

ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES

25TH MEETING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR TRANSPORT

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, October 14th, 2016.

Directorate's Report

List of Terms and Acronyms	
AFD	French Agency for Development
AMEXCID	Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
COCATRAM	Central American Commission on Maritime Transport
FOCAHIMECA	Strengthening Hydrographic Capacities in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
PMAC	Port Management Association of the Caribbean
SCT	Special Committee for Transport
SDMT	Short Distance Maritime Transport

Directorate's Report

I. Introduction

1. The 24th Meeting of the SCT took place in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on October 16th, 2015. The Meeting was attended by thirteen (13) Member States, three (3) Observer Countries and seven (7) International Organisations.
2. The Directorate for Transport and Disaster Risk Reduction has undergone changes in its composition since then:
 - The tenure of former Research Assistant, Ms Anastasia Ramjag, came to an end on July 29th, 2016.
 - The tenure of former Director of Disaster Risk Reduction and Transport, Mr George Nicholson, also came to an end on July 29th, 2016.
 - Mr Arturo López-Portillo Contreras joined the Directorate in the capacity of Director of Disaster Risk Reduction and Transport on August 1st, 2016.
 - Ms Kenika Espinosa joined the Directorate in the capacity of Research Assistant on September 12th, 2016.

II. Progress made on projects as defined in the Plan of Action of Pétion Ville 2013-2015

1. Maps of Maritime Routes of the Greater Caribbean:

The project is currently in Phase IV, which is being funded by the Government of Mexico in the amount of US\$30,000.00 with an expected duration of twelve (12) months.

Phase I of the project lasted six (6) months and was funded to the amount of US\$35,000.00 by the Government of the Republic of Korea; while Phase II lasted eighteen (18) months and was funded to the amount of US\$55,000.00 by the Government of the Republic of Turkey. Phase III began on August 1st, 2013 and was funded to the amount of US\$33,695.63 by the ACS and COCATRAM, and successfully came to a close on December 31st, 2014.

As of December 31st, 2014, an estimated total of 8,600 visits were made to the project website, distributed among approximately 6,500 users.

STATUS: At the last meeting of the SCT, it was noted that requests had been made by countries along the Pacific Coast of Latin America to be included in the project, leading to the proposal of the “Maritime Routes of Mesoamerican Countries along the Pacific Coast.”

2. The Port and Maritime Strategy of the Greater Caribbean:

The consultant, *Maritime & Transport Business Solutions B.V.* of the Netherlands, began its work on the Study on Port and Maritime Strategies for the Greater Caribbean in March 2014 and the Final Report was delivered to the ACS Secretariat in October 2014.

The consultant had presented the Draft Final Report at a Seminar in Cartagena, Colombia on July 11th, 2014, which involved stakeholders from the Port and Maritime sector of the Greater Caribbean.

Part B of the Final Report, together with its Executive Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations, was translated into French and Spanish and distributed to ACS Member States and the AFD in early 2015.

This project was supported by a contribution of €125,000.00 from the AFD.

STATUS: This study will subsequently lead to the organisation and delivery of a related workshop. Some initiatives derived from the project report, which are aimed at regional port capacity building, are also in development.

3. Air Transport Agreement among Member States and Associate Members of the Association of Caribbean States:

This Agreement was signed on February 12th, 2004, and subsequently entered into force on September 19th, 2008 when the requirements as laid out in Article 26 for entry into force were fulfilled.

The latest accession to the Agreement was that of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana on April 17th, 2014.

STATUS: To date, there have been thirteen (13) ratifications. The Directorate continues to encourage Member States to accede to the Agreement, in accordance with Article 21, by dispatching circular notes. (The list of Member States who have ratified thus far is contained in Annex 1).

4. Cooperation with the Special Committee on Trade on the relevant issues of common interest:

The Directorate continues to liaise with the Directorate of Trade Development and External Economic Relations on matters that are of common interest.

STATUS: Notably, the Directorates of Transport and Trade Development and External Economic Relations are expected to collaborate on an initiative put forward by the Government of Mexico through the AMEXCID called the “Short Distance Maritime Transport in the Greater Caribbean” (SDMT), and more specifically, the FOCAHIMECA project.

5. Participation of the Directorate for Transport in various meetings, training courses and workshops since the last Meeting of the SCT:

- Expert Meeting on Maritime Connectivity in the Greater Caribbean – November 26th, 2015, at the ACS Secretariat in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.
- Workshop on Strengthening Hydrographic Capacities in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean – 1st-4th December, 2015, in Veracruz, Mexico.
- 6th Meeting of the CARICOM Regional Transportation Commission (RTRC) – 1st February, 2016, at the CARICOM Secretariat in Georgetown, Guyana.
- Expert Group Meeting on “Special Needs and Challenges in Developing Countries for Achieving Sustainable Transport” – May 10th – 11th, 2016, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA.

III. Communications Strategy

The ACS continues to strive towards better communication with Member States and partner organisations and in this regard, the Directorate is looking at its communication in the context of the wider communication strategy. In keeping with this general strategy, the Directorate has been contributing articles monthly for publication in the *Trinidad Business Guardian* and in regional media.

Transport-related articles which have been published in the *Trinidad Business Guardian* since the last Meeting of the SCT include the following:

Article Title	Date First Published
<i>Caribbean rail transport: Not lost and not forgotten</i>	1/10/2015
<i>Future of Informal Shipping Sector</i>	12/11/2015
<i>Taxation and the Regional Airline Industry</i>	5/5/2016
<i>Marine Pollution and Regional Maritime Transport Industry</i>	14/7/2016
<i>Managing Risk: Increasing the Resilience of Small Ports</i>	18/8/2016

IV. Conclusion

The progress made by the Directorate for Transport in carrying out its mandate would not have been possible without the active involvement of ACS Member States and partner organisations. In this regard, the Directorate extends its sincere gratitude to you and wishes to express its deep appreciation for your participation and looks forward to your continued support.

Annex 1

"Air Transport Agreement among the Member States and Associate Member States of the Association of Caribbean States"

Status of Ratification

The Air Transport Agreement among the Member States and Associate Member States of the Association of Caribbean States entered into force on 19/09/2008. To date, there are thirteen (13) ratifications Member States and Associate Member States, as follows:

Members	Date of Ratification
Aruba	21/04/2006
Barbados	26/11/2004
Belize	28/07/2005
Cuba	10/09/2007
Guatemala	03/09/2008
Guyana	17/04/2014 (accession)
Haiti	13/07/2009
Jamaica	28/07/2005
Netherlands Antilles	21/04/2006
Nicaragua	12/07/2011
Panama	14/07/2005
Suriname	26/10/2007
Venezuela	24/10/2007