

# OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN



The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar S.C., Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (center) and His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan (right) with members of the official delegation following bilateral talks

Japan's Prime Minister, His Excellency Shinzo Abe paid a historic two-day visit to Trinidad and Tobago in late July, solidifying his country's relations with the Caribbean through three pillars of cooperation on sustainable development, international collaboration and deepening and expanding existing ties.

**Support Trinidad and Tobago's candidature to host the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Secretariat**

## EDITORIAL



Welcome ceremony of the Official Visit

The Official Visit to Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean region on 27 and 28 July, 2014 by His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan is historic in the context of it being the first time visit for a Head of Government of Japan. It is also a commemorative year for both countries in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of diplomatic relations in conjunction with the Japan-CARICOM Friendship Year. Both countries are keen on strengthening relations and it is hoped that this visit would achieve this objective.

Prime Minister Abe emphasised that one of the bonds between Japan and the CARICOM Member States related to the solidarity of being maritime nations. Japan has provided assistance utilizing technologies and knowledge to address such issues as climate change, waste management and capacity

building of fishing industries. It is expected that Japan will continue to address challenges aimed at sustainable development as well as overcoming vulnerabilities. It is worth noting that three (3) naval vessels from the Japan Maritime Defence Force made a port of call at the Port of Port of Spain to commemorate the Anniversary celebrations.

Trinidad and Tobago and CARICOM are attractive destinations of tourism and are significant as a source for natural gas, asphalt, coffee and other natural resources. Japan investment represents a “win-win” relationship through the development of human resources and innovative technologies. In the bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister Abe identified Environment and Disaster Risk Management as a priority

area for assistance to CARICOM, indicating that Japan would actively support the response toward climate change in the region; promote the transfer of technologies towards adaptation and mitigation through various pilot projects and build a regional platform for information sharing.

The construction of the dimethyl ether (and methanol) plant in Trinidad and Tobago underscored a very important area in need of investment, to wit, the downstream petrochemical industry. The agreement has opened the doorway to further technical cooperation and business competitiveness. An invitation was extended to Japanese firms to locate their investments in the Tamana InTech Park in the areas of Information Communications Technology, Clean Technology/Renewable Energy and Food Production. Trinidad and Tobago was presented as a Gateway to the CARICOM region and the wider Americas in the context of triangular cooperation projects. Japan was envisaged in a focused partnership to facilitate capacity building by providing technical assistance to CARICOM. It was noted that the 4th Foreign Ministers High-level Meeting would be held in Tokyo in November 2014.

Trinidad and Tobago proposes to establish an InvesTT office in Tokyo to accommodate trade and investment flows. Moreover, consideration will be given to establish a diplomatic presence in Tokyo with a view to facilitate increased tourism, trade and investment opportunities, not only for Trinidad and Tobago, but also for CARICOM Member States.

With regard to Trinidad and Tobago’s lobby for support as the host for the Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), it was indicated that immediate consideration would be given to Japan’s request for support in the forthcoming United Nations Security Council elections in the context of a reciprocal arrangement for Trinidad and Tobago’s 2027-2028 bid for a non-permanent seat on the Council.

## Official Visit of the Prime Minister of Japan

continues from page 1

The Official Visit of His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan during the period July 27-28 was historic as he was the first Prime Minister of Japan to officially visit Trinidad and Tobago. This visit was the highlight of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The year 2014 has also been designated as the Japan-CARICOM Friendship Year to enhance relations in areas of culture, trade and tourism. The Japan Prime Minister’s 11 - day itinerary also included Mexico, Colombia, Chile and Brazil.

Prior to a CARICOM-Japan Summit, Trinidad and Tobago’s Prime Minister, the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar held bilateral talks with Mr. Abe. Mrs. Persad-Bissessar invited Japan to support Trinidad and Tobago’s bid to host the Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty which establishes international standards for the movement of conventional arms and ammunition across borders. Both Trinidad and Tobago and Japan signed the

Treaty in 2013. Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar also recognised Japan’s and Trinidad and Tobago’s bid for non-permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council.

Prime Minister Abe expressed his gratitude to the Trinidad and Tobago Government for its decision to waive entry visa requirements for Japanese nationals entering the country for business and tourism purposes for a maximum of 90 days. Discussions also focused on Trinidad and Tobago as an attractive destination for trade and investment, in particular, the Tamana Intech Park, the first science and technology park in the Caribbean. Japanese companies were also invited to invest in areas of ICTs, clean technologies, and agro-processing in Trinidad and Tobago.

At the start of the CARICOM-Japan Summit attended by nine Caribbean leaders, Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar welcomed Japan’s interest in having a Trinidad and Tobago Embassy in Tokyo which she said would facilitate increased tourism, trade and investment opportunities, not only for the

twin-Republic, but also CARICOM Member States. The Prime Minister undertook to hold immediate discussions with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Winston Dookeran towards its establishment. As an immediate action, Trinidad and Tobago will establish a presence through InvesTT.

In 2013, Trinidad and Tobago exported TTD \$1,287,147,223 in goods to Japan, the seventh largest export partner and the balance of trade between both countries was in Trinidad and Tobago’s favour. Among the major exports were Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), cocoa beans and bitumen and asphalt. Imports from Japan mainly comprised automobiles, diesel powered trucks and buses, automobile parts, and tuna.

The Prime Minister also welcomed the involvement of Japan’s Mitsubishi Consortium and Massy Holdings in a TTD\$ 5.4 billion investment in a Methanol and Di Methyl Ether (DME) project at Union Estate, La Brea, the largest gas-based initiative planned within the last five years and seen as an

## CARICOM/Japan Summit



The Honourable Kamlal Persad-Bissessar, S.C., M.P. Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, CARICOM Sec. Gen. Ambassador Irvin LaRoque and CARICOM Heads of Government at the Welcome Banquet

strongly to the belief that the benefit to our peoples must remain our most important objective,” Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar remarked.

At a post-Summit media briefing, Chair of CARICOM, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, the Honourable Gaston Browne welcomed Japan’s recognition of the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and low lying coastal states in particular and

the challenge of accessing concessionary financing because of their classification as Middle Income Countries. He suggested that, with Japan’s help, a case be made out for new and alternative sources of

development funding for CARICOM states and countries with similar vulnerabilities.

As part of its development strategies, the CARICOM Commission of the Economy identified the Middle East and Asia as non-traditional sources for long term financing. Prime Minister Browne said the Caribbean would welcome Japanese financiers in a public-private partnership for infrastructure development.

Other Caribbean leaders attending the CARICOM-Japan Summit were the Rt. Hon. Freundel Stuart, Prime Minister of Barbados, Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica, Dr. the Right Hon. Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada, H.E. Donald Ramotar, President of the Republic of Guyana, H.E. Michel Joseph Martelly, President of the Republic of Haiti, The Rt. Hon. Dr. Denzil Llewellyn Douglas, Prime Minister of Saint Christopher and Nevis, The Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, Dr. the Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and H.E. Robert A. L. Ameeralli, Vice-President of the Republic of Suriname.

“As we begin today’s summit, I give the assurance to His Excellency the Prime Minister and his delegation that we are ready and open for business and hold

## Signing of a Memorandum of Corporation on Renewable Energy and Exchange of Notes on Climate Change

Two project documents to assist CARICOM countries in areas of climate change and renewable energy were signed during the media briefing.

The ‘Project for Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership’ which was signed by Japan’s Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, H.E. Mr. Yoshimasa Tezuka and Mr. Richard Blewitt, United Nations Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative to Trinidad and Tobago will assist Caribbean countries in developing and implementing climate change policies.

A ‘Memorandum of Cooperation on Promotion of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in the Eastern Caribbean Region’ signed by the IDB, the CDB and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) seeks to assist the Caribbean in developing renewable energy to tackle high energy cost and reduce dependence on fossil fuel-generated energy.

Stressing solidarity, Prime Minister Abe announced Japan’s policy towards CARICOM which consists of three pillars.

### First Pillar: Cooperation towards sustainable development including overcoming vulnerabilities particular to Small Island Developing States

Japan will actively engage in international discussions concerning vulnerabilities particular to SIDS. Japan has extended cooperation towards overcoming vulnerabilities particular to CARICOM Member States utilizing Japanese technologies and expertise nurtured through its similar experience, in the fields of disaster risk reduction, counter measures against environment, climate change, energy, waste management and fisheries amongst others.

The total amount of Japan grant aid to CARICOM Member States, not including Haiti, for

this fiscal year is expected to increase six-fold compared to the annual levels of the past three years. With regard to Haiti, Japan is carrying out assistance towards post-earthquake reconstruction and stabilisation.

Considering the “vulnerabilities particular to small island states” of CARICOM Member States, Japan recognizes the importance of assisting them from perspectives other than those based on per capita income. For future cooperation, Japan will first conduct field surveys: possible areas of assistance, for example, include disaster risk reduction and environment, with concrete arrangements of cooperation to be considered based on the survey results.

### Second Pillar: Deepening and expanding fraternal bonds of cooperation and friendship

CARICOM Member States boast a proud heritage in academia, literature, the arts, music and sports as exemplified amongst others by three Nobel laureates. Japan looks to dramatically expand the reach of its exchanges, already elevated through the Japan-CARICOM Friendship Year 2014, to further foster mutual understanding and respect.

More than 300 participants from CARICOM Member States have engaged in English language education in Japan. Japanese language education has likewise taken root in the University of the West Indies. Japan will promote Japanese language education through strengthening cooperation with the Japan Foundation and through the utilization of tools such as Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

Japan will also promote tourism between Japan and CARICOM. CARICOM Member States will be participating in the “Tourism EXPO JAPAN” to be held in September 2014 through the Japan-CARICOM Friendship Fund.

Japan is looking forward to working with CARICOM Member States in fostering friendship and mutual understanding towards 2020 and spread the value of sports and the Olympic and Paralympic Movement through the international cooperation scheme “Sport for Tomorrow”, amongst others.

### Third Pillar: Cooperation in addressing challenges of the international community

Japan, from the policy of “Proactive Contributor to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation, will engage more proactively in strengthening its UN diplomacy, urging disarmament and non-proliferation, promoting international peace cooperation, addressing development issues and challenges of global concern, ensuring human security, amongst others.

Japan places importance on its policy dialogues with CARICOM Member States which share fundamental values and looks to strengthen its diplomatic structure.

Japan will strengthen dialogue and cooperation with CARICOM Member States concerning various challenges faced by the international community, such as: United Nations reform including concrete progress on UN Security Council reform; cooperation on climate change towards an agreement on a new, fair and effective international framework with the participation of all countries; achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and formulation of a post-2015 development agenda; and disaster risk reduction.

Japan will work with CARICOM Member States in promoting the three principles of the rule of law at sea: making and clarifying claims based on international law; not using force or coercion and seeking to settle disputes by peaceful means.

## Statement by the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar S.C., Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the crash of Malaysian Airlines on July 17, 2014



It is with great sadness that I learnt of the tragedy of Malaysia Airlines flight MH 17 on July 17, 2014 in which 289 persons lost their lives, among which 189 are reported to be Dutch nationals, 44 citizens of Malaysia, 27 from Australia and others from Indonesia, the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, the Philippines, Canada and New Zealand.

On behalf of the Government and People of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, I extend deep condolences to the Governments and Peoples of these countries on the loss of their loved ones - family members, friends and colleagues. I enjoin our prayers to theirs and trust that our expression of solidarity will strengthen their spirit at this very challenging moment.

## Statement by the Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the situation in the Middle East



*Issued 31 July, 2014*

Trinidad and Tobago expresses serious concern over the unrelenting prosecution of violence in the Middle East and condemns the reported grave breaches of international humanitarian law and human rights law occurring in that region. Of paramount concern is the early morning shelling of a UN school sheltering 3300 Palestinian refugees in the Jabaliya refugee camp resulting in the deaths of 20 persons, including children.

In this regard, the warning last week by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights that certain acts falling within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court may well have

been committed against the people of Gaza and, to some extent, against the people of Israel, is particularly disturbing and cannot be ignored by the international community.

It is for this reason that Trinidad and Tobago regards the decision of the Human Rights Council under Resolution A/HRC/S-21/L.1 to set up an independent Commission of Inquiry as a prudent and necessary step.

Despite regional and international efforts to broker an "immediate and unconditional humanitarian ceasefire", the onslaught continues with total deaths in Gaza amounting today to 1250, while on

the Israeli side 53 soldiers and two civilians including a Thai national have been killed.

Trinidad and Tobago joins in the numerous calls issued by many countries around the world for the Security Council to act decisively and with alacrity to stem any further deterioration of the humanitarian situation and to restore calm. In that regard, the assessment by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon on 28th July, 2014, that the situation in Gaza is now critical is a compelling call to urgent action by the Security Council, by the combatants and by the international community. The announcement last week of "a prolonged campaign" in Gaza heightens the urgency of the Council's intervention, in the name of humanity.

Trinidad and Tobago appeals to the combatants, once more, to make space to ensure that all those in need of medical care, food and other forms of humanitarian assistance are allowed full, immediate and unconditional access to such support, either through their own efforts or by the efforts of United Nations humanitarian workers to reach the affected areas and communities. Access to care and support must not be a casualty of military action, either by commission or omission.

Trinidad and Tobago urges all concerned to maintain and strengthen their efforts to achieve a durable cease-fire, as hostile military action on both sides cannot provide a solution of the Israeli - Palestine conflict, and could in fact so complicate the situation as to make a return to the negotiating table in search of a political solution significantly more difficult.

## Providing Professionals with tools to succeed in a global environment

Protocol Partners-Washington Center for Protocol (Washington, D.C.) recently announced its successful collaboration with the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean, Institute of International Relations of the University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus, and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, in development and delivery of a training module entitled Protocol and Diplomatic Law: Rules and Procedures.

The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean – a global academy for the Caribbean Diplomacy, the first of its kind in the region, seeks to provide learning

and training to a cross-section of target groups and beneficiaries involved in international cooperation negotiations within the CARICOM region and beyond. It is a joint initiative of UWI and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

During the period 23 June, 2014 to 4 July, 2014 founding partner, Gary Biggs, and senior associate, Lawrence Dunham, delivered two, one-week training modules at the St. Augustine Campus to over 120 attendees representing a cross section from both the public and private sectors. Senior government and

international officials were present to support and participate in a number of the module's sessions.

Protocol Partners-Washington Center for Protocol, Inc. provides protocol consulting services as well as tailored training in protocol, diplomacy, business etiquette, cross-cultural communication, leadership, communications, event management, customer service, and media engagement. The firm provides on-site protocol management and staffing for distinguished visitor programmes, summits, events, ceremonies, and conferences.



Participants of the second session of the Protocol Training conducted by the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean in collaboration with Protocol Partners-Washington Center for Protocol

## Statement on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court



*Issued 17 July, 2014*

Trinidad and Tobago joins with others on this day, 17th July, to mark the historic development in international law when the Diplomatic Conference culminated in the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

A central element of the object and purpose of the Rome Statute is reflected in the fundamental

principle that no one is immune under international law for crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or aggression. Application of this Statute will ensure that those persons responsible for the worst possible crimes are brought to justice in all cases, primarily by States, but as a last resort, by the International Criminal Court.

Trinidad and Tobago notes with satisfaction that the ICC has become fully operational in a relatively short period of time since the entry into force of the Rome Statute. The Court can point to a record of prosecuting individuals who have been accused of committing crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court. The hapless victims of serious crimes, especially the most vulnerable, namely, children and women, now have an institution which would not

only bring to justice the perpetrators of these crimes, but a Tribunal which provides for their participation in the trials. They also have a vehicle which would provide them with compensation as a means of restitution for the injury they would have suffered.

Earlier this year, Trinidad and Tobago and the rest of the international community lost a beacon and a seminal contributor to the development of international criminal law in former Prime Minister and former President of Trinidad and Tobago, H.E. Arthur NR Robinson. We mourn his passing but we take comfort in the fact that he has left a rich legacy which has contributed to international peace and justice.

The universality principle of international law is grounded in the recognition that 'there is strength in numbers'. Trinidad and Tobago, therefore, attaches the highest importance to the universal application of the Rome Statute and the concomitant eradication of impunity in the world for those heinous crimes for which the Statute vests the ICC with jurisdiction, so that the perpetrators of the most heinous international crimes will find no sanctuary, will enjoy no impunity, but will have to accept individual criminal responsibility for their actions.

## T&T and Japan celebrate ties on JS Kashmia



Chief Justice Ivor Archie, Acting Prime Minister Errol McLeod, Minister of Education, Dr. the Honourable Tim Gopeesingh and Ambassador Tezuka open the barrel of sake during the reception

Trinidad and Tobago and Japan celebrated their 50th Anniversary of diplomatic relations aboard the JS Kashima on 15th July, 2014 among other bilateral

events to mark the occasion. During the reception hosted by Japanese Ambassador Yoshimasa Tezuka and Rear Admiral Hideki Yusa, Commander of the

training squadron, Ambassador Tezuka reminded all that “their presence here is a symbolic event that shows the close relationship between Japan and Trinidad and Tobago.”

During the reception Kagami-biraki was performed by Acting Prime Minister Errol McLeod, Chief Justice Ivor Archie, Minister of Education, Dr. the Honourable Tim Gopeesingh, Minister of Transport, the Honourable Stephen Cadiz and Ambassador Tezuka. Robed in traditional Japanese jackets, they opened the barrels of sake that, once open, were served in the traditional square black lacquered boxes. Kagami-biraki is a traditional Japanese ceremony performed at celebratory events: the lid of the sake barrel is broken open by a wooden mallet and the sake is served to everyone present.

Three Japan Maritime Self Defence Force Training Vessels, JS Kashima, JS Setoyuki and JS Asagiri, docked on the Port of Port of Spain during the period Monday July 14th to 17th 2014. The Embassy of Japan, along with members of these Vessels, held a variety of events which included a wreath laying ceremony with the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard, open day for local primary schools, sport exchanges with the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard in football and baseball and Taiko (Japanese drums) Mini Concert.

## Trinidad and Tobago and CARICOM's relationship with Japan Commemorated with cultural exhibition



Director of the Asia, Middle East and Pacific Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Tedwin Herbert and First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan, Mr. Shoichi Ueda cut the ceremonial ribbon at the official launch of the Cultural Exhibition

50 years of diplomatic relations between Trinidad and Tobago and Japan and 20 years of friendship between Japan and CARICOM were commemorated with a Cultural Exhibition hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Members of the public had the

opportunity to view over 20 photographs along with Japanese artifacts and bonsai trees which were displayed at the Central Bank Museum Foyer from 21st to 25th July, 2014.

Mr. Tedwin Herbert, Director of the Africa, Asia,

Middle East and Pacific Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Shoichi Ueda, First Secretary and Public Relations and Cultural Officer at the Embassy of Japan delivered remarks at the launch of the Exhibition. Both Mr. Herbert and Mr. Ueda highlighted the good relationship shared by Trinidad and Tobago and Japan and Japan and CARICOM, and proposed enhanced relations in the areas of culture, trade and tourism in the future. Mr. Herbert also emphasized that since 1964, Trinidad and Tobago and Japan have forged ties in both the bilateral and multilateral spheres, and that “these ties attest to our united commitment to strengthening the bilateral relationship between our nations.”

Upcoming events to be held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to commemorate Trinidad and Tobago's and CARICOM's relationship with Japan are a Cultural Exhibition at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus and an Anime Competition.

## NATIONAL DAYS

## Celebration of the National Day of the United States of America 2014



The 238th Anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America was commemorated on 3rd June, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad. Ms. Margaret Parillon, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, extended heartfelt congratulations on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to all Americans as we recognised the work of their founding fathers in their quest for American liberty.

Ms. Parillon stated that the United States of America has distinguished itself as a champion of human rights, a leader in innovation, committed to national, regional and international security and dedicated to improving the quality of life enjoyed by American people.

Permanent Secretary Parillon further stated the United States of America has been a major ally in the securing of our country's borders, and those of the region. She thanked the United States Department of State for naming Mrs. Charmaine Gandhi-Andrews, Director of the Trinidad and Tobago Counter-Trafficking Unit, as one of the 2014 Trafficking in Persons Reports Heroes. This indeed bears testimony of the significance of international partnerships and our shared commitment to countering this transnational threat.

Ms. Parillon raised a toast to the enduring friendship of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America.

## Bastille Day 2014



On behalf of the Government and the People of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago the Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs extended congratulations to the French Republic on the observance of Bastille Day 2014. The commemoration took place at the French Ambassador's Residence on 14th July, 2014.

Minister Dookeran took the opportunity to welcome Ms. Christiane Mage, Vice President of the Regional Council of Martinique, and emphasised that, "we embrace the richness of the cultural civilisation that we call Caribbean, which today the world has acknowledged and appreciated. For it is that Caribbean civilisation that brings us together with Europe, Latin America and North America in a new thrust of cooperation."

In his address, His Excellency Jacques Sturm, Ambassador of the French Republic to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago announced that after 52 years of diplomatic presence in Trinidad and Tobago the French Embassy was being downsized, with its trade section being transferred to Venezuela and the consular section to St. Lucia. Ambassador Sturm further stated that the French Embassy will remain in Port of Spain and visa applications for France and French overseas territories will be processed by the Spanish Embassy in Port of Spain.

## Canada Day 2014



Dr. the Honourable Roodal Moonilal, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and His Excellency Gérard Latulippe, High Commissioner for Canada as they raised a toast during the reception

On July 1st 2014 Trinidad and Tobago nationals joined with Canadians at the official residence of the High Commissioner for Canada to commemorate the enactment of the British North America Act of July 1, 1876, the historic event which resulted in the formation of the country of Canada 147 years ago.

Dr. the Honourable Roodal Moonilal, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, in his remarks on the Anniversary of Canada Day, pointed out that the occasion provided a significant opportunity to renew one's commitment to fundamental values and principles so that they continue to underline endeavours and achievements in the period ahead.

His Excellency Gérard Latulippe, High Commissioner for Canada described the relationship between Trinidad and Tobago and Canada as a partnership. Canadian presence has enriched the fabric of life in Trinidad and Tobago and has been felt in the energy and financial services section.

Minister Moonilal re-affirmed the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the friendship which continues to flourish between countries.

## Turkey to establish Embassy for the Region in Port of Spain



CARICOM Foreign Ministers at the First CARICOM-Turkey Consultation and Cooperation Meeting

The Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs was informed by his Turkish counterpart the Honourable Ahmet Davutoglu that Turkey had agreed to establish an Embassy in Port of Spain that would service the entire CARICOM Region.

This announcement was made at a press conference following the First CARICOM-Turkey Consultation and Cooperation Meeting, held on 18-20 July, 2014 in Istanbul, Turkey.

At the Meeting, Minister Dookeran spoke on the

issue of the advocacy of Turkey on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) at the G20. Turkey, is a member and assumes Chairmanship of that group in 2015. He urged Turkey to use this forum to advocate the CARICOM position on key issues on its agenda particularly the notion of "Graduation" which would effectively curtail access to financing for countries of the Region, if the old formula of per capita based assessment is utilised. Minister Dookeran further made reference to international financial rule-making, pointing out that small economies willing to comply with financial rules must also be participants in the determination of those rules. He made note of some challenges beyond globalisation which included transportation and the convergence of economies, which he described as integration without borders.

## Judge Lennox Ballah Honoured



L-R - Mr. Nii Odunton, ISA Sec. Gen.; Ms. Lennon Ballah-Lashley, daughter of the late Lennox Ballah; H.E. Rev. Dr. Iva Gloudon, High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago to Jamaica; Ambassador Eden Charles, Deputy Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations and Shawn Lashley, grandson of the late Lennox Ballah

*Reprinted with the kind permission of the Jamaica Observer*

The High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in Jamaica in association with the

International Seabed Authority (ISA) unveiled a monument in honour of the late Lennox Fitzroy

Ballah, Trinidad and Tobago Jurist and former judge at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. The unveiling took place at the High Commission in Kingston on 18th July, 2014.

The late Mr. Ballah served Trinidad and Tobago in several fields of national endeavour and was instrumental in the development of the new corpus of the Law of the Sea at the United Nations (1967-1982).

He was credited as being one of the architects of the new public order for the oceans which came into force with the signing of the 1982 United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea, an accolade which earned him a seat on the bench of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea located in Hamburg, Germany.

Among persons paying tribute to Mr. Ballah ahead of the unveiling of a monument in his honour were ISA representatives His Excellency Eden Charles, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations; His Excellency Nii Odunton, Secretary General, ISA; Ambassador Satya Nandan (Fiji); Ambassador TTB Koh (Singapore); President of the Council, Ambassador Tommo Monthe (Cameroon) and President of the Assembly, Ambassador Antonio DaCosta Silva (Brazil).

The monument was unveiled by Her Excellency Rev. Dr. Iva Gloudon, High Commissioner of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to Jamaica; His Excellency Nii Odunton, Mrs. Lennon Ballah Lashley daughter of the late Judge Ballah and grandson Shawn Lashley in the presence of over 150 international delegates who attended the 20th session of the ISA.

Mr. Lennox Fitzroy Ballah passed away in March 2003.