



Canadian university students inspire youth in the Caribbean

Grenada, W.I. On July 11th and 12th 2008, graduating students from the Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo hosted the International Conference on Green Entrepreneurship (ICGE). The event was held at St. Georges University in Grenada for the islands' top 100 students. This international and unprecedented student project was endorsed by the Government of Grenada and was collaboratively planned between volunteers in Grenada, Trinidad, and Canada. ICGE focuses on inspiring young minds in the Caribbean to create a sustainable environment and economic future through education, networking, and mentorship.



Organizers and Speakers: Geoff Malleck, Dennesa Guiseppi, Ashley Jones, Laura Rynard, Sen. Liz Thompson, Caustan De Riggs, Frank Watty, and Calvin Weekes.

Caustan De Riggs - ICGE Project Chair, comments that, "These types of projects are necessary in order to truly foster innovation. Before we can create opportunity we need ideas, and we get ideas when we are educated beyond the status quo...an idea is an opportunity". Caustan states that, "the project would not have been possible without the contributions from the members of the Grenada Chamber of Industry and Commerce and our overseas team members". Ashley Jones - Director of Marketing and Development, comments on the additional forthcoming support from the Canadian organizations which truly enabled us to become established. "We had to creatively target companies and organizations that would indirectly benefit from Caribbean exposure and forge relationships with organizations in the environmental industry who shared common goals, similar to ICGE".

The experience of the ICGE project was beyond what the team envisioned. Conference Speaker, Frank Watty stated that "the two days were consumed by presentations, workshops and case studies designed to expose, expand and engage the mind as to opportunities, possibilities and prospects for development with a "green" future". One of the delegates from Trinidad, Rachael Taitt, also enjoyed the event commenting that "it also opened our minds to the possible job avenues in the environmental field. Overall, the conference was informative, inspirational and also a great networking event".



"Inspiring young minds to create a sustainable future"

"The ICGE project will continue to encourage further development of local action-oriented programs supporting youth and the economy within this region."

-Senator Claris Charles,
Former Minister of
Education, Grenada

"The very lively and important presentations provided participants with the tools they will need to establish themselves as entrepreneurs."

-Pat Ruddell,
Retired Principal, Trinidad

"These are the future leaders."

-Chris De Riggs,
Executive Director of the
Grenada Chamber of
Industry and Commerce.

"ICGE provides the
opportunity to facilitate
change that is
sustainable at the
national and regional
levels."

-Senator Anne David
Antoine, Former Minister
of Health Social Security,
the Environment &
Ecclesiastic Relations,
Grenada.

"It stimulated all of us,
adults and professionals
included to reach
higher."

-Dianne Roberts, Roberts
Consulting, Grenada.



Keynote speaker Senator Liz Thompson, a highly accomplished official from Barbados, referred to the event "as a positive mark of what globalization enables us to do" she said " we have Canadian students working with a local (Grenada) planning committee, and we are hosting the event with the cooperation of an American Medical University".

ICGE also hosted special guests, delegates, and speakers from Canada, Trinidad, and Dominica. Conference Speaker, Geoffery Malleck, commented on ICGE's efforts, "...Designing, coordinating and delivering a conference of this calibre is outstanding... Doing it from thousands of kilometres away is staggering... Not only did they accomplish the objectives set for the conference, they did so by exceeding expectations. I am proud to have been associated with the ICGE ...certainly the feedback I have received suggests that a second annual ICGE experience is a must have!"

Caustan and Ashley, quoted earlier, along with Dennesa Guiseppi and Laura Rynard, began this project in September 2007, while completing their final year of University. The ICGE team believed the conference would make a difference in the lives of many Caribbean students and is grateful for the support from Grenada and their principle Canadian partners, the Federation of Students at the University of Waterloo and the Ontario Science Centre. The ICGE team would also like to highlight the support from the Faculties of Environment and Arts at the University of Waterloo as well. The ICGE team seeks to develop the organization within the coming years and to extend opportunities to students in Canada and the Caribbean.



Grenada Committee: Asif Jasat, Kelvin Dottin, Dianne Roberts, Sandra James, Chris De Riggs, and Colin Dowe.

