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CBU would like to express a special Thank You to all organizations and individuals who have contributed to the successful production of the magazine.

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It is a great pleasure to welcome you all: The board of Directors, CBU Associate and full members, judges, journalists, colleagues, and families, to the beautiful and tiny island of San Andres, capital of the archipelago of San Andres, Providencia and Santa Catalina (Saint Andrew, Providence and Saint Cathleen).

The economy of the island of San Andres is based on tourism and commerce, even though fishing and agriculture are still traditional activities that are practised by the native population. The island hosts around one (1) millions visitors per year. 80% are Colombians, the rest are international visitors from countries like, Brazil, Argentina, USA, Ecuador, Panama, and so on. Shopping is very popular here. You can purchase island-made products as well as Colombian-made items such as (coffee, clothes, emeralds, coconut craft, leather, jewellery, etc.)

There are three (3) principal regions: The Hill (La Loma), Sound Bay (Bahia Sonora or San Luis) and North End (Centro or Town). Each one has special attractions such as The First Baptist Church, The Pond Lagoon, the Natural Pool, Wood Houses, Morgan’s Cave, etc. The population is made up of native (Raizal) people of African descent, Colombian citizens from the mainland, foreign business settlers (Lebanese, Turkish, etc.), who have made the island a cosmopolitan destination. San Andres Island is a popular tourism destination and diving attraction. It lies off the northeast coast of Colombia, more than 400 miles away, and adjacent to Nicaragua. Colombia gained control over the islands in 1928. The island is located in the Caribbean Sea. It is a small island, with an area of about 26 sq. kilometres.

The government has an administrative structure that is headed by a governor, the island’s maximum authority, elected in a popular election for a four (4) year term, and a co-administrated area called the departmental assembly that is comprised of 11 deputies representing the citizens according to electoral rules.

The archipelago was declared a Sea Flower Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in the year 2000, with a large Marine Protected Area. It has the second largest Coral Reef in the world. The approximate population of the archipelago is of 85,000 people. The island is popularly known for “the Sea of Seven Colors” because of the crystal water surrounding the keys and the entire island.

On one hand, it is said that Spanish conquistadors discovered the islands while travelling from Jamaica to the Miskito Cays. Other reports say ancient fishing expeditions by Central American natives were responsible for the discovery. Historians, however, link the second voyage of Columbus with the actual discovery of the territory including most of the other islands nearby.

Annual events include in May: International Triathlon, July: Emancipation Celebration Festival, August: Summer Fest, September: Choir Encounter, October: Green Moon Festival, November: The Coconut Carnival, etc.

There is a lot to learn, explore, experience and enjoy. Our warmest welcome to all and we hope you enjoy this wonderful place.
It is my delight on behalf of our Vice President and the directors of the Board of our Union to welcome members, observers, sponsors, partners and presenters to the 50th Annual General Assembly of the Caribbean Broadcasting Union, being hosted on the beautiful San Andres Island.

We are grateful to our member station, Teleislas, for hosting us and offering to treat us to an exciting Caribbean flavoured cultural experience, even as we deliberate over the serious business of our Union and make plans for the future.

We are happy to welcome former Presidents and Secretaries General of our Union as we honour the value of the work they have done to bring us through the past five decades, to this point of commemoration.

Our 50th Annual General Assembly comes at a time of tremendous challenge for indigenous media (newspapers, radio and television stations) not just in the Caribbean, but globally. While many legacy media operators in other countries and regions have made changes to their business approaches and models as they seek to keep abreast of global changes, we have not. At this Assembly, we will review the state of change in the region’s industry, identify and establish the road map for the Union to pursue.

For five decades, our members have been relied upon to capture, create and present programmes and stories of our lives, our culture and the pursuits of our people.

Our compelling content creation will outlive whatever technological channels are used to share them. Hence, we recommit to creating great content for our people.

We are delighted that Vice Chancellor of The University of the West Indies (Mona), Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles, will be our keynote speaker on our Conference Day and he will speak on ‘Caribbean Media – Uniting the Region through indigenous Content’. We will also discuss models of content development, options for content distribution, examine the impact of Media Freedom on our journalistic content creation, share what we have in our screening exercise and discuss future options for the Union, in an afternoon Presidential Town Hall.

Of course, we will recognise excellence in the work of our colleagues in the annual Caribbean Media Awards.

I am excited about connecting, reflecting and visioning with you on the great milestone of our 50th Annual General Assembly, and take this opportunity to welcome you to our deliberations.
Barbadian Sir Hilary Beckles is an educator, historian, author, and the current Vice Chancellor of The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona. He is known globally for his scholarship on Afro-Caribbean history and his analysis of the role of cricket in West Indies society and culture. Sir Hilary is the youngest person to have ever been granted a professorship by The UWI, having been named professor at age 37. He was previously named Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Chairman of The UWI’s Board for Undergraduate Studies in 1998. In 2002, he was named Principal of the University’s Cave Hill campus.

Sir Hilary, who has served as a member of the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB), has written extensively on West Indian and Barbadian sporting culture and was the driving force behind the establishment of the Centre of Cricket Research of the Cave Hill campus in 1994, which resulted in the refurbishment of the on-campus 3Ws Oval.

He is also credited as the originator of the concept of visiting cricket teams playing a Vice Chancellor’s XI. Sir Hilary has authored several papers and essays on the role of cricket in British West Indies society.

His 18-year-old two-volume series on the history of cricket in the Caribbean, titled “The Development of West Indies Cricket”, is very highly regarded. He is a director of the C.L.R. James Centre for Cricket Research.

Among Sir Hilary’s honours and awards are: “Author of the Year” in 1991 by Barbados Cultural Promotions; “Documentary of the Year” in 1993 by the Barbados Association of Journalists for “We Now Have A Country”, a documentary that he wrote, narrated, and co-directed; being named the inaugural winner of The UWI Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in the Field of Research in 1994. He was made a Knight of St. Andrew, the highest honour possible in the Order of Barbados in 2007.

Sir Hilary serves on the editorial boards of several academic journals. He is a director of Sagicor Life Jamaica Limited and was a director of ICC West Indies Cricket World Cup, Inc., which led the staging of the Cricket World Cup in the West Indies in 2007.

He is Chairman of the Advisory Board of UWI TV and the region’s representative on reparations.
50TH CBU ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
August 12 – 14, 2019 San Andres Island, Colombia

Caribbean Media: Uniting the Region through Indigenous Content

SCHEDULE

Sun. Aug. 11, 2019 1.00PM – 3.00PM  Board of Directors Arrive

DAY ONE

Mon. Aug. 12, 2019 1.00PM – 3.00PM  Delegates Arrive
1.00PM – 4.30PM  CBU Board Meeting (Conference Hotel)
2.00PM – 5.00PM  Registration (Conference Hotel)
6.30PM – 9.00PM  Opening Ceremony and Welcome Function

DAY TWO

Tue. Aug. 13, 2019 7.45AM – 8.30AM  Registration (Conference Hotel)
8.30AM – 8.45AM  Welcome/Introduction of Keynote Speaker
8.45AM – 9.15AM  Keynote Presentation: Caribbean Media – Uniting the Region through indigenous Content by Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice Chancellor, University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica.
9.15AM – 10.00AM  Panel Discussion: Options and Experiences with Creating Indigenous Content:
                   Mrs. Claire Grant, General Manager, Radio and Television Jamaica Limited
                   Mrs. Amalia Mai, General Manager, Great Belize Productions Ltd.
                   Channel 5, Belize.
10.00AM–10.15AM  Coffee Break
10.15AM-11.15AM  Innovative Content Distribution Options for the region – Guillermo Haller Sanchez, Sales Director – EUTELSAT
11.15AM-12.00PM  Challenges to Developing Indigenous Journalistic Content
                   Mr. Christopher Barnes, Vice President
                   Inter American Press Association
                   Followed by a moderated Media Freedom in Caribbean Discussion
12.30PM-1.30PM  Lunch Sponsored by - SOL.NET

1.30PM – 2.30PM  A Presidential Town Hall - The Past, The Present and the Future of Legacy Media in the Caribbean – led by Gary Allen, CBU President

2.30PM – 3.15PM  Sponsors’ Speaking Session:

Ivan Cruickshank, Executive Director – Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition

NewCom

Ferdinand Strantz, Highlight Event - Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra

3.15PM – 3.30PM  Coffee Break

3.30PM – 4.15PM  Members’ Local Screening of Content:

4.15PM – 5.00PM  Global Content of Interest to Local Indigenous Broadcasters:

World Cup Football 2022
Mrs. Sushilla Jadoonanan, Manager, Legal Affairs, DIRECTV Caribbean

IAAF World Championships 2019 – Mrs. Claire Grant, Television Jamaica Limited

7.00PM – 10.00PM  Caribbean Broadcasting Awards
2018 Cocktail Reception & Gala

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**DAY THREE**

Wed. Aug. 14, 2019  8.30AM – 12.00NN  CBU 50TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (Members only) –Conference Hotel

1.30PM - 7.30PM  LUNCH and Island Tour

Thu. August 15, 2019  Delegates Depart
Congratulations on your 50TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
August 12th - 14th, 2019

Caribbean Broadcasting Union

FROM
ONE CARIBBEAN MEDIA LIMITED
always felt I was the skinny one in the middle. Sandwiched for years between the heavyweights of Caribbean broadcasting, their names evoking an ethos, a spirit, special characters all: Hugh Cholmondeley, Alva Clarke, Rafiq Khan, Dik Henderson, Calsie Johnson, Lester Spaulding, Vic Fernandes, Tino Barovier and Fritz Pengel. They powered the early days of the CBU.

From my vantage point as a journalist I loved the landscape their vision conjured up: the Caribbean via our profession. The pioneers were hell-bent on making this a reality, despite the odds of no money and backward technology; the saving grace was global agencies with cash to give but sometimes conditions difficult to fulfil. My journey with them led me to Barbados to establish what was to be the fulcrum of their efforts, the CBU Secretariat.

I had parachuted into the minefield in the early 70s, a youthful producer with Trinidad and Tobago’s National Broadcasting Service to create a better understanding among Caribbean people about one another’s physical and philosophical space. We were so close as Caribbean peoples but yet so far in our knowledge of one another.

This lack of understanding was seen as a major contributory factor to the failure of the West Indies Federation but it was also to be the trigger for the creation of the CBU. We were charged with “indigenizing” information and its flow, making it world class at the same time. And so we followed the lead espoused by the integrationists, major partner in the establishment of the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC) to enhance the training of journalists, and the creation of the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) to reverse the information flow in our region.

Very soon, through the state broadcasting systems, Caribbean voices began being heard across the waters. We did not mind using “primitive” means to connect one to the other. The early successes began to catch the attention of private sector broadcasters who made a strong pitch to be a part of the effort. And so the CBU’s base was expanded to become a strong competitor for transmitting material which hitherto was the province of the operations of the Reuters News Agency out of Barbados with one staff and “stringers” who touched only the “big” stories.

The CBU projects principally through radio were exciting: Project One which took teams with such legendary reputations across the region – Ken Corsbie, Woodsworth Mc Andrew, Carlton James and Ron Sanders of Guyana, Leo de Leon, Freddie Wharwood and Alfred Aguiton of Trinidad and Tobago, Marvo Manning of Barbados - to scan the islands and produce documentaries on each of them; Project Two, which featured one on one interviews with individual leaders, from Price in Belize to Burnham in Guyana, and including Manley in Jamaica, Pindling in the Bahamas; Compton in St Lucia; Gairy in Grenada and Cato in St Vincent and the Grenadines, Bird in Antigua and Barbuda along with Southwell and Bradshaw in St Kitts-Nevis.

We launched pan Caribbean programmes such as “Horizons” linking a multiplicity of Caribbean broadcasting systems. Our young journalists were also quick on the ground and at the helm of coverage for any major event. Engineers like Ron Case and Dennis Leandro of Guyana and Sukie Akal of Suriname kept our transmitters going even if it meant using a safety pin to connect the wires.

Caribbean radio had suddenly become alive and well, and this inspired me to think, why not television.

Enter the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, FES and an expert, Michael Abend. I was invited to an international news managers conference in Malaga, Spain, where I presented a vision for a television news exchange project. Our tapes went across the region via BWIA through the commitment of the airline’s Communication Manager, Mr Louis Lee Sing. When the FES brought in money
IN THE (CBU) BEGINNING

we went “live” via the national television stations in Trinidad, Suriname, Barbados and Jamaica, the only systems which had access to satellite earth stations in their countries.

The FES was impressed with what we were doing in the Caribbean and decided to provide the technical assistance for our efforts. What we had done for radio, we were now able to do for television, and they sent in Abend, a powerful, meticulous German. He fell in love with the Caribbean and apart from modernising our news exchange, launched CARIBSCOPE, a TV magazine show which we distributed every week to all CBU TV systems. I still have a vivid recollection of the very first programme which I produced with Barbados’ Milton Gibbs, at the studios of Trinidad and Tobago Television (TTT) with my last-minute selection of the Pan Assembly recording of The Way It Is, a hit by a US pop group, Bruce Hornsby and the Range. Jacqui Sampson, a technical operator attached to my newsroom at TTT ran across to neighbouring Radio Trinidad for the music and regional TV now exploded into existence with personalities like Debra Johnson, Sharon Marshall and John Rollins polishing it with their excellence: weekly distribution of CARIBSCOPE, a 15-minute pan Caribbean satellite exchange of news stories, coverage by Caribbean teams of major events and breaking news; broadcast of the CBU Song Festival, CARIFESTA and so on. We airlifted the crews to the territories and the action, and so CARIBSCOPE became a household name. That indeed was the way it was!
J.A. Lester Spalding

Served as President of the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU) for the period 1987-1991.

In this role, with an accounting background, he sought to bring discipline and experience to the fore by emphasising the need to be more conscious of the business aspect of the CBU. He always felt the need to think ahead and to be proactive at a time when others may have been satisfied with focusing primarily on the broadcasting aspect of the Union.

Lester’s curiosity was enormous and coupled with his determination, he sought out answers and oft-times would question the hell out of a given situation until satisfaction brought it back to logical understanding.

Never for one moment could one underestimate that which was perceived as a cool, calm and ever-friendly disposition. Lester had no difficulty in quickly assessing a situation or person and at the same time delivering strong chastising… in the calmest of manners.

His period as President was also a time of challenges and achievements in the Union, particularly with the advent of the Freidrich Ebert Stiftung, FES television production/news exchange project. He was also instrumental in the development of the Caribbean News Agency, CANA, and played a major role in the formation of the Caribbean Media Corporation, CMC.

A man of the sea, nothing got in the way of his fishing and boating adventures and trips – Port Antonio Marlin Tournament every October was a must. Lester’s friends were dear to him and time spent with them was of paramount importance to him.

Lester Spaulding died on Friday, November 17, 2017 while still serving as Chairman of the RJRGLEANER Communications Group.

Terence Holder

He served as President of the Caribbean Broadcasting Union, CBU, (1980 -1984) and as Secretary General (SG) (1987-1993).

One of my first memories of Terence Holder was shortly after his arrival in Barbados to take up the SG position. In our various drives around the island to seek out housing, I motored up a “hill” (Rendezvous Hill) in Christ Church….. Terry, with his hand on his chest nervously said: “I thought they said Barbados didn't have any hills.”

Terry was a regionalist and felt strongly that the CBU was one vehicle which could assist in bringing the region together. His writings reflected his hopes and aspirations of a Caribbean being brought together through the media. He was particularly keen on the idea of CBU coverage of Olympic Games which allowed focus on our Caribbean athletes as this would not happen with total coverage by US Networks.

In true Guyanese style, Terry’s relationship with CBU members was affable and, as a former media Producer and General Manager, he was able to relate to their various issues and needs.

Terry mocked the idea of hurricanes ‘hitting’ Barbados. However, I vividly remember the first hurricane warning which he experienced; he was amused at “all these people buying up batteries and food in the supermarkets”. However, he quickly joined them when he realised it was indeed a serious matter.

Described as “laid-back”, he loved life but more so he was a cricket fanatic. NOTHING stood in the way of ensuring that he attended or watched cricket. Music was also very high on his list of interests and I can still see him dancing to one of his favourite songs, Black Stalin’s Black Man Feeling to Party.

Terry Holder died on January 8, 2014 and is remembered fondly by our Union.
## Our Presidents

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Mr. Ray Smith</td>
<td>1970 – 1973</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Mr. Leo DeLeon</td>
<td>1973 – 1975</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Mr. Terence Holder</td>
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<td>Mr. Lester Spaulding</td>
<td>1987 – 1991</td>
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<td>Mr. Vic Fernandes</td>
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<td>Mr. Stewart Krohn</td>
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<td>Mr. Vic Fernandes</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Mrs. Rashida Bolai</td>
<td>2013 – 2017</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Mr. Gary Allen</td>
<td>2017 – Present</td>
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## Our Secretaries General

The Caribbean Broadcasting Union is indebted to our nine Secretaries General who have served us in our first half a century of life.

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Mr. Hugh Cholmondeley</td>
<td>1970-1977</td>
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<td>Mr. Farouk Mohammad</td>
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<td>Mr. Jones Madeira</td>
<td>1981-1982</td>
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<td>Mr. Michael Rudder</td>
<td>1982-1987</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Mr. Terence Holder</td>
<td>1987-1993</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Mr. Leon DeLeon</td>
<td>1993-1996</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Mr. Patrick Cozier</td>
<td>1996-2013</td>
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</table>
He has been the pre-eminent broadcasting personality of Barbados radio for several decades and is among the most recognizable and influential names of broadcasters in the region.

He was a teenager when he joined the profession but he has remained in its bosom for more than 40 years. Over that time, he grew, transformed and regenerated himself, meeting, embracing, mastering technology after technology, being evergreen in his offerings and expanding his contributions.

As a Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, CBC presenter in Barbados, it did not take long for him to become a household name, voice and face, with a robust and versatile style. However, his demonstrable early capacity for leadership sent him up the radio and television management ladder at the CBC. Those skills found full expression when he joined Barbados Rediffusion in 1987. There, his skills as a dynamic manager soon transformed a staid, traditional structure into the vibrant rebranded STARCOM Network, whose four radio stations consistently dominated leadership in the Barbados marketplace.

In the meantime, he generously gave of his management and marketing expertise to the region, providing professional advice and training to stations in St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Dominica and Belize.

He created and led One Caribbean Media’s (OCM’s) Caribbean Superstation and now leads Capital Media HD 99.3FM in Barbados.

He found time outside of the broadcasting constituency to render public service through his chairmanship of the state-owned Barbados Tourism Investment Corporation, which he later remoulded into four separate and viable entities. In that process, one of his proudest achievements was the establishment of the country’s first and only publicly owned golf course.

More recently he again answered a call to serve taking charge as Chairman of the Grantley Adams International Airport.

As a Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, CBC presenter in Barbados, it did not take long for him to become a household name, voice and face, with a robust and versatile style. However, his demonstrable early capacity for leadership sent him up the radio and television management ladder at the CBC. Those skills found full expression when he joined Barbados Rediffusion in 1987. There, his skills as a dynamic manager soon transformed a staid, traditional structure into the vibrant rebranded STARCOM Network, whose four radio stations consistently dominated leadership in the Barbados marketplace.

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It is however, for his unparalleled contribution to our Union that we reserve our highest acclaim. Under his vigorous leadership, the age of satellite communication was ushered into the CBU, membership expanded, international funding increased, and hallmark projects took life and form – the Song Festival, the Media Awards and the Hall of Fame were developed. He played a pivotal role in the formation of the CBU/CANA commercial arm, the Caribbean Media Corporation, CMC, of which he was the first Chairman.

It was some 39 years ago that he first joined the CBU Board, and became its longest serving director, rising to become President for a combined period of almost 19 years. In this our 50th Annual General Assembly, we pay special tribute to our longest tenured director, President and friend, Victor “Vic” Fernandes.
I met Michael Abend, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Consultant to the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU), while I was a news editor at the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation in Barbados back in the 1980s. He had come to the newsroom seeking CBC’s cooperation in the CaribVision News Exchange which was being launched.

The enthusiasm of this man with the strong German accent, dressed in khaki shirt and pants, and sandals and socks, was persuasive and infectious. Jones P. Madeira had requested FES’ assistance on behalf of CBU, and Michael was the expert they sent to the region. He had a passion for broadcasting and for the Caribbean which he brought to the FES CBU project. The project would have a dramatic and lasting impact on regional television broadcasting in terms of production, technology and training.

The news exchange employed the “hot-switching” technique that allowed several stations to upload and download each other’s content within a limited timeframe. This meant that for the first time Barbadian audiences could hear Trinidadian and Jamaican accents in their local news, and see stories about important developments in neighbouring countries. I would eventually join the CBU staff as CaribVision News Coordinator, and was later promoted to Manager, Programme Operations.

CaribScope – the weekly magazine programme – was a compilation of features submitted by CBU member stations. This showcased so many aspects of the culture of the countries in the Caribbean, educating and entertaining us about our differences and similarities. The project heightened brand awareness of the CBU in the region, and in the diaspora where this programme was broadcast. It also
created opportunities for regional broadcast journalists and videographers to collaborate on coverage of regional events, and fostered lasting friendships.

CARIFESTA, general elections, and CARICOM summits were just some of the events that brought us together.

In fact, the coverage of CARICOM summits was revolutionised through the project. We moved from ferrying tapes via airplane to a broadcast point, to direct satellite broadcasts from location. In April 1994, the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States held in Barbados created the occasion for Island Issues, a live nightly satellite broadcast of conference coverage from the CBU studios.

All these events also provided training opportunities for young journalists and videographers from throughout the region, as well as interns from the Barbados Community College Mass Communications programme.

With FES’ assistance, the sky was literally the limit. When commercial aircraft were grounded, we were able to charter a plane to report on the damage that Hurricane Hugo inflicted on Antigua and Montserrat.

My association with CBU honoured me with the opportunity to take the Caribbean story to the world. In 1990, I accompanied Michael to the AfroVision conference in Dakar, Senegal. African broadcasters were preparing to launch their own news exchange, and I was able to share our experience with them.

And in 1992, I represented the region as a presenter on the One World broadcast from Brussels, Belgium, along with presenters from Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

But it was an assignment to Cuba in 1993 with Michael and other journalists and videographers that would prove to be life-changing for me. My crew was assigned to the central part of Cuba. There I interviewed descendants of West Indian immigrants in Baraguá. That led me to pursue studies at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, leading to a PhD. That research was the basis for my book Tell My Mother I Gone to Cuba, and it was on a research visit to Cuba that I met my husband.
Jennifer Grant has worked in media at all levels for nearly 40 years, with forays into Education, Public Relations and Sustainable Development.

While heading the News and Current Affairs Department at Radio Jamaica (now the RJRGLEANER Communications Group), she was elected the first female President of the Press Association of Jamaica in 1993. As PAJ President, she spearheaded the Association’s efforts to have Freedom of the Press enshrined in the Jamaican Constitution. She has also served four over five years as Vice President Broadcast Services at CVM Television in Jamaica.

Since 1999, Ms. Grant has worked as a Communications and Project Management Consultant piloting a number of Public Relations projects in Jamaica and the Caribbean for Local, Regional and International Clients.

Since 2007, she has served as a Commissioner on the Jamaica Debates’ Commission which organises national political debates.

Ms. Grant has also lectured in Communications Studies at the International University of the Caribbean (IUC), the Media Training Institute (MTI) of the Creative and Production Training Centre (CPTC) and conducted courses online for the University College of the Caribbean (UCC).

Chief Judge Andrew Millington is an independent film-maker born in Barbados. He is a Senior Lecturer at the Errol Barrow Center for the Creative Imagination at The University of the West Indies in Barbados. He holds an undergraduate degree in History and English from that institution and graduate degrees in Film and Mass Communication from Howard University in Washington, D.C. As an educator, he has taught film production and film studies at Emerson College in Boston and served as Coordinator of Howard University’s Film School in Washington, D.C. He has lectured and conducted screenwriting and film workshops internationally.

He is the writer, director and editor of the narrative feature film Guttaperc (2000), the first feature-length Barbadian made film. Working in both dramatic and documentary genres, his latest film, Zora’s Dream, is scheduled for release in 2017, produced through his company, Shango Films LLC. He is currently producing a documentary Sugar, Spirits and Sovereignty, a historical treatment of the evolution of Barbadian society and will begin production on a new film John Crow Paradise in 2017 through his production company, Shango Films.

Andrew is a former founding member of The Creative Edge in Maryland (USA), an initiative designed to support viable and sustainable creative spaces within communities with a specific focus on developing digital media industries.
Beverley Sinclair is a media professional with more than 25 years’ experience. She has a proven track record of high quality productions including the annual secondary schools quiz competition SGU Knowledge Bowl, carnival events, news and current affairs programmes and special features. She is the winner of six personal awards in the Media Workers Association of Grenada annual recognition of excellence, and has led her team to capture more than 50 awards over seven years. In Jamaica pieces of her work on domestic violence have been adopted by the St James Parish Library as resource material.

Chief Judge Andrew Millington is an independent film-maker born in Barbados. He is a Senior Lecturer at the Errol Barrow Center for the Creative Imagination at The University of the West Indies in Barbados. He holds an undergraduate degree in History and English from that institution and graduate degrees in Film and Mass Communication from Howard University in Washington, D.C. As an educator, he has taught film production and film studies at Emerson College in Boston and served as Coordinator of Howard University’s Film School in Washington, D.C. He has lectured and conducted screenwriting and film workshops internationally. He is the writer, director and editor of the narrative feature film Guttaperc (2000), the first feature-length Barbadian made film. Working in both dramatic and documentary genres, his latest film, Zora’s Dream, is scheduled for release in 2017, produced through his company, Shango Films LLC. He is currently producing a documentary Sugar, Spirits and Sovereignty, a historical treatment of the evolution of Barbadian society and will begin production on a new film John Crow Paradise in 2017 through his production company, Shango Films. Andrew is a former founding member of The Creative Edge in Maryland (USA), an initiative designed to support viable and sustainable creative spaces within communities with a specific focus on developing digital media industries.

As content now flows seamlessly across borders, consumers are able to by-pass traditional networks and associated safeguards. The Broadcasting Commission:

- advocates for content to be regulated in a dedicated, specialised and technology-agnostic manner across platforms and devices.
- promotes Digital Literacy as the key to unlocking the true potential of technological innovation to create and share information for knowledge building, economic growth, learning and personal development.
- believes a digitally-literate citizen is the first line of defence against malicious, harmful and inappropriate content.
Winning a CMA

When the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBL) hosts its Annual General Assembly, there is an excitement in the air at Great Belize Productions: Channel 5. Our journalists, like their colleagues across the region, eagerly await the announcement of the Caribbean Media Awards (CMA). Undoubtedly, the CMAs have morphed into the highlight of each assembly. All sister stations in our region recognize that earning an award is an affirmation of the exceptional work of journalists and their teams.

For us at Channel 5, clinching a CMA award is a source of motivation. We are tremendously proud when we earn the region’s top distinction in journalism and television production. And, we are reminded that the hard work, dedication, and long hours invested in producing quality television programming have not been without recognition. Over the years, we have been able to bring home a collection of awards. These accomplishments serve to strengthen the performance of our teams toward increased productivity and success. In fact, every generation of Channel 5 journalists has earned their fair share of theme and production awards in about every category. Though our staff is small, the results are immense. Collectively, we know that the quality of the programmes we produce is a hallmark of our work. It requires us to stay relevant and engaged and to always go the extra mile in our service to our viewers and the wider public.

It is not easy to remain one of the finest in the industry. It requires a lot of hard work, focus, and dedication. Our journalists must continuously raise the bar higher; they also stimulate each other to capitalize on their full potential. At Great Belize Productions, we have continued to break the records because our journalists thrive on putting in much more than is required of them.

The highest satisfaction comes from the impact we make at home with our local communities. When a news story turns into a catalyst for tangible improvements within a community, it is a source of motivation as well. We’ve seen people being encouraged to get tested to know their HIV status, to communities coming together to repair a deplorable school building after seeing the news. From the most rural village all the way to the Caribbean Court of Justice, our news team is on the beat. We investigate complex matters and report on those touching stories that reflect life in our country. The vital issue for us is to tell the story with accuracy and timeliness and to get answers to the critical questions. When we have accomplished all that and gained regional recognition - what more could be better?

This is why we encourage all to participate in the CMAs. It is a difficult time for our industry across the globe. The recognition and motivation are needed by journalism teams now more than ever. If you are not winning, it is because you are not entering enough submissions. Trust in what you do for a rewarding experience.

Amalia Mai
CEO
Great Belize Productions
CMA Kingston for 2017
Bahamian quarter-miler Shaunae Miller-Uibo, Jamaican female sprinters Elaine Thompson and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce look set to lead the Caribbean's medal charge at the 17th IAAF World Championships in Doha, Qatar, from September 27 to October 6.

Performances so far this year make it easy to predict that Olympic double sprint champion Elaine Thompson should return to the podium in both the 100m and 200m as she currently leads the world in both events.

Thompson's 10.73 done to win the Jamaican trials ahead of three-time world champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce leaves Jamaica and the Caribbean with a chance to take gold and silver.

Thompson's world best of 22.00 secs, done to win the Jamaican trials in June, should also make her the favourite for the 200m.

Reigning Olympic 400m champion Miller-Uibo, who beat Thompson over 200m at the Monaco Diamond League meet on July 12 with 22.09 secs, seems unlikely to compete in the half-lap event, given the gruelling schedule.

Jamaica's Fraser-Pryce with 22.22secs should be among those in the final.

Miller-Uibo, the world leader over 400m with 49.05, will start as the favourite. Jamaica's Shericka Jackson – bronze medallist from the 2015 World Championships and Rio 2016 Olympics – should also be in contention. Her career best of 49.78 secs at the Jamaican trials, is the fourth best time in the world this year.

With South Africa's Caster Semenya and Burundi's Francine Niyonsaba's participation being in doubt, the door is now open for Jamaica's Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Natoya Goule, who sped to a season best 1 minute 57.90 in Monaco to sneak on the podium in the 800m in Doha.

The Cuban pair of Denia Caballero with 69.20 metres and Yaimé Perez (68.28m), who are currently first and second in the world, will also start as medals favourite.

Even before the sprint, mile and mixed mile relays, where Jamaica should be in contention for medals on the female side, the region is in with outside shots for medals in the triple jump, 100m hurdles and shot put events.

Cuba's Liadagmis Povea with 14.77m as well as Jamaican duo Shanieka Ricketts (14.76m) and Kimberley Williams (14.56m) are now ranked third, fourth and eighth in the world in the hop, step and jump event.

Fresh off her NCAA Collegiate gold in the 100m hurdles with a world-leading and Jamaican record of 12.40 secs, Janeek Brown, once she holds it together, should be in contention for a medal in the sprint hurdles. Danniel Thomas-Dodd, the Commonwealth Games champion, who is currently third in the world with 19.48m, should also be in the mix for a medal in the shot put.

The medals for the Caribbean on the male side should come from the sprint hurdlers, discus, long jump, decathlon and relay events as the Americans look set to dominate the sprints.

Perhaps the region's best medal shot on the men's side rests on the shoulders of Jamaican Fedrick Dacres in the discus. The Commonwealth Games and NACAC champion is currently ranked second in the world with a Jamaican record of 70.78 metres done at the Rabat Diamond League meet on June 16.

Reigning Olympic and World champion Omar McLeod has not been having the perfect season. Although his season best
of 13.12 secs has him ranked fourth in the world, McLeod's championship mettle should see him among those battling for the gold. Another Jamaican, Commonwealth Games champion Ronald Levy, who has registered 13.23 this year, should also be among the finalists.

Grenada's Lindon Victor, who has tallied 8,473 to be currently ranked third in the world, is in the running to join Jamaica's Maurice Smith (silver 2007) as the only Caribbean athlete to secure a World Championship medal in the decathlon event.

In the long jump, Cuba's Juan Miguel Echevarria with a season-best 8.34m and Jamaica's Tajay Gayle (8.30m), at third and fifth in the world rankings to date, represent the Caribbean's best hope for a medal in the long jump.

**Television Jamaica are Broadcast rights holder for the region and can be contacted for the TV rights for your territory.**
The Caribbean Broadcasting Union, CBU, originally had the vision of an important role with West Indies Cricket and the West Indies team, where each member will mount their own broadcast of a Test match. Then the CBU officials were able to convince all stations from Jamaica to Guyana to accept the concept of a CBU team providing the commentary for all stations.

The opening Test match between the West Indies and Jamaica at Sabina Park, saw the first CBU team of Roy Lawrence (Jamaica), Tony Cozier (Barbados), and Tony Williams (Trinidad and Tobago) producing high quality Test match commentary for the stations. Unfortunately however, this successful venture was discontinued for the rest of the West Indies/India series in the Caribbean, as stations decided to go back to putting together their own broadcast teams.

A CBU team was assembled four years later for the first ever Prudential World Cup in England, comprising Tony Cozier (Barbados) Reds Perreira (Guyana) and Jeff Charles (Dominica) who was based at the BBC at the time of the event.

The CBU received substantial support from the Commonwealth Broadcasting organization, in making the coverage successful for stations in the region. Later, when the West Indies defended their title in the 1979 World Cup, a smaller team of Tony Cozier and Reds Perreira was put together to paint the word picture for Caribbean listeners.

For the 1983 World Cup, again in England, the BBC provided only one commentator position for the CBU, and Tony Cozier, then the leading West Indian commentator, joined the panel of international ball by ball experts.

In the 1992 World Cup hosted by Australia, Cozier and Perreira were again sent by the CBU to cover the fortunes of the West Indies team and the same was done when the World Cup was held in South Africa in 2003.

The CBU then turned their efforts to covering the Olympic Games in 1992 and sent a Radio team to focus on the Caribbean athletes at the Games; this was followed by its first efforts to provide commentary using the international feed with a team headed by Francine Alexander of the CBU, Jamaican born Lance Whittaker, then based in Barbados at the Caribbean News Agency, CANA through CANA Radio, and Jack Matthews from Antigua.

It was not live coverage, but they produced a highlight package each evening called “Caribbean Glory”.

This was done primarily to move away from the US network focus, which previously covered the Olympics for the Caribbean, but had a strong bias and focus on the American competitors.

The 2000 Sydney Olympics was covered by a 9-member team led by Jamaican Gary Allen from CBU/CMC and included Keith Brandon, Barbados, Mark Seale, Barbados, Lance Whittaker, Jamaica, Hubert Lawrence, Jamaica, Kerry Gibbons and Roger Sant, Trinidad, now deceased Phil Smith, Bahamas and Garcia Thornhill. For the first time the CBU/CMC did live radio and television coverage via satellite from a Caribbean-centric focal-point.

Coverage of the Olympic Games and Sports in general by the CBU was made possible with funding support provided by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) T.V. Production/News Exchange project.
Alva Clarke  
**1996 St. Lucia**

Alva Clarke was born in St. Lucia and began his broadcasting career in 1954 as a programme assistant, then Deputy Programmes Director and News Editor with the Windward Islands Broadcasting Service (WIBS) in Grenada. This followed a stint in print as Sports Editor and political reporter with The Voice newspaper in St. Lucia. He travelled to London where he freelanced with The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and then returned to the Caribbean as the Federal Broadcasting Officer of the West Indies Federation. He worked in Ethiopia in 1959, as a Broadcasting Adviser to the government, returning to the BBC in 1961 as a producer, then senior producer for the short wave transmission “London Calling the Caribbean”.

Dwight Whylie  
**1996 Jamaica**

Dwight Whylie was born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1936. In 1961, he was the first announcer of colour hired by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) for its domestic services. Upon his return home after more than a decade in the UK, he took up the position of manager of the Jamaican Broadcasting Corporation (JBC) from 1973 to 1976. In 1977 he became the first black announcer employed full-time by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, CBC, where he worked for twenty (20) years.

Hugh Cholmondeley  
**1996 Guyana**

Hugh Cholmondeley is considered the father of the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU). He entered the media in 1958 at the then British Guiana Broadcasting Service as an announcer and then 1966-1968 served as Director of News and Current Affairs at Radio Demerara. In 1968 he became the first General Manager of the Guyana Broadcasting Service (GBS). During his time at GBS, he worked to help establish the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU). In 1972 he was appointed Project Manager of UNESCO where he designed and established the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) and the Caribbean Institute of Mass Communications (CARIMAC) at the University of the West Indies (UWI). Between 1998 and 2000 he worked with the CBU and CANA to establish the Caribbean Media Corporation, CMC.

Rafiq Khan  
**1996 Guyana**

Rafiq Khan joined the media in his homeland Guyana when he was just a teenager, and rose through the ranks to become Programmes Director of the pre-independence Radio Demerara. He continued to demonstrate his talent on air and in leadership to eventually become General Manager of the successor station, the Guyana Broadcasting Company in 1970. He was present at the birth of the CBU.

Mr. Khan went on be appointed UNESCO's first ever Communication Advisor for the Caribbean, a position which enabled him to provide technical assistance and advice to the CBU as a whole, and more specifically to individual member systems of the organisation, principally in the area of training. His service to media and the region also included academia, as a lecturer at the University of the West Indies, where he co-authored research papers on media and communication in the Caribbean.

Olga Lopes Seale  
**1997 Guyana/Barbados**

Dame Olga Lopes-Seale was born in Guyana on December 26, 1918. In 1952 she started full-time radio broadcasting with Radio Demerara where she was the first Guyanese woman to become a news anchor. She moved to Barbados in 1963 and became synonymous with community broadcasting at Barbados Rediffusion. There she launched the “Rediffusion Needy Children’s Fund”. She also became known for her Saturday morning children’s radio programme where many a talent was born and cultivated.

In 1961 Olga was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire for her humanitarian work and for her contribution to broadcasting in Guyana. In 2005 she was made a Dame of St. Andrew in the Barbados Independent Honours Awards.

Hall of Fame continues
They Served Us Well

Tony Cozier
1997 Barbados

Winston Anthony "Tony" Cozier, was born July 10, 1940 in Bridgetown, Barbados. He studied journalism at Ottawa University and has been a cricket writer since 1958. His first experience as a cricket commentator was in 1960 at Queen's Park Oval when he was asked by Radio 610 in Trinidad and Tobago to identify the new Barbados players in a regional game. His first Test Match commentary on radio was during the West Indies v Australia game in 1965. He has also been a member of the BBC’s Test Match Special commentary team and the Sky Sports West Indian Cricket commentary team. He has done commentary for Channel Nine in Australia, and became the "unmistakable voice of West Indies cricket".

He was regarded by many across the globe as the pre-eminent cricket broadcaster in the world and his career spanned many decades on all media platforms. He has done commentary in every major cricket-playing country in the world and is sought after and respected worldwide. He wrote the "The West Indies: 50 Years of Test Cricket" (published 1978) and was editor of "The West Indies Cricket Annual" for all of its 22 editions.

Jones P. Madeira
2000 Trinidad and Tobago

Jones P. Madeira was born in the east Trinidad town of Arima in 1944 and began his career as an amateur broadcaster with the Voice of Rediffusion, a wired radio channel of the Trinidad Broadcasting Company which also operated the Radio Trinidad station. His first professional position in journalism was in the print media as a reporter with the Trinidad Publishing Company, publishers of the Guardian newspapers. He entered broadcasting full-time as a News Editor/Reporter with the state-owned National Broadcasting Service. From there he received a fellowship and became a producer with the Overseas Regional Services of the BBC. He returned home and re-joined NBS 610 as Senior Producer, News and Current Affairs and later assumed the position as the first full-time Secretary General of the CBU from 1981 to 1982.

After a stint in the public sector, he re-entered mass media as Head of News and Current Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago Television (TTT). In July 1990 he became a key hostage during an attempted coup in Trinidad and Tobago. During his tenure at the TTT, he pioneered several major regional broadcast projects as a member of the Board of the CBU, including the CARIBVISION News Exchange Project.

Ken Gordon
2000 Trinidad and Tobago

Kenneth “Ken” Gordon, born in 1930, was the first black radio announcer in Trinidad and Tobago and, soon after, the first native-born Programmes Director at Radio Trinidad. He became the first black president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1960. His entrepreneurial ability was applied to reconstructing a number of Caribbean newspapers. He eventually became the managing director of Trinidad Express Newspaper in 1969, considered the first truly indigenous national newspaper in Trinidad and Tobago.

He had conceptual and nurturing roles in the formation of regional media institutions, most notably the Caribbean News Agency.

He was instrumental in introducing the first private television station in the English speaking Caribbean, CCN TV6, and Prime Radio, in 1991. This network later joined Barbados’ Nation Corporation Group to create One Caribbean Media Limited in 2006.

Vic Fernandes
2004 Barbados

Vic Fernandes’ career in broadcasting began when he was only 17 years old and has spanned both public and private sector media. He rose to the position of deputy General Manager of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, before heading STARCOM Network’s predecessor, the Barbados Rediffusion Group.

After 2006 when One Caribbean Media was formed, he led the acquisition of radio stations in the Eastern Caribbean and created the Caribbean SuperStation network.

Mr Fernandes was the longest serving President of the CBU, having held the post from 1991 to 1999 and again from 2003 until 2013 when he retired as CEO of the STARCOM. During his tenure as President of the CBU he was recognised for the introduction of hallmark events such as the annual Caribbean Broadcasting Awards in 1995, the CBU Hall of Fame, the second and third agreements with the Freidrich Ebert Stiftung FES, as well as his leadership as the first Chairman of CBU’s commercial arm, the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) established in 2000.
Sir Trevor McDonald
2005 Trinidad and Tobago

Sir Trevor McDonald is a native of Trinidad and Tobago, born in August 1939. After working as a print and broadcast journalist in Trinidad during the 1960s, in 1969 he joined the BBC World Service, and four years later moved to International Television Network, ITV in London. During his long association with ITV he was a general reporter, and then a sports correspondent, but ultimately concentrating on international politics. In the 1980s he spent some time with BBC Channel 4 News but returned to ITV in 1989, presenting the early-evening news. McDonald was promoted in 1992 to sole presenter of News at Ten and became a well-known face on British television screens eventually being voted Newscaster of the Year and Most Trusted TV Personality. From 1992 to 2005 McDonald hosted ITV's flagship current affairs programme Tonight with Trevor McDonald.

Stewart Krohn
2011 Belize

Stewart Krohn moved to Belize from the United States in the 1980s and in 1982 he established a small independent video production company, Great Belize Productions, which produced indigenous content for “pirate” television stations. After a decade as a producer, he moved to establish Belize’s first indigenous television station, to offer local content to Belizean audiences on a consistent basis. He applied for and received a television license in 1991, forming Channel 5. He was President of the CBU from 1999 to 2001.

J.A. Lester Spalding
2011 Jamaica

J.A. Lester Spalding was born in Jamaica on April 1, 1941. His career in broadcasting is associated with the Jamaica Broadcasting Company, then renamed Radio Jamaica and Rediffusion Limited and subsequently Radio Jamaica Limited, which eventually became the parent company of the RJR Communication Group and is now The RJRGLEANER Communications Group.

Terence Holder
2015 Guyana

Terence “Terry” Holder is recognized as being instrumental to the birth of the region’s first ever television news exchange, “Caribvision” as well as the regional television magazine programme “Caribscope”. In the recount of his service to Caribbean media, it must be highlighted that he was the holder of both the positions of President and Secretary General of the CBU. (He was president of the Union from 1980 – 1984. Before that he served as Secretary General from 1987 – 1993.)

Rose Willock
2015 Montserrat

Rose Willock’s service to the region, especially in building capacity for emergency broadcasting, is notable and praiseworthy. She has given service to broadcasting from her home territory of Montserrat, first at the regional level and then at the territorial level. She has been in the field for more than 50 years. It must be noted that Mrs. Willock’s career has been marked by her time as Head of the English Service of Radio Antilles in the aftermath of the devastation by Hurricane Hugo in 1989, as well as her recognition on the Queen’s Honours Lists in 1986 and 1996 with an M.B.E. and an O.B.E. respectively for her work in education through broadcasting on living with the active volcano in Montserrat.
Raymond Smith
2016  Grenada
Raymond ‘Ray’ Smith, a Grenadian, was the first Secretary General of the Caribbean Broadcasting Union, CBU, serving for the first three years of the Union from 1970 – 1973. Mr. Smith, who was the long-standing Chief Engineer of the Windward Islands Broadcasting Service, was also hailed for innovations in broadcast engineering, including devising a new form of studio sound-proofing using natural material, which was adopted by broadcast operations as far away as in the Pacific Islands.

Victor Faustino Torres Crespo
2017  Cuba
Victor Faustino Torres Crespo is a graduate of the National School of Art in Havana, Cuba and the State Institute of Music, Television, Cinema and Theatre, St. Petersburg, Russia.

As Producer and Creative Director at Cuban Institute of Radio and Television ICRT, he has been the creator of numerous television programs.

He has also served as the producer of the CBU Caribbean Song Festival on several occasions and has worked on numerous sporting and cultural productions across the Caribbean and for the Caribbean.

Victor worked on a very high profile and successful coverage of the London Olympics, again as a producer of Caribbean coverage.
In the last three years since the CBU has been tracking the digital transitioning of television broadcasters, not much progress has been made. Indeed, the decision-making process has been lagging dangerously as regulators and policymakers have not made a determination on the standard, timeline and business models for their markets. This is a difficult position for broadcasters to be in, as all other players in the industry (SCTV, IPTV, OTT and TELECOMS) make their changes, while the regulated broadcasters “wait” for policy and regulation to happen.

Of note, in the last three years, first mover, Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas has done its production switchover and added ATSC 1.0 transmission to consumers. Antigua and Barbuda has adopted ATSC 2.0 and started transmission with a standard abandoned both in the US and the Dominican Republic. The challenges of operating two standards in Suriname are understood to continue.

The indecision in major markets such as Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago remains most surprising and concerning.

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Researched By
Gary Allen
July 15, 2019
It is already seven years since the Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas, BCB, with its popular call letters ZNS TV became one of the Caribbean’s first high definition (HD) broadcaster. After investing more than US$7M in new equipment, integration and training, the management looks back at the digital switchover process as the best decision it could have made at the time.

Impacted by frequently failing analogue equipment that was costing more funds and resources to keep the station on the air, the Corporation pushed and received government funding to respond to the several pressures facing them at the time.

ZNS was losing viewers, getting complaints about the poor quality of its output and at the same time experiencing higher cost to keep the substandard system on the air.

At the time of crucial decision-making, the 35-year-old broadcasting entity knew the time had come for change and went in search of a technology partner that would make it most efficient and effective. Unified Video Technologies, UNIV, was the company chosen.

The scope of work was significant. It involved updating all its broadcasting infrastructure, building a new digital technical core, constructing production control and master control rooms, design and build out long-form editing and news production and news edit suites as well as install a digital archival system.
To complement the technology upgrade, the decision was taken to also design and construct a new set for the news product as well as provide graphics enhancement to give an all-round enhancement to viewers’ experience.

By the time they got to their December 28, 2012 switchover date for phase one of their digital project, they had achieved all the targets set to include designing the scope of work, procurement, installation, integration and training of staff.

Looking back, the management believes they can put a tick beside each of the boxes that marked their objectives at the start. These were their aims:

- Become competitive in news generation, local programme production and recapture audience share;
- Reduce skyrocketing operational and maintenance costs necessitated by the high cost of obsolete analogue equipment and reduce acquisition of expensive tapes to archive material;
- Creation of a more efficient, less manpower dependent, workflow;
- Installation of the new system to be designed and installed without interrupting ZNS TV-13 normal on-air presentations. It also had to be robust and reliable.

ZNS moved from analogue operations straight to HD operations and then moved into phase two of the process establishing an ATSC 1.0 transmitter delivering digital terrestrial television services to its populace on Grand Bahamas.

Looking back, they hail their staff who absorbed the necessary training and moved forward in the new digital ecosystem with confidence. It now generates more local content at a better quality and to the satisfaction or more viewers.
DISCOVER THE ISLAND’S BEST IN ONE SPOT.
For half a century, the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU) has played a critical role in helping to develop the media industry across the region. Through its broad-based approach, the CBU has not only supported the growth of many broadcasting entities but has been instrumental in developing the capacity of the region’s media practitioners to tell the Caribbean’s unique stories.

This CBU’s 50th Annual General Assembly theme, ‘Caribbean Media: Uniting the Region through Indigenous Content’ is timely. It points to the role of the media in bringing together the wider Caribbean with its peoples from diverse backgrounds, with their unique experiences and vibrant cultures. All of this comes together in a range of compelling stories so beautifully captured through programmes like Caribscope. We must ensure that all these stories continue to be told and not just those of the majority but of all of the region’s peoples whomever they are and wherever they are. This focus on indigenous content as a unifying force will ensure that no one feels left out and that the stories we tell reflect and celebrate the complexities of the true Caribbean experience.

If regional media outlets are to continue fulfilling, and even strengthen, their role in educating, informing and entertaining; then they need to do more to facilitate the development of indigenous content. Since traditional media outlets across the Caribbean are now forced to compete more fiercely with both foreign and online providers for viewers, supporting indigenous content provides an exciting opportunity for local media outlets to better serve their niche markets while tapping into a potentially lucrative revenue source.

Being cognisant of the fact that there is the delicate balance between supporting indigenous content and making a profit, ‘Uniting the Region through Indigenous Content’ has to mean more than just providing a platform for content creators to purchase spots. It has to be anchored in partnerships, which would make this concept a fruitful endeavour for all involved. The CBU has recognised the importance of this need and has developed partnerships with key stakeholders. In this regard, the Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC) has enjoyed a mutually beneficial partnership with the CBU over the past few years with a focus on highlighting stories from the health and human rights response in the region.

We applaud the work being done by the CBU and we’re happy to continue supporting the award category for reporting on issues surrounding the regional HIV response. It is through these continued partnerships that we will ensure all our Caribbean stories are told and experiences captured.
The Centre is proud to be associated with the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU) and is fully behind its efforts to educate both its members and publics about climate change and its impacts. We consider the technical support we provide critical to the role you play in educating and preparing the region for the devastating impacts we have already begun to experience in the Caribbean” - Dr. Ulric Trotz, Science Advisor, Deputy Executive Director, CCCCC.

The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre is the agency of CARICOM which coordinates the region’s response to climate change. Officially opened in August 2005, the Centre celebrates 15 years of existence in 2020 and is a key technical partner of the CBU in its efforts to increase awareness of climate change and is the key node for information on climate change issues and the region’s response to managing and adapting to climate change.

The Centre maintains the Regional Clearing-house Mechanism, the Caribbean’s most extensive repository of information and data on climate change specific to the region. This, in part, enables the Centre to provide climate change-related policy advice and guidelines to CARICOM member states through the Secretariat. In this role, the Centre is recognised by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Environment Programme, and other international agencies as the focal point for climate change issues in the Caribbean. The Centre is also a United Nations Institute for Training and Research recognised Centre of Excellence, one of an elite few. Learn more about how we’re working to make the Caribbean more climate resilient by perusing The Implementation Plan.

The CCCCC is also a GCF direct-access Accredited Entity (AE) based in Belize. As an Accredited Entity, the Centre is positioned to assist government departments and agencies as well as private-sector agencies in the Caribbean to access GCF grant funding for climate adaptation and mitigation project of up to US$50 Million per project. The Centre is also prepared to partner with other regional institutions to increase the region’s access to GCF and other donor funding.
John King is Barbados’ Minister of Creative Economy, Culture and Sports, and as such has a hand in the development of the country’s music industry, but there was a time when he played a different role in the entertainment sector.

In those years, he made history for his country, winning Barbados its first Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU) Song Festival title in 1992, with “Hold You in a Song”, a riveting duet with outstanding artiste Alison Hinds.

At the time, he was known as a calypsonian, and entering the contest was a breakaway from that genre, but after his Song Festival victory, King’s musical ability and reputation continued to expand and the calypso monarch went beyond the genre he used to break on to the music scene.

He has shared stages with Country icons Skeeter Davis and Kenny Rogers; R&B legends, including The Drifters, Freddie Jackson and Ben E. King; rock names like Air Supply; reggae legends Third World, Maxi Priest and Beres Hammond; and several soca artistes.

In 2016, King switched gears and entered the political arena, becoming a candidate for the Barbados Labour Party. He won his seat in the May 2018 general election and was named Minister of Creative Economy, Culture and Sports.

Although some may have seen the move from music to politics as a drastic switch, King did not.

In fact, when it was announced that he was throwing his hat into the political ring, he described it as a “natural gravitation”. He pointed out that over the years, the pattern in his social commentary demonstrated his concern over the direction that Barbados had taken, and entering politics gave him an opportunity to make a difference.

“I have always been one of those people who believe that in order for the region itself to go far, Barbados has to lead and it has to be a strong, strong country,” King said.

Alison Hinds
former CBU Song Festival Winner

She is now known around the world as the Queen of Soca. She has performed for royalty, been the recipient of several awards, and holds the keys to several cities; but Bajan soca artiste Alison Hinds is quick to acknowledge that it was the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU) Song Festival, which she won almost three decades ago, that was the start of her rise to popularity.

In fact, she describes it as “a significant and a pivotal part of my life”.

“It absolutely was an important part of my development as an artist and also becoming a force to be reckoned with, in terms of the regional market and beyond,” she says.

“It was the first time I’d won anything, really. Before that, the first competition that I’d ever gone into was the Richard Stoute Teen Talent competition [1985] and I went to the finals and I’d placed third,” she recalls.

“So to come and actually win a regional competition – to win the national leg and then go on to win the regional leg – was a
big deal. I think it also started to put my name out there in a much more concrete way and that was also part of the rise of my star – the rise of Alison Hinds.”

The winning song itself, she adds, still resonates among Barbadians, 27 years later.

“There are younger generations who have grown up on the song and who remembered when the competition happened, when everyone was glued to their TVs,” Hinds says with pride.

Since then, the well-known and well-loved singer has graced stages all over the world and has left her mark in a way that has earned her recognition on many levels.

“I’d like to wish the CBU a very happy golden anniversary. Fifty years – that’s impressive. Just keep it up, keep it going!”

Winning the first CBU Song Festival still fills me with so much pride. It was one of the experiences that contributed to what I am today: a singer, composer, entertainer and bandleader. In my career, I have written and produced a multitude of songs and video clips, of which many have been successful, allowing me to travel to different countries with my band Claudius & O.R.E.O. I have been fortunate to compete in calypso & road march festivals on the island of Aruba and win multiple times (16 crowns for road march and 20 crowns for calypso). Composing and entertaining are what I love to do and I have been lucky enough to be able to make it in my career. Hopefully, I will be able to continue this for the rest of my life.”

Claudius Philips
First CBU Song Festival Winner

CBU SONG FESTIVAL

VENUES
For a decade and a half the CBU unearthed talent at the regional level through the hosting, staging and promoting of talent in one of the richest cultural space anywhere in the World.

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Congratulations on your 50th Annual General Assembly from CARIBBEAN BROADCASTING UNION BUILDING RJJR GLEANER COMMUNICATIONS GROUP