

LOCAL NEWS

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Antigua represented at Conference of the Parties for Climate Change Convention

The Conference of the Parties for the Climate Change Convention opened on Monday in Lima, Peru. The opening ceremony included speeches from the Minister of Environment from Poland, Marcin Korolec, as he handed over the mantle of Presidency of the Meeting to Mr. Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, the Minister of Environment of Peru. He indicated and acknowledged the urgent need for countries to agree on an ambitious way forward. The Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Dr. Rajendra Pauchari, presented the science behind climate change and reminded participants that to avert dangerous climate change we need to cut

global emissions by over 40% – 70% by the end of the Century. He indicated that there is adequate technology and financing to do this, all we need now is political will and leadership. He said that poverty will increase and the private sector, particularly the financial sector, will be severely impacted. The IPCC head warned that further delays will result in increase in the cost of mitigation and adaptation.

The Peruvian host, Mr. Pulgar-Vidal, also presented a beautiful and entertaining presentation that was based on the African roots of the host-country. This was intended to soften the minds of negotiators so that the meeting will have some compromise on the

way forward. Setting the correct tone for these difficult negotiations is a priority for Peru. To meet the emission reduction targets demanded by science, some sectors will have to be completely transformed.

The US-China climate announcement, on the heels of similar action by the EU, has injected positive and hopeful impetus into the political aspect of the negotiations and is pressuring other countries to join the new movement.

The COP outcomes will form the basis for a new Climate Agreement to be adopted in Paris in 2015. This Peru meeting will define the contours of the new global agreement.

What is expected from the meeting? The elements of text for the New Agreement, which must include the following:

a long-term goal of phasing out all fossil fuel emissions and phasing in 100% renewable energy as early as possible, but not later than 2050.

The goals for public finance along with a robust and honest MRV (monitoring, reporting and verification) regime for them;

a global adaptation goal that enables adaptation to

be mainstreamed; and

a strengthened two-year work plan to immediately operationalize the Warsaw loss and damage mechanism (Insurance facility?) and to ensure that loss and damage has its appropriate place within the New 2015 Agreement.

Each country will elaborate their response to these elements in a written submission to the Convention. This submission is called an Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) and Antigua and Barbuda is expected to submit its INDC in March 2015. The entire conference participants i.e. all countries agree that “we’ve really got to get it right on this one and the future of human civilization is at stake”.

Antigua and Barbuda is represented at the meeting by Ambassador Diann Black-Layne, Ms. Ruleta Camacho and Ms. Andrea Jacobs. While at the meeting the team will focus on taking steps to initiate the accreditation to the Green Climate Fund and to join the Small Island Developing States in calling for an insurance facility to assist country’s to recover from extreme weather events.

Labour Department Notice

Non-Application of Division F for OECS Nationals

The General Public is hereby advised that under Statutory Instrument No. 31 of 2014, Citizens of Protocol Member States of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Economic Union are no longer required to apply for a Work Permit to be employed in Antigua and Barbuda.

Further, current work permit holders will not be required to make applications for renewals of their work permits. Those individuals would be expected to approach the Immigration Department to regularize their status.

Work permit applications which were approved prior to July 2014 and remain uncollected should be collected from the Employment Unit of the Labour Department with the presentation of receipts of application or a valid passport soonest. Persons failing to come forward will be contacted by the Labour Department.