

REGIONAL COOPERATION ST.LUCIA/MARTINIQUE

The government of St.Lucia, through the Office of the National Authorising Office has adopted a pro-active approach to Regional Cooperation with the neighboring French overseas department of Martinique. The strategy of the National Authorising Officer has thus been to seek potential partnerships and opportunities that will provide mutual benefit to all parties involved.

At present a number of functional cooperation initiatives have been undertaken and are as follows:

- **The Health Sector**

Discussion is on-going with the University Hospital Center, La Meynard, in Fort-de-France, to establish an INTERREG project that will comprise two components:

- (i) The improvement of the global management quality by sharing experience in order to be ready when Saint Lucia's new hospital will be opened.
- (ii) The identification of joint training in various areas such as hospital administration, maintenance, health care administration.

The University Hospital center is providing St.Lucia with valuable technical assistance notably in the fields of biomedical technology, ICT and hospital administration while St.Lucia has agreed to organize a number of seminars in Martinique to be conducted by St.Lucian renowned pain management specialist, Dr. Paris.

To facilitate this cooperation, a joint technical working team has been established comprising health officials from St.Lucia and from La Maynard. This team meets on a monthly basis alternately in the two islands.

- **HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

The National Skills Development Center (NSDC) in St.Lucia has partnered with its counterpart in Martinique, the Association pour la Formation Professionnelle des Adultes (AFPA), under the umbrella of the Regional Council of Martinique to develop:

- (i) an apprenticeship programme consisting of the exchange of trainees,
- (ii) an exchange programme of training experts based upon requests which have been identified essentially in the areas of construction, auto mechanics, the hospitality industry, ecotourism, electricity.

- **INFORMATICS AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY**

SIGMA of Martinique will assist St.Lucia (Ministry of Planning) in the development and management of a Geographic Information System with collection, analysis and dissemination of data in close relation with planning and management in Agriculture, Communications and Works, Tourism and Disaster prevention and response.

A French company was contracted by the government of St.Lucia to take aerial photographs of the island which is the first phase in enabling the cooperation with SIGMA.

Projects in the incubation stage include:

- Multi-Destination Tourism to enable the islands to take advantage of the tourist arrivals of the other who come from countries where their market is very minimal.
- Surveillance of emerging infectious diseases.

Perspectives of Regional Cooperation

Objective: Foster a more profound integration of the DOMS into their Caribbean space

Strategy:

(i) The establishment of an institutional mechanism- A Regional Cooperation Unit to facilitate and coordinate Regional Cooperation by:

- providing technical and institutional support to facilitate and coordinate Regional Cooperation.
- providing financial support for technical missions to the DOMS for the development of partnerships and strategic alliances.
- providing support for the organisation of seminars, workshops, missions and exchange of experts.
- Support to human resource development by initiating training activities.

(ii) The establishment of an Inter-regional Consultancy Services Company that would:

- Provide technical and logistical support to enterprises willing to develop their activities in another Caribbean territory.
- Facilitate meetings between potential partners and investors from the DOMS and CARIORUM countries.
- Organize forums and seminars between the private and public sectors of the DOMS and CARIORUM countries in order to assist the private sector to gain a better understanding of the business environment (administration, legislation etc) of the other.