

Foreword from the President, The Caribbean Academy of Sciences (CAS)

The Caribbean region has been confronted in recent years with an unprecedented number of problems, although the countries are blessed with excellent physical environments, natural resources and good socio-political settings. The problems being faced are diverse in nature: (i) a high percentage of unemployed and persons living below the poverty line due to fragile economies, (ii) an increase in the frequency of natural disasters mainly hurricanes, presumably due to climate change, and (iii) staggering increases in energy bills resulting from the lack of creative governmental planning and policies on energy security. The Caribbean Academy of Sciences advocates that the only way to solve these problems and obtain sustainable economic development in the region is through an increasing awareness of the amazing power of science and technology.

Against this background, the Caribbean Academy of Sciences is holding its biennial Conference entitled "Science and Technology: Vehicles for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean" at the Grenada Grand Beach Resort, Grand Anse, Grenada from October 11-13, 2008. This conference will provide a unique opportunity to engage in discussion with stakeholders - academics, research organisations, government and non-government organisations and industry, regarding their activities to develop the scientific and technological infrastructure in the region to obtain knowledge based economies.

I wish to express my deep appreciation to the organizing committees of the conference, especially the chairman of the 'conference committee' Dr. Trevor Alleyne, who was instrumental in organising this conference in Grenada. Special thanks also to Professor Winston Mellowes and Dr. Neela Badrie, chairs of other very crucial committees. Special thanks go to Professor Kit Fai Pun and the members of the publication committee for making this publication possible. I thank the co-hosts of the conference - The Government of Grenada, The University of The West Indies, St George's University, and The University of The Southern Caribbean. Finally, I thank the participants for attending this conference. I hope you have a great time in Grenada.



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President of the CAS