



Regional Policy Briefing no. 7
Building resilience in small island economies: from vulnerabilities to opportunities
Mauritius, 23 – 24 April 2012

Biodata of Speakers

Fatoumia Ali Bazi – Project Manager, Indian Ocean Commission, Mauritius

Project leader at the Secretariat General of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) since 2005, Fatoumia Ali Bazi has over 15 years experience in regional cooperation, both the IOC and COMESA. Diplomat and civil servant at the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Comoros, she has the responsibility of the service protocol and bilateral cooperation, and previously Permanent Liaison Officer at the IOC at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Comoros.

At the IOC, where she was previously Head of Communication, she currently oversees the management of various projects in the fields of culture, gender, women's entrepreneurship and climate change. She is the direct interlocutor of the ADB, the UN agencies (UNFPA, UN WOMEN, UNFCCC, ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF) to the Secretary General. She was also in charge of monitoring projects in the areas of health, environmental education and youth at the General Secretariat of the IOC. Founder of the NGO "HIFADHU" dealing with violence against women and children in the Comoros, she is also a founding member of the regional network of women in politics in the Indian Ocean FPOI.

Dr Donald Keith Amiel – President, Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA), Jamaica

Dr Donald Keith Amiel currently serves as the President of the Caribbean Agri-business Association (CABA) as well as the Manager of Corporate Affairs for the Caribbean Broilers Group and the Director at the Bio-Tech R&D Institute. In the past, he also served as the President of Professional Societies Association of Jamaica (PSAJ) and the President of the Caribbean Poultry Association (CPA).

He is a Founding Member of the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ) and the Professional Societies Association of Jamaica (PSAJ). He currently represents the Agribusiness Sector on the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CARICOM) Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) and was an original member of the Caribbean Regional Agricultural Planning Network (CARAPAN). He chairs the Pig Industry Development Committee (IICA), is a member of the Jamaica Bureau of Standards feeds and meats committees as well as the Breed Societies of the Jamaica Livestock Association.

He represented Canada and the Caribbean on Executives of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and the Commonwealth Association of Professional Centers. He has also worked as a teacher of natural sciences at Kingston College, as a Senior Veterinary Officer with the Ministry of Agriculture of Jamaica; Chief Technical Officer of the Jamaica Livestock Association and head of the Poultry Division, Seprod (Ja.) LTd.

Dr Donald Keith Amiel graduated from Kingston College, attended University Lond (B. Vet. Med.); Royal Veterinary College (MRCVS); The University of Queensland (MVSC), The University of the West Indies (Dip Mgt. Studies), having been awarded Jamaica Government and Commonwealth Scholarships.

Carol Ayoung – Chief Executive Officer, Caribbean Association of Industry & Commerce, Trinidad

Ms Carol Ayoung, MBA, is the Chief Executive Officer of the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC); effective August 2002 to present. Prior to assuming this position she was based in Guyana as Deputy Programme Manager, External Economic and Trade Relations at the CARICOM Secretariat.

Ms Ayoung has extensive knowledge and experience in matters of trade relations and finance on a regional and international scale, having represented the Private Sector on CARICOM Heads of Governments on an annual basis, and participating in many and varied high level meetings with world

organizations i.e. the Commonwealth Secretariat/WTO/UNCTAD/EUROCHAMBRES/ITC/ACP-EU and international Chambers of Commerce. During her term of office, the CAIC has realised the inauguration of the Caribbean Business Council (CBC) which was mandated by the CARICOM Heads of Government. As CEO of the CAIC she also sits on various Boards and Working Groups in promoting the development of the regional private sector.

In addition to her commitment to the fostering of regional integration and international trade initiatives, Ms Ayoung has been a strong advocate in promoting the role of the private sector in the fight against HIV/AIDS and is an Executive Member of the PANCAP HIV/AIDS Coalition.

Dr. The Hon. Arvin Boolell – Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mauritius

Dr. Boolall was elected as First Member of the National Assembly for the Constituency No. 11 in 1987 and was re-elected in 1991, 1995, 2005 and 2010. He became Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources in December 1995 until September 2000. He was Member of the Opposition Party from September 2000 to July 2005. In July 2005 he was appointed as Minister of Agro Industry and Fisheries and in September 2008 as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade. He as re-appointed in May 2010.

He is a medical practitioner and graduated from the National University of Ireland/Royal College of Surgeon Ireland, LL.M, RCP, LL.M RCS. MB, BCH, BAO (Dublin), and has experience working as a medical practitioner in Wales and New Zealand.

Lino Briguglio – Director, Islands and Small States Institute, Foundation for International Studies, University of Malta

Professor Lino Briguglio possesses a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Exeter (UK) and a Special Diploma in Social Studies from the University of Oxford. He obtained his Honours and Master's degree in Economics from the University of Malta. He was formerly head of the Economics Department and of the Banking and Finance Department of the University of Malta. He currently directs the Islands and Small States Institute and the Gozo Centre of the University of Malta. His main area of interest is islands and small states studies, in particular economic aspects, and he has authored many publications on this subject. He is known internationally for his seminal work on the "Vulnerability Index" (see for example World Development, Sept 1995) which led to an enhanced interest and to many quantitative studies on Economic and Environmental Vulnerability. Professor Briguglio also has a keen interest in competition economics. He is currently a member of the Appeals Tribunal for Competition and Consumer Affairs, which is a judiciary panel appointed by the Government of Malta. Prof. Briguglio is one of the lead authors for the chapter on Small Island States of the Fifth Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Currently Professor Briguglio is a member of the Malta Climate Change Consultative Council.

Akilananda Chellapermal – Commonwealth Secretariat, Mauritius

Mr. Chellapermal is one of the leaders of the research-oriented NGO known as CEDREFI which is engaged in sustainable development issues and regional cooperation in the South West Indian Ocean Islands. He holds a masters in Political Sciences from Aix-Marseille III University, France. During the past 25 years, he has been actively engaged in research, action-research, policy analysis and advocacy around issues of sustainable development of SIDS and regional cooperation issues. In 2005, he was the convenor of the UN Civil Society Forum which was held in Mauritius in the context of the International Review of the Plan of Action for sustainable development of SIDS (BPOA). He is also a member of the 'Commonwealth International Architecture on Environment and Sustainable Development Group'.

Sloans Chimataro – Senior Advisor Fisheries, NEPAD, South Africa

Dr. Sloans Chimataro is the Senior Fisheries Advisor to the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), based in Midrand, Johannesburg in South Africa. Over the past six years, he has been

responsible for coordinating the development of Pan-African initiatives on fisheries and aquaculture, building on and supporting national and sub-regional projects and programs. Specifically, he is coordinating the overall efforts of the NEPAD Agency and the African Union to develop a Comprehensive African Fisheries Reform Strategy (CAFRS) aimed at improving African capacity in policy and governance reforms necessary to place the African fisheries on a path to sustainable exploitation, wealth-generation and economic growth. Furthermore, he has helped fish scientists from African universities and research centres to form a Network (Afri-FishNet) which is helping countries to develop post-CAADP Compact evidence-based policies and National Fisheries Investment Plans. In addition, he has been supporting African member states to raise the “African Voice” at international fisheries negotiations within the NPCA’s framework of the Fisheries Think Tank.

Nigel Durrant – Agricultural Trade Specialist, Office of Trade Negotiation of the CARICOM (Caribbean Community) Secretariat, formerly the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM), Guyana

Mr. Nigel Durrant, a national of Jamaica, is the **Head of the Agricultural Trade Unit** of the Office of Trade Negotiations (OTN) of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat (previously, the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM)) and is based in Guyana.

Mr. Durrant is an agricultural economist by training and holds degrees from the University of the West Indies (UWI), and the University of Ife, (now the Obafemi Awolowo University), Nigeria. He has worked extensively in the field of agricultural development and trade negotiations for most of his career both at national and regional levels. He has been the chief spokesperson on agriculture for CARICOM in the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) process; the CARIFORUM/EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and more recently in the negotiations with Canada for a trade and development agreement. He is also currently coordinating CARICOM’s agribusiness development programme.

Dr. Jennifer Edwards – Expert on Tourism, Bahamas

Dr. Edwards holds a B.Sc. in Tourism Management from the University of the West Indies, an M.Sc. in Tourism Marketing from the University of Surrey and a PhD in Sustainable Development – Environmentally Managed Tourism from the University of Bradford. She is also certified as an Industrial Reader for Hospitality & Tourism Management, a Hospitality Assured Assessor and Hospitality Department Trainer. She is currently a member of the ITC/UNCTAD/WTO Executive Forum and the Bahamas National Coastal Awareness Committee. She is the author of several publications relating to sustainable tourism and development in the Bahamas.

Dr. Edwards worked as a Lecturer at the School of Accounting & Management in Trinidad from 1992 – 1994 and as a Lecturer at the University of the West Indies, Centre for Hotel & Tourism Management in Nassau, Bahamas from 1994 – 2009. She also worked as a Consultant for the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, Bahamas Hotel Association, WTO, IDB/MIF Sustainable Tourism Network Project among others. She currently works as an Adjunct Lecturer at the College of the Bahamas, Nassau, as an Internal Examination Reviewer at the International Management Centre Association & Revans University, Nassau, Bahamas and a Hospitality Assured Assessor for the Caribbean Regional Organisation for Standards & Quality (CROSQ).

Carlos Fuller – International and Regional Liaison Officer, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCC), Belize

Mr. Carlos Fuller is the International and Regional Liaison Officer of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, an intergovernmental organization established to coordinate CARICOM’s response to climate change. Mr. Fuller’s primary responsibility is to coordinate the region in the international climate change negotiation process. He is a meteorologist, and prior to joining the Centre, he was the Director of the National Meteorological Service of Belize. Mr. Fuller holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology from Florida State University and post graduate certificates from the University of Miami in Tropical Meteorology, Tropical Cyclone Forecasting and Flood Forecasting. He held several posts within the World Meteorological Organization including President of Regional Association IV which includes North America, Central America, the Caribbean, Colombia and Venezuela.

He was the country's chief climate change negotiator since 1990 until his retirement from the government service in 2008. In that capacity he participated in negotiating the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. He also represented Belize at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the United Nations Small Island Developing States Conference (UNSIDS), the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), and the UN Conference on the Ten-Year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action (SIDS+10).

Mr. Fuller was awarded the George Price Lifetime Award for Emergency Management and the Officer of the Order British Empire (OBE) for public service.

Sharon Greene – Food and Beverages Manager, Sinalai Reef Resort and Spa, Samoa

Ms. Murray was born in Samoa and left when she was 8. When she came back, it was refreshing for her to see that Samoa had not changed much. Over the years she has experienced crucial issues that families face – children leaving school early to work either on plantations or in resorts with no hospitality or work experience. She has interviewed such intelligent school leavers, some of whom have not completed one year in NUS or USP and who have had to leave school to start work because their family could not support their studies. She explains to them that their week's salary could be earned by selling produce in less than one day, in order for them to be able to study and bring in more income for their family. This is one of her main goals with the villagers.

Michael Hailu – Director CTA, The Netherlands

Michael Hailu is an Ethiopian national and the Director of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA). Mr Hailu has over 25 years of professional experience working in Africa and Asia in communications and knowledge management in agriculture and related areas. Prior to joining CTA at the end of May 2010, Mr Hailu was Director of Communications and a member of the Senior Leadership Team of the World Agroforestry Centre based in Nairobi, Kenya. From 1999-2007, Mr. Hailu lived and worked in Indonesia as Director of Information at the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). Mr. Hailu has degrees in Information Sciences and Economics from the University of Pittsburgh in the United States and Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. He has also been trained in strategic leadership at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

Theresa Kamau-Kas – Programme Director Northern Bismarck Sea, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Papua New Guinea

Mrs. Kamau-Kas is currently the Programme Director for The Nature Conservancy Northern Bismarck Sea Programme in Papua New Guinea. She manages conservation and facilitates community-based organizations to pursue sustainable development programmes in the rural communities in Papua New Guinea. She serves the Papua New Guinea UNDP Small Grants Programme as a Committee Member representing NGOs. She also implements the Papua New Guineanational government programme on Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) by implementing the Papua New Guinea Government Marine Programme Goals in Manus Province.

Before joining The Nature Conservancy, she worked for a year with the international NGO, Volunteer Service Overseas, three years with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), two years with the Australian Aid Agency Programme (AUSAID) as well as Women & Childrens' Health in Papua New Guinea and three years with the Papua New Guinea Research Institute. She has a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership and is currently pursuing a PhD at Papua New Guinea University.

Peter Kenilorea – Sustainable Development Officer, United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)

Peter Kenilorea, a Sustainable Development Officer in UN-OHRLLS, heads the SIDS sub-programme of the of the office where he advises the High Representative on the offices' SIDS advocacy efforts – at the global level – focusing particularly on issues concerning SIDS coastal and marine resources, biodiversity, energy, transportation and communication, land resources and food. Further to his current position, he

has worked for some 12 years, at the professional level, with the UN Secretariat in the Office of the Legal Affairs (OLA), Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Department of General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). He is a national of the Solomon Islands and holds an LL.M. from the University of Nottingham, UK in International Environmental Law. Before joining the UN Secretariat in 2000, Mr Kenilorea was a Senior Crown Counsel at the Attorney General's Chambers with the Solomon Islands Government.

Hafiz Khan – Chairman, Pacific Islands Private Sector (PIPSO), Fiji

Mr. Khan worked as a Commercial and Corporate Banker for 12 ½ years, both in Fiji as well as internationally. In 1982, he returned to Fiji to start his own business, at first as a Financial and Business Consultant and then as a Developer. He is currently the Chairman of Hexagon Group of Companies, which owns and operates a number of hotels and resorts (Best Western Franchise). The Group is currently developing tourism and commercial properties to the tune of F\$40 million.

He has served as Director/Advisor to various private companies and government/statutory bodies, notably the Fiji Development Bank, Chief Administrator of Nausori Town Council, Deputy Chairman of Fiji Electricity Authority, Vice Chairman and then Chairman at Fiji Sugar Corporation Ltd (FSC). He is the past President of Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association and Fiji Employers and Commerce Federation. He served as the Prime Minister's nominee in the Senate in July 2005 and again in June 2006 when he was appointed the Vice-President of the Senate, and Deputy Head of Government Business. In 2007, he became a Board member and is now the Chairman of PIPS), a peak private sector organization for the Pacific region's 14 countries.

In May 2007 he was awarded the "Officer de l'Ordre National du Mérite" by the President of the Republic of France for his services to the Business & Private Sector in the region. In February 2011, he received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" for service to Fiji's Tourism Industry at the AON Fiji Tourism Excellence Awards. Mr. Khan has a degree in Business Management (Finance) from Calgary, Canada.

H.E. Mr. Jagdish Dharamchand Koonjul – Ambassador of Mauritius to the European Union and Belgium

Mr. Koonjul is a graduate of the University of Bombay. He began his career in 1974 as Education Officer at the Presidency College in Mauritius, following which he served as Second Secretary at the Ministry of External Affairs, Tourism and Emigration. He was then posted to the Permanent Mission of Mauritius to the United Nations in New York, and served with his country's embassies in Brussels, Paris and Washington D.C. In October 1994, he was appointed Deputy High Commissioner of Mauritius in New Delhi, and in January 1997, Head of the Multilateral Political Directorate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Mr. Koonjul was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in January 1999. Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Koonjul participated in numerous international meetings and represented his country at such events as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization Conference in Vienne and the Conference of Labour Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries. He actively participated in the renegotiations of the ACP-EU Conventions in 1983 and 1985 and was the chief negotiator of bilateral Mauritius/Canada and Mauritius US textile agreements. As Head of Multilateral Political Directorate, he was responsible for all matters concerning the United Nations, the OAU, Non Aligned Movement, the Commonwealth and the Francophone and represented his country in several meetings of these organizations. He has also been a major player in the peace process in the Comoros Archipelago, a neighbouring country which faced the problem of secession since 1997.

He was posted to the Mauritius Mission to the UN as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative in July 2001 and represented Mauritius in the Security Council. He presided over the Council in January 2002, and became the first Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa. He also served as Vice President of ECOSOC in 2004 and Chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) from 2003 to 2006. He was the G77 chief negotiator for the Review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States, which culminated in the adoption of the Mauritius Strategy in 2005. Ambassador Koonjul is a member of the Steering Committee of the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands and of the Board of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute. He has published a number of articles on Small Islands and sustainable development.

Iosefa Maiava – Head of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), Pacific Office, Fiji

Iosefa Maiava is a Samoan national and has been head of the UN ESCAP Pacific Office since 2008. Before that he was the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade for the Government of the Republic of Nauru from 2007 - 2008. He was previously also Deputy Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat from 1996 – 2007. Mr Maiava was the Development Coordination Officer for the Regional Coordination Adviser and Director of the Development Economic Policy Division for the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat from 1995 – 1999. From 1992 – 1994 he was a consultant for the Forum Secretariat, UNDP, World Bank, UNCTAD, SPREP and many Pacific Island governments (Samoa, Tuvalu, Palau, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia). At the beginning of his career he registered O le Si'osi'omaga Society, established its office and worked there as a volunteer fundraiser and director, worked as a UNDP National Programme Officer, an Academic and Scholar at the University of the South Pacific, Auckland University and Samoa National University, and worked part-time for the Samoan Government. He has a BA from the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) and an MA from Australia's National University (ANU).

Faatase Malologa – Director, Department of Lands & Survey, Ministry of Natural Resources, Tuvalu

Mr Malologa is the Director of Lands & Survey for Tuvalu. He is responsible for the overall administration and management of the department in all aspects related to land matters and surveys in the country. He is currently involved as leading technical adviser to the government on the Tuvalu maritime boundary delimitation and extended continental shelf programme.

Kenn Mondiai – Executive Director, Partners with Melanesians Inc. (PWM), Papua New Guinea

Kenn Mondiai is from Papua New Guinea and has a background in forestry. He is Executive Director for Partners with Melanesians, which is a not for profit conservation and community development NGO. Partners with Melanesians works on the Managalas plateau in Oro province trying to have it declared as a conservation, an area of 360,000 hectares to protect the world's largest butterfly and 18,000 local indigenous communities living in the plateau. He is involved in climate change adaptation work using P3DM in the Solomon Islands, Manus Province and in projects along the coastal areas of Papua New Guinea.

Brice Montfraix – Project Manager Acclimate, Indian Ocean Commission, Mauritius

Brice Montfraix, a French engineer and academic, has been the Project Manager of Acclimate, an Indian Ocean Commission project, since 2008. Acclimate is the first project of its type in the region and is financed by France to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the French Development Agency (AFD) and the Réunion Region.

Brice Montfraix, who is an agronomist, forester and a specialist in Earth Observation from Space and emerging ICTs, has worked in the areas of project monitoring, project management and natural resource planning for the past twenty years, of which three were spent in India and ten in Africa, mainly with Cooperation française and the European Commission.

From 2001 to 2005, while he worked as a technical assistant for the Meteo Transition Africa Project (MTAP) – a project based in Kenya which led to the African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development programme – Brice Montfraix was in charge of training 270 meteorological operators from 47 African countries and 54 institutions.

Terence Philips – Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), St Vincent and the Grenadines

Mr. Terrence Phillips holds a BSc. and MSc. in fisheries biology and management.

From 1974 to 1994, he served in the Guyana Fisheries Department as Fisheries Officer (1974-79), Senior Fisheries Officer (1979-85) and Principal Fisheries Officer/Deputy Head of Department (1985-94). During this period, he assisted the Chief Fisheries Officer in the formulation of fisheries policy and regulations; in the preparation and implementation of national fisheries management and development plans and he represented the Department at national, regional and international fora.

From 1994 to 2003, he served as Resource Assessment Unit Leader/Biologist in the CARICOM Fisheries Unit, with responsibility for planning and implementing research activities for the assessment of shrimp and groundfish resources in participating countries. He provided training to the staff of fisheries departments and prepared and edited technical reports and publications.

From 2003 to present, he has been serving as Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development, in the CRFM Secretariat, with responsibility for the planning and implementation of the fisheries management and development programme, which includes preparation for global competitiveness; monitoring, control and surveillance; building the capacity of fisherfolk organizations and the development and promotion of programs for conflict resolution among multi-users in coastal zones.

Selvan Pillay – Director, National Meteorological Services, Seychelles

Mr. Pillay has been working with the National Meteorological Services (NMS) of Seychelles for 33 years now. He joined in 1979 as a young graduate and worked as a Meteorological Observer for 9 years, thereafter he was promoted to senior positions; his last promotion was in 2007 to the post of Director of the National Meteorological Services. He has attended various training & workshops, both local and overseas. My experience is mainly with the meteorological services and worked mostly ocean data capture management. I have participated and coordinated various research projects in collaboration with International Scientific Institutions, such as University of Hawaii Sea Level Centre, *Centre Nationale D'Etudes Spatiales* (CNES, France) and lately with JAMSTEC of Japan on the CINDY 2011 project.

Robert Read – Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Lancaster, United Kingdom

Dr Robert Read is Senior Lecturer in International Economics at the University of Lancaster, UK. He has a PhD in Economics in International Business from the University of Reading and was formerly a professional Economist in the Head Office of Unilever plc. He is currently the Director of the MSc in International Business at the Lancaster University Management School.

Dr Read is a leading international authority on the growth policies and performance of small economies, much of it in collaboration with Professor Harvey Armstrong, and he has published widely in leading academic journals and books. Dr Read has acted as a consultant to the ACP Group of States, the European Commission, the Falkland Islands Government, the UK Foreign Office, the Dutch Foreign Ministry, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization.

Renwick Rose – WINFA (Windward Islands Farmers Association), St. Lucia

Renwick Rose has recently retired as Coordinator of WINFA, a post he has held since 1996 though he continues to serve the farmers body on advocacy matters.. Previous to that he was Programme Officer from 1989 to 1996. He was instrumental in organizing Fairtrade banana exports to the UK and has been very active in advocacy on trade and civil society issues.

Mr. Rose is Chairman of the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) a regional umbrella grouping of civil society organisations, a member of the Bureau of the ACP Civil Society Forum and Chairman of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

He has been an active journalist for over 30 years and is a weekly columnist for the SEARCHLIGHT newspaper. Mr. Rose was last year won the GUARDIAN International Achievement Award 2011.

H.E. Shirley Skerritt-Andrew – Ambassador of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and Chair of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors

Ambassador Shirley Skerritt-Andrew was appointed Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and the European Union in October 2008 by the four Eastern Caribbean States of the Commonwealth of Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Ambassador assumed her post in Brussels in December, 2008. The ECS Mission in Brussels represents the interests of the four named OECS Member States in Europe and is, along with Missions in Ottawa and Geneva, part of the OECS programme of joint overseas diplomatic representation.

Ambassador Skerritt-Andrew, a national of St. Kitts and Nevis, studied at the University of the West Indies and at University College London and is an economist by training. She was until recently a senior advisor to the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis, and represented the Government at a range of international fora in the economic and sustainable development fields. A European specialist, Ambassador Skerritt-Andrew, was one of the lead officials dealing with European affairs and was a primary liaison point with the EU and the European Commission's Delegation to the Eastern Caribbean. She has worked as an economic planner in Jamaica and in the public sector in the United Kingdom. The Ambassador has also worked as a freelance journalist and has had an ongoing involvement with literature, the arts and culture.

Ambassador Skerritt-Andrew, who was for some time the GEF Operational Focal Point for St. Kitts and Nevis, has a deep interest in environmental matters and has devoted considerable time to alternative energy issues, including the exploration of potential for the exploitation of geo-thermal energy on Nevis and the development of bio-fuels as a bi-product of sugar.

Tarakabu Tofinga – Senior Land Planning Officer, Land Management Division, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development, Kiribati

Tarakabu Tofinga is Senior Land Planning Officer at the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture in Kiribati. He provides secretariat/administrative support to the Central Land Planning Board and is Advisor to the Local Land Planning Boards, the Government and General Public on Land Planning Matters.

He served as the country representative at the State of Commonwealth Cities Symposium, held in Brisbane, Australia in October 2011, which dealt with the Finalisation/Adoption of the *State of Commonwealth Communiqué* for the 2011 CHOGN in Perth, Australia. He also served as the country representative at the Pacific Urban Forum in October and December 2011 in Nadi, Fiji, which dealt with the Review and Aligning of the *Pacific Urban Agenda* to National Development Plans.

Professor Toolseeram Ramjeawon – Department of Civil Engineering, University of Mauritius

Dr Toolseeram RAMJEAWON is a Professor of Environmental Engineering at the University of Mauritius. He is currently the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering. He has been teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students in environmental management and environmental engineering for the past 20 years and carrying out research in the area of sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency.

He has also acted as Adviser on Environmental Management to the Ministry of Environment in 2006. He works very closely with the United Nations Environment Programme in the areas of Life Cycle Assessments and Sustainable Consumption and Production, and he has acted as a consultant to the Government for the development of a National Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production for Mauritius. He is also one of the authors of the Green Economy for SIDS report prepared by UNDESA.