

## The OECS Public Education Forum Series Funded by the OECS 10th European Development Fund (EDF) Economic Integration & Trade of the OECS Region Project





#### Dear Education Partner,

The OECS Commission wishes to invite representatives from your educational institution to its inaugural Regional Integration Forum Series, "Vini Kozé". This first event is guided by the theme "Education: Creating Tomorrow's Leaders Today" and will be held on January 13. 2017 at the Tortola Pier Park in the British Virgin Islands at 3:00 p.m.

The OECS education-themed forum event will focus on curricula, tertiary and vocational training. teacher training and retention, literacy, assisted learning and technological infrastructure. The specific objectives of this Forum are to highlight educational successes and to create awareness of the deficiencies in the system as well as to formulate possible solutions that can be applied across all Member States.

OECS Member States have embraced the notion of "skills for inclusive growth and development" and have therefore targeted education development as one of the primary facilitators of economic growth, individual empowerment and social cohesion in the region.

The event will feature a live panel of regional and international voices from across the social strata and will be hosted and moderated by Caribbean journalist and television producer. Onel Sanford-Belle. Confirmed panelists include; BVI Education Minister. Hon. Myron Walwyn. Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) Registrar. Mr. Glenroy Cumberbatch, and industry specific representatives from the private sector and advocacy and grassroots group(s). Panelists will address questions posed from the audience in a 'town hall" setting. The overarching goal of the Forum Series is to position the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States as a listening entity; more attuned to the needs of its Member States and their citizens.

The OECS Communications Unit is driving the mandate for the Vini Kozé series and it is being produced and executed by ElShaFord Productions on behalf of the OECS. The project is funded by the OECS 10th European Development Fund (EDF) Economic Integration and Trade of the OECS Region Project.

For further information please contact: Mr. Ramon Peachey, Communications Specialist, OECS Communications Unit, 758-455-6377 rpeachey@oecs.org, or Ms. Tahira Carter, Communications Officer, OECS Communications Unit, 758-455-6305 tcarter@oecs.org.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to your participation at the event.

Sincerely

Didaeus Jules Ph.D

Director General, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States



## What is Vini Kozé?

Vini Kozé or 'Come Chat' in creole, is the OECS Commission's Public Education Forum Series on OECS Regional Integration.

The series acts as a conduit for a collective citizens' voice to help shape local, regional and national policy as it relates to the various facets of Regional Integration. The Forum topics include Education, Economic Development, Youth and Gender, Regional Integration, Agriculture and Climate Change.

The Forum also provides an opportunity for key decision makers, grass roots observers and experts within respective fields to discuss and debate issues raised by the live audience on the achievements, development opportunities and challenges facing the region.

Vini Kozé will be televised across OECS member states, the wider Caribbean and in global diasporic hubs. The series is funded by the 10th European Development Fund and is produced and executed by Elshaford Productions on behalf of the OECS Commission.



#### THE OECS PUBLIC EDUCATION FORUM SERIES WWW.OECS.ORG



Education: Creating Tomorrow's Leaders Today

> British Virgin Islands January 13, 2017

> > Schedule

Youth, Gender and Social Inclusion: How are we tracking as a region?

Anguilla January 27, 2017



Climate Change: Future Proofing the OECS

The Commonwealth of Dominica February 10, 2017

OECS Regional Integration: Theory vs. Reality

Martinique February 17, 2017





Agriculture: Investing in the Caribbean's Food Bowl

St. Vincent and The Grenadines March 3, 2017

Economic Growth in the OECS: Is equity being achieved?

Grenada March 17, 2<u>017</u>









### About the OECS

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is an International Organisation dedicated to economic harmonisation and integration, protection of human and legal rights, and the encouragement of good governance among independent and non-independent countries in the Eastern Caribbean.

The Organisation was founded on June 18, 1981, when seven Eastern Caribbean countries signed a treaty agreeing to cooperate with each other and promote unity and solidarity among the Members. The Treaty became known as the Treaty of Basseterre, so named in honour of the capital city of St. Kitts and Nevis where it was signed.

The 1981 Treaty was replaced in 2010 with a Revised Treaty of Basseterre, creating an economic union. This Revised Treaty was signed on June 18, 2010 in Saint Lucia during the 51st Meeting of the Authority of the OECS.

The Revised Treaty establishes a single financial and economic space within which goods, people and capital can move freely, monetary and fiscal policies are harmonised and countries continue to adopt a common approach to trade, health, education and the environment, and the development of such critical sectors such as agriculture, tourism and energy.

The Treaty paves the way for the introduction of legislative competence at the regional level, so that Member States of the Organisation act in concert to develop and enact legislation in certain areas specified in the Treaty. The OECS is now a ten member grouping. Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines are full Protocol Member States. The British Virgin Islands, Anguilla and Martinique are associate members of the OECS.





## SIX EVENTS

# TEN COUNTRIES One OECS







