

Message from Professor Dale Webber
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The Caribbean Academy of Sciences & The University of the West Indies Conference
27-30 November 2018

Science, technology and innovation (STI) has long been recognized as key drivers of economic and social development. Successful developing States will therefore aspire to formulate and implement STI policies that are well integrated into national development strategies while fostering economic growth and creation of meaningful jobs.

The UWI has recognized that a core function of universities is to directly influence global economic competitiveness. With research and innovation as the centerpiece of The UWI's transformational agenda, we have aptly partnered with The Caribbean Academy of Science and The Caribbean Academy of Science, Jamaica. This collaborative effort has yielded an investment in science, technology and innovation which is fostered by a robust research and development portfolio - an essential precursor to a knowledge-based economy.

For the Caribbean to remain globally competitive, it is imperative that dialogue between the industrial sector and academia be facilitated and that governments are convinced that the knowledge-based economy is a sustainable solution in this global economic climate.

This conference will facilitate such a forum amongst the different research fields. The thought provoking and no doubt inspirational presentations by the panel of distinguished plenary speakers, representing global leaders in fields interrelated with science and technology, must inform the dialogue that will articulate sound policy decisions in this regard. The substance of these policies must then facilitate the application of new technologies to new enterprises; a well-trained and adaptive citizenry; and ultimately the development of a knowledge-based economy.

I congratulate The Caribbean Academy of Sciences (CAS) and The Caribbean Academy of Sciences, Jamaica (CASJ) in hosting this the 21st General Meeting and Conference at this critical nexus in our regional economic ventures. I salute them for 30 years of vanguard service to the Caribbean region and look forward working with them, as together we strive towards augmenting the successful outcomes of this conference.