CICAD OFFICIALS VISIT GRENADA

Officials from the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) Section of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), met with Government Officials, during a one-day visit to Grenada, 28 March 2013, to promote the Sixth Evaluation Round of the MEM, 2013 to 2015.

Ms. Angela Crowdy, Acting Assistant Executive Secretary of CICAD and Head of the MEM Section, and Ms. Karen Sanjines, Specialist in the MEM Section, held meetings with the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries of Education and Human Resource Development, National Security, and Health, along with the Commissioner of Police, to brief them on the new methodology being used by the MEM for the Sixth Evaluation Round of the MEM, and related matters. Ambassador Terence Craig, OAS Representative to Grenada, and Dave Alexander, Drug Control Officer, Drug Control Secretariat also participated in the meetings.

The Government Officials expressed their support for the MEM process, and gave the commitment of their Departments to assist in the completion of the MEM Survey.

Grenada has successfully participated in the five (5) previous rounds of the MEM. The Drug Control Secretariat is the National Coordinating Entity (NCE), for the MEM process in Grenada.
The visit by Officials of the MEM Section of CICAD to Grenada on 28 March 2013, marked a significant activity in the implementation of the MEM process in Grenada. This was the first time that such a MEM promotional activity was held in Grenada, undertaken by CICAD Officials, since the commencement of the MEM in 1999. It also provided the opportunity for some of the Ministries and the Royal Grenada Police Force, to interface with the CICAD Officials, to share their experiences and knowledge about the MEM.

Given the recent election of a new Government into Office in Grenada, and new Permanent Secretaries in the Ministries of National Security, and the Health, and a new Commissioner of Police, and this visit was most timely, as it provided an avenue for these Officials to meet with the CICAD Officials and to be briefed about the MEM. In addition, the visit was also timely as a new evaluation of the MEM, with a new methodology, recently commenced.

Grenada has successfully participated in the five previous Evaluation rounds of the MEM, between 1999 and 2009. It has also received financial and technical assistance in the implementation of its national drug control program, managed by the Drug Control Secretariat, as a result of its participation in the MEM.

Grenada participated in the Third Secondary Drug Prevalence Survey 2013. Of the Island’s twenty-three (23) secondary schools, seventeen (17) were randomly selected by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) to participate in the survey.

The selected population comprised of 1825 students. Schools throughout the Tri-island state of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique participated in the survey. Data was collected using the SIDUC Self Administered Questionnaire. Survey was done with Students of form’s two (2) four (4) and five (5) of the selected secondary schools; inclusive of Private, Public, and Co-Ed schools.

Administration of the survey instrument was done by sixteen (16) facilitators selected by the Central Statistics Office of the Ministry of Finance Grenada, and trained by members of staff of the Drug Control Secretariat, and Dr. Cecilia Younger, Professor of Biostatistics at St. Georges University (SGU).

The survey was funded by The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission and the Organization of American States (CICAD/OAS).
NEW MEM METHODOLOGY

The Evaluation Survey of the MEM approved by CICAD is the primary communication tool permitting dialogue between member states and the Governmental Expert Group (GEG), in order to collect information from member states for the Sixth Evaluation Round of the MEM. The evaluation process will be based on a set of twenty-seven (27) common recommendations, on the basis of which member states will be evaluated.

The primary objective will be to determine each member state’s situation with regard to the complete set of recommendations, which were developed based on the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and its Plan of Action for the period 2011-2015.

The Survey consists of five chapters: Institutional Strengthening, Demand Reduction, Supply Reduction, Control Measures and International Cooperation. Each chapter relevant Recommendations, and questions designed to obtain information. The information will allow the Experts to evaluate the progress made in the implementation of each Recommendation.

GRENDEANNUAL REPORT LAUNCHED

**GRENDA Drug Epidemiology Network (GRENDE)’, annual Report for the year 2012, was recently launched. It highlights activities of GRENDE, presents analysis of statistical data, and makes recommendations for implementation. The following is a summary of the accomplishments of GRENDE for the year 2012.

- The name, ‘Grenada Drug Information Network (GRENDIN), was amended to, ‘Grenada Drug Epidemiology Network (GRENDE’).
- Collection of data on alcohol-related mortality, for the period 2005 to 2011.
- Created one new Indicator: GRENDE Indicator 1D: Admissions; Mt. Gay Psychiatric Hospital
- Ninth Annual GRENDIN Meetings on 7 December 2012.
- Launch of the document, ‘A Pictorial Analysis Of The Extent, Patterns And Trends Of The Drug Situation In Grenada, 2001 To 2010.’
- Publication of several statistical reports.
- Strengthened partnership with St. George’s University (SGU) in the area of drug-related research.

- GRENDEN provided technical assistance to other Caribbean countries, through workshops organized by CICAD, for the establishment of their drug information networks and the regional drug information network. These workshops were held in St. Lucia (June 2012) and Antigua and Barbuda (August 2012).

- Provided statistical data for various regional and international organizations including: Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), World Health Organization (WHO), Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD).

The GRENDEN Annual Report 2012 can be obtained at the website: www.gov.gd/ncodc.htm, or can be obtained at the Drug Control Secretariat.
IN THE NEWS

Grenada has begun to reap the benefits of the newly in-
march 2013, marked the stalled Automated Fingerprinting
eighteenth year since the Identification System (AFIS). This
commencement of two public state of the art instrument was pro-
awareness programs imple-
mented by the Government of the
mented by the Drug Control United States of America under the
Secretariat. It was in March Caribbean Basin Security Initia-
1995, that, ‘The Newsletter’, tive. A special handing over cere-
and the television program, mony was held at the Police Head-
‘Living Drug Free’, were quarters in St. George’s to mark
launched. Grenada cablevision the occasion on 23 April 2013.
partnered with the Drug Control Acting Commissioner of Police,
Secretariat to produce and Winston James said, the AFIS has
broadcast ‘Living Drug Free’, yielded much success in solving
at no cost to the Government of cold cases in Grenada. In com-
Grenada, between 1995 and mending the US Government, the
2007. Technical assistance was Commissioner said, since receiv-
provided by Mr. Kevin Wil-
ing the equipment Grenada was
liams, who in 1995, was em-
able to clear up seventy-nine cold
ployed by the Government In-
cases, and without it those cases
formation Service (GIS), in the would be unsolved. US Ambassa-
initial format and content of dor to Barbados and the Eastern
‘The Newsletter’. It should be Caribbean His Excellency Dr.
noted that the Drug Control Larry Palmer said, that the system
Secretariat has never missed its will beef up border security not
deadline, or a quarterly publica-
just for Grenada, but also for
tion of ‘The Newsletter’. police force. He said that the RGPF
will be collaborating with all stake-
holders in an effort to bring about a
peaceful and stable environment.
Acting Commissioner James says
that he wants to build a strong and
united Royal Grenada Police Force,
one that will be respected at home
and abroad. Commissioner James
brings 41 years of experience to the
force, having first served as a Cor-
poral in 1957.

The Royal Grenada Police Cngratulations to Mr. Win-
Force continued its drug
interdiction campaign, with the pointed as Acting Commissioner
arrests and seizures of cannabis. of Police, in the Royal Grenada
On 15 April, 2013, four persons Police Force (RGPF) in March
were arrested and charged for 2013 Commissioner James previ-
possession and trafficking aously served as Commissioner, but
quantity of 121 kilos of Canna-
retired in 2008. He indicated that
bis. Another 121 kilos of can-
keen to develop an efficient
nabis were also seized on 24
April 2013. Meanwhile, on 9
May 2013, the Grenada Coast
Guard seized a speedboat carry-
ing 181 kilos of cannabis. Four
persons were arrested and
charged.

Commissioner of Police Winston James

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www.gov.gd/ncodc.html

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