
Students should be able to: explain the role of regional agencies in the integration process

Functional cooperation has been established as being essential to the Caribbean region. The aim of functional cooperation is to positively affect the quality of life of citizens across the region through the development of specially selected areas and by significantly reducing crime levels.

Functional Cooperation:

- refers to cooperation in areas not directly linked to economic integration
- aims to produce results that will improve the quality of life of citizens across the region
- involves CARICOM countries jointly operating, sharing common services and cooperating in functional matters such as health, education, culture, security and communication

Benefits of Functional Cooperation:

- Members are able to share solutions to common problems
- Skills, talents and experience of the region's population can be shared
- Resources will be used and managed more efficiently as a result of cooperation in areas such as education, health, sports and natural disasters
- It develops regional unity and solidarity as members work together to achieve the goals of the countries.

Areas of regional cooperation:

AGRICULTURE: Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute

Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) The Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) became operational in 1975, with its headquarters at the University of the

West Indies, St. Augustine. The institution serves the agricultural research and developmental needs of CARICOM states.

Benefits of CARDI:

- Provides information related to agricultural practices.
- Identifies ways in which the cost of production in agriculture would be lowered.
- Conducts programmes which include research on ways by which agricultural production can be improved.
- Provides technical assistance to agricultural businesses and small farmers; the aim is to improve productivity and explore new agricultural opportunities.
- Conducts research in order to find solutions to plant and animal diseases.
- Conducts programmes that make use of technology generation, adaptation and transfer.
- Promotes the use of sustainable development practices.

SPORTS - OECS SPORTS DESK

The Organization of Eastern Caribbean Sports Desk was started in 1984 after the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States decided to place more emphasis on sports. The Sports Desk aims to:

- integrate the people in the Eastern Caribbean through sports competitions and
- improve performance of the Eastern Caribbean people in all sporting disciplines.

The Sports Desk contributes to the development of sports by:

- Assisting in the planning and execution of sporting competitions in the region
- Promoting the integration of physical education at all levels of the education system
- Partnering with regional and international institutions to offer programmes of study in Physical/Sports Education
- Assisting training institutions which specialise in physical education to improve on their offerings
- Obtaining financial and human resources to improve the effectiveness of sports administration, programme development, planning and marketing in the region within the
- Ministries of Sports, sports clubs and educational institutions.

SPORTS - CONCACAF is the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Football.

CONCACAF is the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Football. It is the regional body affiliated to FIFA, the world governing body of football. The CONCACAF region is guaranteed three teams at the football World Cup held every four years. In the past, such countries as the United States of America, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Costa Rica and Mexico have represented the region at the World Cup.

CONCACAF organizes friendly matches between member countries of FIFA, as well as international competitions and provides for the development of football through training of officials and technical personnel such as coaches and trainers.

SPORTS – The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB)

The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) is the organization responsible for the West Indies cricket team and the administration of cricket in the various Caribbean countries. It has been a member of the International Cricket Council (ICC) since 1926. The national cricket association of each Caribbean country is affiliated to the WICB and these national boards have representatives on the board of the WICB.

The WICB employs management staff, technical staff and players for matches. It negotiates contracts with the West Indies Players Association (WIPA) and also enters into contracts with corporate firms for sponsorship arrangements for the team. The board, since colonial times through independence and republicanism, has given the people a oneness even when insularity surfaced. The West Indies cricket team has produced several world- class cricketers and leaders of the cricket world.

HEALTH - CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE (CEHI)

The Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) started in 1988, with headquarters in Castries, St. Lucia. CEHI aims to improve environmental health in the Caribbean region. The CEHI serves as the technical arm of Caricom that provides technical and advisory services to the sixteen member states in areas of environmental management and environmental health.

The Institute:

- provides environmental health information to member states
- tests the quality of ground and potable (drinking) water
- collects and treats waste water
- provides advice on water resource management
- provides advice on the disposal of solid, liquid and hazardous waste

- conducts research on the effects of marine and coastal pollution

HEALTH - CARIBBEAN EPIDEMIOLOGY CENTRE (CAREC)

The Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) began its operation in January 1975, with its head office in Port of Spain, Trinidad. CAREC provides laboratory reference and epidemiology services to member countries of CARICOM and tries to ensure that the health of Caribbean people is protected.

The Centre:

- conducts research on diseases such as typhoid, cholera, sexually transmitted diseases and poliomyelitis;
- assists member countries in upgrading their national laboratories through training courses and the introduction of new methods for fighting infectious diseases;
- in collaboration with the Ministry of Health in each member state, assists in assessing the health status of Caribbean nationals, assesses trends and assists in developing public health responses.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE - Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)

This agency was established in 1991 (with headquarters in Barbados) and given the mandate to coordinate regional disaster management activities. There are currently sixteen members referred to as Participatory States. The agency is governed by a Council comprising the Heads of Government of Participating States and is headed by a coordinator.

CDEMA is the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency. This is the new name of the regional disaster management body formerly known as CDDERA (the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency). September 1, 2009 was the official date of transition to CDEMA. CDEMA has replaced

and advanced the work of CDERA by embracing the principles and practice of Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) which is an integrated and proactive approach to disaster management. CDM seeks to reduce the risk and loss associated with natural and technological hazards and the effects of climate change to enhance regional sustainable development.

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) seeks to carry out the following functions in all participating States:

- Mobilizing and coordinating disaster relief;
- Mitigating or eliminating, as far as practicable, the immediate consequences of disaster in Participating States;
- Providing immediate and coordinated response by means of emergency disaster relief to any affected Participating State;
- Securing, coordinating and providing to interested inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations reliable and comprehensive information on disasters affecting Participating States;
- Encouraging- The adoption of disaster loss reduction and mitigation policies and practices at the national and regional level;
- Cooperative arrangements and mechanisms to facilitate the development of a culture of disaster loss reduction; and
- Coordinating the establishment, enhancement and maintenance of adequate emergency disaster response capabilities among Participating States.

Media - Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)

The Caribbean Media Corporation, formed in August 2000 as a result of a merger between the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) and the Caribbean Broadcasting Union's commercial operations, is the leading multimedia organization in the region. It is dedicated to the excellence in communication services, which include radio, television, print, satellite

uplink distribution and news media across the Caribbean, the United States of America and around the world.

Mission:

- To work with media houses in the region to highlight the best skills in journalism, broadcasting, publishing and technical services.

Way Forward

The CMC strives to make inroads within the media industry by forging closer links between the Caribbean and the rest of the world. They continue to expand its outreach through satellite delivered media services for radio and television, while setting the standard for quality and reliability within the Caribbean's media industry.

EDUCATION - University of the West Indies (UWI)

Established in 1948 as University College of the West Indies. It currently has three campuses: Mona in Jamaica (1948), St. Augustine in Trinidad (1960), and Cave Hill in Barbados (1963). This institution developed a curriculum in the various faculties that were relevant to the needs of the people in the Caribbean. Before then, Caricom members had to go abroad for higher education. Since then, the information and knowledge gained from UWI has assisted greatly in the social well-being and higher standard of life among Caribbean people.

The University has six Faculties offering first degree programmes in agriculture, arts, the humanities, education, engineering, law, medical sciences, natural and pure and applied sciences and social sciences. Certificates, diplomas and postgraduate degree programmes as well as a variety of specialist degrees are also offered.

The University's central administration is located at the Mona Campus. The University is Headed by Chancellor.

the mission of The UWI is:

- To advance education and create knowledge through excellence in teaching, research, innovation, public service, intellectual leadership and outreach in order to support the inclusive (social, economic, political, cultural, environmental) development of the Caribbean region and beyond.

EDUCATION - CARIBBEAN EXAMINATION COUNCIL (CXC)

The Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) is an institution that provides regional and internationally recognised secondary school leaving examinations relevant to the needs of the region.

The Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) was established in 1972 under Agreement by the Participating Governments in the region to conduct such examinations as it may think appropriate and award certificates and diplomas on the results. Previously, the examination body (General Certificate of Education) was based in England and the subject matter was more relevant to Europe than the region. C.X.C. replaced the General Certificate of Education (GCE) examinations used by England. C.X.C. is an institution of Caribbean people by Caribbean people.

CXC is empowered to:

- conduct such examinations as it may think appropriate
- award certificates and diplomas based on the results of these examinations
- prescribe the qualifications requirements for candidates and fees payable by them
- regulate the conduct and operations of CXC Examinations

- assist in Common Entrance and other types of examinations
- produce teaching materials
- train teachers to use the CXC syllabi
- advise regional governments on education.

JUSTICE - CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE (CCJ)

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) critically determines how the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) functions. The Court attracts investment to the region by providing stability through the uniform interpretation and application of the law.

The CCJ has exclusive and compulsory authority in interpreting and applying the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. This means that parties in dispute under the Treaty only have judicial resolution in this court.

The CCJ also serves as the final Court of Appeal for some Member states replacing the United Kingdom's Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (JCPC) as the court of last resort in civil and criminal matters.

Do you know when the agreement establishing the CCJ was signed?

The Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice was signed on 14th February 2001 by the Heads of Government of CARICOM countries. By signing the Agreement, the Heads of Government showed that they were in support of the CCJ and wanted their country to be a part of it.

Do you know how many CARICOM states/countries signed the agreement establishing the CCJ?

The Agreement Establishing the CCJ was signed by the Prime Ministers or Presidents of 12 CARICOM states.

Do you know when the CCJ was inaugurated?

The Caribbean Court of Justice began operations on Saturday 16 April 2005.

Do you know which CARICOM country is home to the CCJ?

The Caribbean Court of Justice is an "itinerant" or travelling Court, which means that it can travel to and operate in any contracting parties. However, its headquarters is in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. This country is referred to as the "seat" of the Court.

Do you know that the CCJ is two courts in one?

The CCJ is two courts in one! The CCJ has two functions:

- An Original Jurisdiction, which deals with your right to move between CARICOM countries freely and your right to move your money and your business. This is the basis of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas;
- An Appellate Jurisdiction, to hear appeals from courts of those countries which decide to use it for this reason.

N.B. All CARICOM member states who have signed the agreement establishing the CCJ are members of the CCJ.

Do you know that the CCJ is an "itinerant" court?

The Caribbean Court of Justice is an "itinerant" or travelling Court, which means that it can travel to and operate in any contracting party.

SECURITY - Regional Security System (RSS)

The Regional Security System (RSS) was created to meet the need for a collective response to security threats and maximise regional security. It became operational in October 1982, when Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, St.

Lucia, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide for mutual assistance on request. Later, other countries joined the organisation. Although the organisation was a part of the CARICOM Treaty on Security Assistance, it was not created by CARICOM or designated under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. Despite not being created by CARICOM, it is recognised operationally within CARICOM security arrangements and work programme.

Benefits of RSS:

- Through collaboration, mobilizes efforts to ensure that citizens function in a peaceful climate
- Participates in intelligence gathering and coordination
- Promotes cooperation among member states in:
 - prevention and interdiction measures to curtail the trafficking of illegal drugs
 - the protection of fish sanctuaries and the prevention of illegal fishing
 - the prevention of smuggling illegal drugs and immigrants
 - maritime policing duties
 - national and/or regional emergencies
 - carrying out search and rescue operations
 - immigration control