



THE NEWSLETTER



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GRENDIN CONDUCTS EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING

The Grenada Drug Information Network, and the National Observatory on Drugs (GRENDIN & NOD), held its Eighth Annual Meeting on 9 December 2011, under the theme, *'Building Public and Private Sector Partnership in Research and Data Collection'*. Over forty Officials from Government and Non-Governmental Organizations discussed the findings of qualitative and quantitative research on substance abuse, conducted in 2011.

One of the features of the meeting was a presentation by Mr. Pernell Clarke, Research Specialist at the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, Washington D.C. Mr. Clarke's presentation, entitled, 'Information For Drug Policy', focused on issues such as: Use of data for Policy Formulation; Structure and Function of Drug Information Networks; Comparison of Drug Statistics in The Caribbean. He also commended GRENDIN for its excellent work, and forwarded suggestion aimed at strengthening the network.

The highlight of the meeting was presentations by three (3) students of St. George's University, who conducted re-

search studies on various drug-related matters in 2011. The research studies were:

- *Assessment Of Health-Compromising Behaviour Prevalence and Clustering Among Grenadian Adolescents: Findings From The 2008 Global School-Based Student Health Survey*: Ms. Kim Oelhafen, Student, St. George's University.
- *Parental Influence And The Age At First Drink Among Grenadian Adolescents*: Ms. Yewande Oladipo
- *Assessment Of Alcohol Drinking Habits Among Secondary School Students In Grenada With Association To Advertising Viewership*: Mr. Brian Shayota

Copies of these research studies can be obtained from the webpage: www.gov.gd/ncodc.html

Assistant Drug Control Officer

<i>Inside This Issue</i>	<i>Pg.</i>
<i>GRENDIN Conducts Eighth Annual Meeting</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Japal Attends Regional Meeting</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Photos Of GRENDIN Meeting</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>In The News</i>	<i>4</i>

Mrs. Elizabeth Japal, who is the Officer with responsibilities for GRENDIN, chaired the meeting and presented the report on the Seventh Annual Meeting of GRENDIN, which was held 10 December 2011.

The objectives of the Eight Annual Meeting were:

- To present an update on the status of Grenada's participation in the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM).
- To present the results of four drug-related studies, which were conducted by students of St. George's University, in 2011.

GANJA is illegal in Grenada, Carriacou & Petite Martinique

OUR MISSION
*The Drug Control Secretariat would **endeavour** to create an atmosphere of non-tolerance towards drugs, through the implementation of appropriate programmes, which would promote the well-being of all persons in the State of Grenada.*

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dave Alexander, Drug Control Officer

Grenada can be justly proud of the Grenada Drug Information Network (GREN DIN). GREN DIN is the mechanism through which Grenada collects, analyzes, and disseminates information on drugs, and related information, for the purpose of monitoring trends, developing policy, and implementing appropriate programmes and responses.

The objectives of GREN DIN are:

- i. To provide accurate, relevant and timely statistical data on the nature and extent of the drug situation in Grenada;
- ii. To increase coordination, dialogue, and cooperation among the institutions which work in the area of drug control, through the exchange of drug-related statistical information;
- iii. To inform policy makers and the general public on drug trends and related matters.

GREN DIN has provided the Government of Grenada, Epidemiologists, researchers, students and other professionals with drug-related data from 1988 to 2011. This data is widely used to formulate policies and programmes, and to prepare papers on drug-related matters and for other educational purposes.

Given the success of GREN DIN, Grenadians can indeed be proud of its accomplishments.

JAPAL ATTENDS REGIONAL MEETING

Assistant Drug Control Officer Elizabeth Japal, Grenada, attended the 4th Biennial Meeting of National Observatories on Drugs in Trinidad and Tobago September 13 to 16, 2011. This meeting brought together officials from OAS/CICAD member states who work in the area of Demand Reduction and Supply Control. The main objective of the meeting was to share drug related data from respective member States, for the purpose of analyzing and disseminating information on drugs, monitoring trends and implementing and strengthening existing programmes.

Topics discussed at the meeting included: The need for National Drugs Observatories,; Data collection and Monitoring; The European Information Network on Drugs and Drug Addiction; Usefulness of Data; Training Needs and Tools for National Observatories; Certification Program for Treatment and Prevention Specialist; The Role of Universities in Drug Research; and, Ensuring the Success of a National Drug Observatory.

Presentations were also made by Dr. Wendy Crawford- Daniels and Dr. Cecilia Hegamin-Younger, of the St. Georges University, Grenada.

One of the papers presented at the meeting was, 'Comparative Analysis of Student Drug use in Caribbean Countries'. The document revealed patterns where alcohol prevalence among males was higher than among females. However, a surprising number of countries have results that show lifetime, past year and past month prevalence rates for females that are higher than that of males. The results also showed that most students initiate cigarette use between 10 and 12 years of age.

According to OAS/CICAD Research Specialist Mr. Pernel Clarke, who co-ordinated the meeting, it was successful and the objectives were achieved.



L to R: Elizabeth Japal and Dr. Cecilia Hegamin-Younger at the National Observatories Meeting, Trinidad, September 2011

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PHOTOS OF EIGHT ANNUAL MEETING OF GRENDIN, 9 DECEMBER 2011



Mrs. Carvell Lambert-Bartholomew (Secretary), presents gift to Mr. Pernell Clarke, Research Specialist, CICAD



Ms. Yewande Olidapo, Student, St. George's University presents results of research paper



Mr. Halim Brizan, Director, Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Finance



Mr. Dave Alexander & Mrs. Elizabeth Japal, Officers, Drug Control Secretariat

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IN THE NEWS

Grenada's Expert to the Governmental Group (GEG) of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), Mr. Dave Alexander, participated in the First Drafting Session of the GEG, on the implementation of recommendations which were assigned to countries during the Fifth Evaluation Round of the MEM, 2007 to 2009, 26 September to 5 October 2011, in Washington D.C. The final reports on the status of these recommendations would be published in 2012.



*Dave Alexander, Washington D.C.
29 September 2011*

Mr. Dave Alexander attended the workshop on the establishment of the Barbados Drug Information Network (BARDIN), 18 to 19 October 2011, in Barbados. Presentations made by Mr. Alexander were: The Grenada Experience: Establishment of the Grenada Drug Information Network (GRENDIN Network; Successes and Challenges; and

Examples Of Information Generated From Information Networks. BARDIN is designed to collect, analyse and disseminate drug-related data in Barbados. The workshop was organized by the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA), and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD).

His Excellency Sir Carlyle Glean, Governor-General of Grenada, launched the Camerhogne Foundation (Grenada) Inc., on 3 November 2011. The Foundation was established by His Excellency to address some of the negative influences faced by young people. Drug prevention will be a major component of the project.



*His Excellency Sir Carlyle Glean, at
Launch of
Camerhogne Foundation,
3 November 2011*

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THANK YOU

The Drug Control Secretariat wishes to thank the Government and people of Grenada, and all local, regional and international Organizations, for their financial and technical support in in the area of drug control in 2011. Special thanks to Dr. Cecilia Hegamin-Younger of the George's University for her assistance in the area of research and data collection. The assistance rendered by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) was most valuable to the national drug control program.

We are most grateful for your steadfast support. Your assistance has re-dounded to the success of our anti-drug initiatives. We look forward to your assistance in 2012.

Happy Holidays!!!

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&
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