

Ambassador Henry Gill



In his earlier career, Mr. Gill served from December 1974 to January 1983 as Research Fellow at the Institute of International Relations at St. Augustine, Trinidad, focusing mainly on foreign policy, international trade, regional integration and Latin American issues.

Later, in February 1986, 3 years after joining the Permanent Secretariat of the 27-member state Latin American Economic System (SELA) with headquarters in Caracas, he was elected Deputy Permanent Secretary for the period 1986-1990 and during that time, he also served as President of SELA's pension fund. For his distinguished service during his tenure, he was conferred Order of the Liberator, Venezuela's highest national award, for "service to the cause of Latin American and Caribbean unity".

Prior to joining the CRNM as Team Leader of the Caribbean Trade Project and Communications Director in 1999, Ambassador Gill provided technical counsel to a number of regional institutions including the CARICOM Secretariat and the West Indian Commission as well as a range of inter-governmental bodies including UN agencies, the OAS and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB).

Ambassador Gill became CRNM's second Director General on July 4, 2008. However, before assuming this office, he served for 7 years as CRNM's Senior Director with overarching responsibility for the technical work of the organization. During that time, he was responsible for the leadership of the technical team and played a leading role in crafting the regional negotiating strategy pursued in CARIFORUM's negotiations of the Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union.

Ambassador Gill resigned from the post of Director General on June 30 2009. In his current capacity as an independent consultant, he has continued to serve the Region with distinction.

Ambassador Dr. Richard Bernal



Ambassador Dr. Bernal, a professional economist with over 35 years of experience was educated at the University of the West Indies, University of Pennsylvania, the New School for Social Research and the School for Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University. He holds the degrees of B.Sc., MA, Ph.D. (Economics), and MIPP (International Public Policy). Since the late 1980's, Ambassador Bernal has been lead negotiator in numerous negotiations on behalf of Jamaica and CARICOM, including agreements on investment, intellectual property rights, textiles and apparel, trade agreements, debt reduction agreements and loans from multilateral financial institutions (IMF, World Bank, and IADB).

He succeeded Sir Shridath Ramphal in 2001 to become the first CRNM Director General and served for a period of seven years until June 2008. The title of Director General merged the previous functions of Chief Negotiator and Chief Technical Advisor, a decision adopted by the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community meeting at Nassau from 11th – 12th October, 2001.

During the negotiation of the CARIFORUM-EC Economic Partnership Agreement, Ambassador Bernal was CARIFORUM's Principal Negotiator. He was also CARICOM's lead negotiator in the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations. Additionally, Ambassador Bernal's stewardship has extended to the multilateral trade arena where he headed the CRNM technical teams advising the CARICOM delegations at the WTO ministerial meetings in Cancun and Hong Kong. Through his advocacy and publications he advanced policy on special and differential treatment and the needs of small developing economies in trade agreements.

He currently serves as the Alternate Executive Director, Caribbean at the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB).

Sir Shridath Ramphal



Sir Shridath Ramphal, former Secretary-General of the British Commonwealth, is Co-Chair of the Commission on Global Governance, President of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and Chair of the International Steering Committee of the Rockefeller Foundation's Leadership in Environmental and Development (LEAD) Programme.

Sir Shridath Ramphal was Chair of the West Indian Commission whose report, provided to Caribbean Heads of Government in 1992, made detailed recommendations for the future of the region. In 1991, he was a Special Advisor to the Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Sir Shridath Ramphal was also Chancellor of the University of Guyana from 1990 to 1992 and is currently Chancellor of the University of the West Indies and the University of Warwick in Britain.

He served as Chief Negotiator from the CRNM's inception in April 1997 until demitting office on November 30, 2001. Sir Shridath helped to guide the Region through various international trade negotiations including the early phases of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).