



CCB Programme Highlights 2011

During the year under review, **CCB/Eye Care Caribbean**, with the support of its Members and Partners, continued to execute its mandate, and several activities were implemented. The following are some of the highlights:

1. Meeting of the CCB Project Management Committee:

The Project Management Committee which is tasked with overseeing the implementation of the EC Project, “Delivering Vision 2020 in the Caribbean” held its face-to-face meeting during January 17th and 18th, 2011 at the City View Hotel, in Antigua. The meeting was attended by Representatives from the Project countries: Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia and the CCB Secretariat (Antigua). The EU Programme Officer, Kathleen Dummett, with responsibility for the Project, and based at the EU Office in Guyana, also attended the meeting as an Observer.



The Committee undertook a critical review of the Project and related activities, examined challenges, achievements and sought clarification on a range of issues. The Committee also confirmed planned activities for 2011 and related budgets.

2. Hosting of the 44th Anniversary and 2011 Biennial General Meeting – July 27th – 31st, 2011.

The 44th Anniversary Meeting and 2011 Biennial General Meeting was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, during the period July 27th to 31st, 2011. Among the main events were:

Programme Highlights 2011

2.1 Wednesday July 27th, 2011:

Meeting of the Executive Committee.

2.2 Thursday July 28th, 2011:

Opening Ceremony - during which Lady Floella Benjamin, OBE, Baroness of Beckenham delivered the Feature Address. The Baroness and her husband were the Special Guests of **CCB/Eye Care Caribbean** for the Meeting and related Events.

The Ceremony was interspersed with welcome, greetings, and musical interludes; while the First Lady of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Jean Ramjohn-Richards, delivered a charge to Delegates and officially launched the Biennial Meeting and related Events.



Read Lady Floella Benjamin's address at:

www.eyecarecaribbean.com/baroness-floella-benjamin-speaks

Read more about Lady Floella Benjamin, Baroness of Beckenham at: [www.eyecare Caribbean.com/from-point-a-pierre-to-the-house-of-lords](http://www.eyecarecaribbean.com/from-point-a-pierre-to-the-house-of-lords)

2.3 Presentation of the James Alves Awards – 2011 Edition:

During the Opening Ceremony, the James Alves Awards (including a joint Award), were presented to thirteen (13) Trinidadians, for their respective contributions to services for persons who are blind and visually impaired in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

The presentations were made by Lady Floella Benjamin, Baroness of Beckenham.

See citations to the James Alves Awardees – 2011 Edition at: www.eyecarecaribbean.com/our-work-in-trinidad-tobago/the-james-alves-awardees-citations





Read about James Alves at: www.eyecarecaribbean.com/media/james-augustus-alves

2.4 Thursday July 28th and Friday July 29th, 2011 – Days 1 and 2:

The President's Address which was delivered by Ms. Lola Marson, President of **CCB**, outlined some of the achievements and challenges of the organisation; while Mr. Kern Tyson, Executive Director of Persons Associated with Visual impairment (PAVI), presented a report on "the work with and for persons who are blind and visually impaired in Trinidad and Tobago". Additionally, several Plenary and Workshop Sessions were held on issues relating to **CCB's** programmes, projects, strategies and plans.

Listen to the addresses at: www.eyecarecaribbean.com/presidents-address-at-bgm
www.eyecarecaribbean.com/our-work-in-the-caribbean/our-work-in-trinidad-and-tobago/kern-tyson's-address-to-the-bgm

2.5 Friday July 29th, 2011:

The First Lady of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Jean Ramjohn-Richards, hosted a Reception for overseas and local Delegates of the 44th Anniversary and Biennial General Meeting. During the Reception, both (the Hostess) First Lady and her husband, President (Professor) George Maxwell Richards, moved among the Delegates exchanging greetings and pleasantries, while a number of artistes provided lively entertainment.



2.6 Saturday July 30th, 2011 – Day 3:

CCB Business Session (including election of Members of the Executive Committee of CCB): During the Business Session, several Reports were presented; Decisions (Resolutions) related to the work of CCB were taken; and elections were conducted for Members of the Executive Committee of Council. The following persons were elected to office:

President: Ms. Lola Marson

First Vice-President: Mr. Anthony Avril, OBE

Second Vice-President: Senator (Ms.) Kerryann Ifill

Secretary: Ms. Andrea Joseph

Treasurer: Mr. Londel Benjamin

Committee Member: Mr. Desmond Browne

Committee Member: Mr. Bhawani Persad

Committee Member: Ms. Valerie Ferrance

Committee Member: Ms. Cynthia Moreze

See details at: www.eyecarecaribbean.com/governance/officers-and-members-of-the-executive-committee-ccb-2011

During the evening (Saturday July 30th), a Closing Reception was held for Delegates and Special Guests.

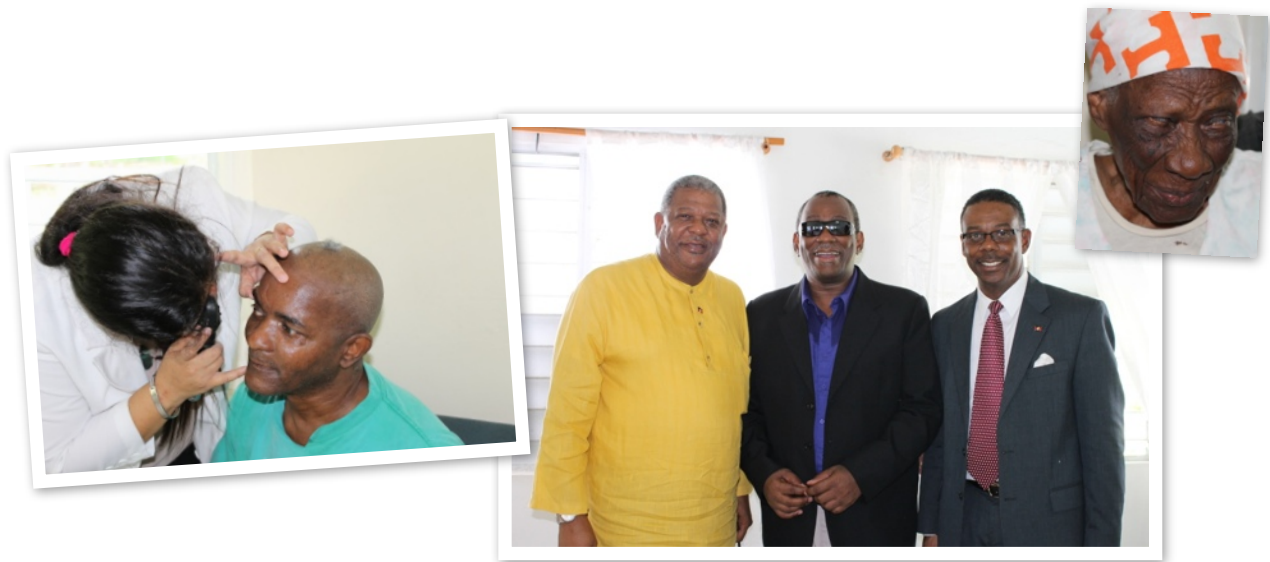
2.7 Sunday July 31st, 2011:

Delegates departed Trinidad and Tobago for their respective countries.

The Delegations included: Members of **CCB Executive Committee**; Representatives from **CCB Member Agencies**, Mrs. Adelaide Addo-Fening, OBE, Director of Programmes (Sightsavers); Philip Hand, Programme Manager (Sightsavers) – Caribbean; and **CCB Secretariat Staff**.

See Photos of BGM 2011 at: www.eyecarecaribbean.com/photo-gallery/bgm-2011





ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

3. Development of Comprehensive Eye Care Services in Antigua and Barbuda.

In keeping with its undertaking to facilitate comprehensive and affordable eye care services for the citizens of Antigua and Barbuda, the CB/Eye Care Caribbean commenced several initiatives, with the support of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, in August 2011.

3.1 Two-day Optometry Clinic at Fiennes Institute .

Sixty- nine (69) residents and members of staff at the Fiennes Institute, a Government-run Home for the Aged, in St. John’s benefitted from an Optometry Clinic hosted by the **CCB/Eye Care Caribbean**, in partnership with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

The two-day Clinic, held on August 22nd and 23rd, 2011 was led by Dr. Genalin Ang, a Senior Lecturer in Optometry at the University of Guyana and three of her second-year Optometry Students.

At the end of the Clinic, of the sixty-nine persons examined, the following results were posted:

- Forty-five (45) are in need of spectacles;
- Ten (10) require low vision devices;
- Three (3) cases of blindness;
- In relation to conditions requiring medical or surgical intervention, there were: thirteen (13) cataracts; (1) Glaucoma; three (3) cases of Pterygium; two (2) cases of Conjunctivitis; four (4) suffered from Corneal Opacity.



Read more at: www.eyecarecaribbean.com/ fiennes-institute-benefits-from-optometry-clinic

3.2 Award of Scholarships to four (4) Antiguan and Barbudans for the Certificate in Refraction Techniques at the University of Guyana:

CCB/Eye Care Caribbean, in collaboration with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda awarded one-year scholarships for the Certificate in Refraction Techniques, tenable at the University of Guyana to four (4) students from Antigua and Barbuda.

The students, Denise Philip, Dirk Agard, Raenor Sharp and Ronel Richards, are now at the University undergoing training. On successful completion of their studies, they will return home and be employed by the Government in the Health Clinics which will be designated as Vision Centres – three in Antigua and one in Barbuda.

The Clinics identified are: All Saints, Johnson's Point, Gray's Farm and Barbuda.

It is anticipated that prior to the student's return, the Clinics will be retro-fitted, furnished and equipped to serve as Vision Centres and thus facilitate the implementation of the Eye Care Services Programme.



3.3 Presentation of Spectacles to residents of Fiennes Institute – Antigua and Barbuda:

On Friday November 18th, 2011 CCB/Eye Care Caribbean delivered on its promise and presented spectacles to residents and members of staff at the Fiennes Institute located in St. John's, Antigua. This was a follow-up to the Optometry Clinic held at the Institute on August 22nd and 23rd, 2011. Thirty-seven (37) spectacles were handed over in a ceremony held on the compound of the Institute.

The Optometry Clinic served as the first step to increased collaboration with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, as was highlighted by Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer. He announced that three Clinics in Antigua and one in Barbuda have been identified as Vision Centres to serve the twin-island state.

The Finance Minister, Harold Lovell noted that the Government's commitment was evident in the selection of four Antiguan and Barbudans currently being trained in Refraction Techniques (as Refractionists) at the University of Guyana. Upon their return to Antigua and Barbuda, they will take up appointments at the four (4) Clinics designated as Vision Centres.

Additionally, the Scholarship Programme will be expanded for Antiguan and Barbudans to be trained as Optometrists and Ophthalmologists.

CCB/Eye Care Caribbean will also facilitate the efforts of the Government to enhance and expand Special Needs Services across the country.

The initiatives being undertaken by CCB/Eye Care Caribbean are in keeping with its mandate to implement affordable and comprehensive eye care services for the citizens of Antigua and Barbuda, in collaboration with the Government.

Read full story at: www.eyecarecaribbean.com/our-work-in-the-caribbean/our-work-in-antigua-barbuda/ccb/eye-care-caribbean-hands-over-spectacles-to-fiennes-institute
See photos at: www.eyecarecaribbean.com/photo-gallery/antigua-barbuda/fiennes-institute-handing-over-ceremony-dec-2011





4. Regional Blind Cricket Tournament – 2011:

The Sixth Regional Cricket for the Blind Tournament was held in Kingston, Jamaica between July 15th and 21st, 2011. Three teams participated in the Tournament: Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and host country, Jamaica. Guyana and the Windward Islands were absent from this year's Competition.

In the League Phase of the Tournament, Jamaica won the title for yet another year; Trinidad and Tobago placed second, with Barbados in the cellar.

In the T20 Version of the Tournament, Trinidad and Tobago overcame the Jamaicans to win the Philip Herrell Trophy. It was the first time, since the Competition began in 2006 that a team from Trinidad and Tobago managed to defeat the Jamaicans.



In preparation for the first T20 World Cup Tournament in Bangalore, India scheduled for December 2012, the West Indies Cricket Council for the Blind has now short-listed a squad of twenty-five players. At the conclusion of a series of national-level training programmes and a regional camp, the final seventeen (17) players will be selected to travel to India for the Competition.

See photos at: www.eyecarecaribbean.com/photo-gallery/cricket-for-the-blind-6th-regional-championships

5. World Sight Day Activities:

A range of activities were held in observance of World Sight Day (WSD) – October 13th, 2011 - in several member countries across the region.

In Jamaica, the Jamaica Society for the Blind (JSB) hosted a Health Fair to mark the event. In his address at the opening of the Fair, the Junior Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Andrew Gallimore, repeated the Government pledge to increase its focus on the blind and visually impaired and the disabled community, as a whole. In making reference to the over two hundred and eighty thousand Jamaicans who are disabled, Mr. Gallimore said that while Jamaica has made strides in providing for this segment of the population, much more remains to be done.

The General Manager of the RJR Communications Group, Gary Allen, who was the Guest Speaker at the event, pointed to the lack of public awareness as one of the setbacks to the limited knowledge concerning challenges faced by the blind and visually impaired. He also made a commitment to having the RJR Communications Group work with the JSB on a public awareness campaign.

In St. Lucia, the St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association (SLBWA) observed WSD with several activities including: sessions with Grade 4 students of School in Castries; talk to members of the Lions Club of Gros Islet; and partnering with the St. Lucia Glaucoma Association to host a Serenity Bingo Party, which also allowed members of the public to learn about Glaucoma and the work of the St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association/ Eye Care St. Lucia to combat the disease.

6. Caribbean Vision 2020 Meeting (2011):

With financial support from Sightsavers and the European Commission, **CCB/Eye Care Caribbean** convened the 2011 Vision 2020 Meeting for the Caribbean, with the full and effective participation of Health Officials and Civil Society from thirteen (13) member-countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). For the first time, Suriname participated in an official gathering of **CCB/Eye Care Caribbean**.



The two-day deliberations took place at the Trinidad Hyatt Regency Hotel during Thursday and Friday December 1st and 2nd, 2011; and were facilitated by Dr. Juan Carlos Silva (PAHO/WHO), Dr. Richard Wormald (International Centre for Eye Health, London), Philip Hand (Sightsavers) and Charles Vandyke (Eye Care Guyana).

Using a standardised template (developed for the collection of Vision 2020-related Health Information for the Caribbean), the Delegates provided comprehensive updates on the state of Eye Health Services in the respective countries and pledged to continue the process by using the data collection template in gathering information to support deliberations of future Regional Vision 2020 Meetings.

See photos at: www.eyecarecaribbean.com/photo-gallery/trinidad-tobago-meeting-of-vision-2020-committees

7. Development of CCB/Eye Care Caribbean Website:

The development of the website has continued and efforts are being made to ensure that its content is regularly refreshed with new materials.

7.1 Format/Design:

The design reflects CCB/Eye Care Caribbean Logo and maps of member territories; while the Main Menu includes links to: About CCB, Our Work in the Caribbean, Publications, Governance, Research and Evidence, Notable Accomplishments, Partnerships and Donate Now (Donation Button).

7.2 Content:

The content includes articles, stories, photos, videos, reports and other features of our work around the region. Every effort is being made to ensure that materials from all of the countries in which we work are available on the site.

During 2011, a Quarterly Electronic Newsletter, "Eye on Sight", was launched. It would be published in January, April, July and October. Additionally, the publication of Bulletins to mark significant International Observances, such as Glaucoma Awareness Day and World Sight Day, has commenced. It is intended that the publication of materials (bulletins, articles, etc) to mark other significant events including: World Glaucoma Week, International Women's Day, World Health Day, World Book and Copyright Day, Regional Blindness Awareness Month/Day, etc., will be undertaken.

View Publications at: www.eyecarecaribbean.com/publications

7.2.1 Photo Gallery:

With the assistance of the Communications Officer, photos and videos relating to CCB's programmes and events (from around the region) have been uploaded to the Photo Gallery on the Website, to Face book and YouTube.

These may be viewed at: www.eyecarecaribbean.com/photo-gallery

7.2.2 Human Interest Stories:

Several Human Interest Stories from Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana, Jamaica and St. Lucia are currently available, and shortly, stories from Barbados and Haiti will be added.

It is intended that all of the countries, from which CCB's membership is drawn will have materials published on the website, in the not too distant future.

7.2.3 Research Findings (Evidence):

In an effort to make information on CCB/Eye Care Caribbean readily available to its Members and Partners, plans are in place for the findings of Research Studies and other Assessments to be posted on the site.

Additionally, the findings of any studies pertinent to our work will also be posted (with the permission of the authors).

See reports at: www.eyecarecaribbean.com/research-and-evidence

8. Mandeville Regional Hospital

Development Programme:

The initiative for the development of the Eye Department and related facilities at the Mandeville Regional Hospital was taken a step closer to fruition. During the fourth quarter, bids were invited for the refurbishment of the building which is being transformed into the Eye Department on the compound of the Hospital in Southern Jamaica.



It is anticipated that the construction activities will be completed by April 2012 and that two additional Operating Theatres and a Spectacle Laboratory will commence operations from that location by June/July 2012.

It is further anticipated that with the inauguration of the additional theatre space, the Southern Regional Health Authority in Jamaica will move from just under 500 cataract surgeries per year (based on four (4) to six (6) hours of theatre time each week) to approximately 2000 cataract surgeries each year, in a population of 612,000 residents.

9. Provision of Scholarships (in Ophthalmology, Optometry and Refraction Techniques Training Programmes):

The EC Project entitled, "Delivering Vision 2020 in the Caribbean," with the objective to reduce the prevalence of blindness and visual impairment among rural and poor populations, aims to train 10 Ophthalmologists, 15 Optometrists and 23 Refractionists, in an effort to increase the number of health professionals in the region.

Currently, three (3) Medical Doctors, one from Jamaica and two from Guyana, are enrolled in Residency Programmes in three Latin American Countries – the Montemorelos University in Mexico, the Galileo University in Guatemala, and the Catholic University Fundacion Vision in Paraguay, respectively. These Programmes were chosen due to their emphasis on Community Health.

Further, nine (9) students are currently on the Scholarship Program for the Optometry Degree Course [developed by CCB in collaboration with International Centre for Eyecare Education (ICEE) and the University of Guyana] tenable at the University of Guyana. Seven (7) of the students are from Guyana, while the remainder are from Jamaica and St. Lucia, respectively. In relation to the students from Guyana, they were selected from the Regions which lack trained Eye Health Practitioners, with the understanding that they will return to their respective Regions, on successful completion of the Training Course.

In relation to the one-year Course in Refraction Techniques, (developed with support from ICEE and the University of Guyana) also tenable at the University of Guyana, four (4) persons have been certified since the implementation of the EC Project; with an additional nine (9) students, five (5) from Guyana and four (4) from Antigua and Barbuda, currently receiving support.

Additionally, during the year, Sensitisation Workshops were held for Primary Health Care Workers (344) and Low Vision Counsellors (102) in the Project Countries (Guyana, Jamaica, Haiti and St. Lucia).

