WHO), and the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI) to CARPHA
- Exploring the mechanisms for involving NGOs in CARPHA’s work
- Confirmed its next meeting would take place in Aruba on 14 June 2012.

Outcomes of the Heads of Government meeting

CARICOM

This year’s theme is “The Green Economy: Challenges and Opportunities”, and the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI) will partner with the Caribbean Health Research Council (CHRC) for its 57th Annual Scientific Research Conference.

The event takes place 19-21 April, Cayman Islands.

CHRC / CARPHA Health Research Conference

CHRC / CARPHA Health Research Conference

CEHI’s Environmental Forum

CEHI’s Environmental Forum

The event takes place May 21st to May 25th 2012, at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort & The Royal Beach Casino in Frigate Bay, St. Kitts & Nevis.

CARICOM

CEHI’s Environmental Forum

Our colleagues at the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) will be hosting the 6th Caribbean Environmental Forum.

CHRC / CARPHA Health Research Conference

CHRC / CARPHA Health Research Conference

Diary Dates

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