The University of the West Indies

EVOLUTION AND OUTREACH OF A REGIONAL UNIVERSITY: “POSSIBILITIES AND CHALLENGES”

PRESENTATION TO “GOING GLOBAL”
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What features promote or hinder internationalisation?

Some of the first batch of 33 medical students arriving in Jamaica in 1948 to start classes at the University College of the West Indies.

The University of the West Indies

Mission

"*to propel the economic, social, political and cultural development of West Indian society through teaching, research, innovation, advisory and community services and intellectual leadership.*"

Growth of The University

- Faculties of Medical Sciences, Pure and Applied Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities and Education in Jamaica (Mona)
- Independent University by Royal Charter, 1962
- Campus in Trinidad (1962) – St. Augustine
- Campus in Barbados (1963) – Cave Hill
- Growth of Teaching Sites in 12 other Anglophone Caribbean countries

The University of the West Indies

- The University of the West Indies is a Regional University serving **17 Anglophone Caribbean nations**.
- 3 major campuses in Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago – approximately 10 – 15% students from other countries in region.
- Current enrolment – **approximately 50,000**
- Open campus with 46 sites in 16 countries – on-line and face-to-face degree and professional upgrade programmes

UNITED STATES
Gulf of Mexico
THE BAHAMAS
North Atlantic Ocean
BERMUDA
CUBA
MEXICO
George Town
CAYMAN TRENCH
HAITI
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
PUERTO RICO TRENCH
JAMAICA
BELIZE
GUATEMALA
HONDURAS
Caribbean Sea
SAINT LUCIA
BARBADOS
NICARAGUA
Managua
GRENADA
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
COSTA RICA
PANAMA
North Pacific Ocean
VENEZUELA

Governance

- Federal structure with single overall Regional University Council

• Single Strategic Plan and overall Financial Management	Some of these entities replicated at Campus (national) level
• Single Quality Assurance System for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes	
• Committee of Deans from all campuses	
• Appointments / Promotions to Professorial Rank	

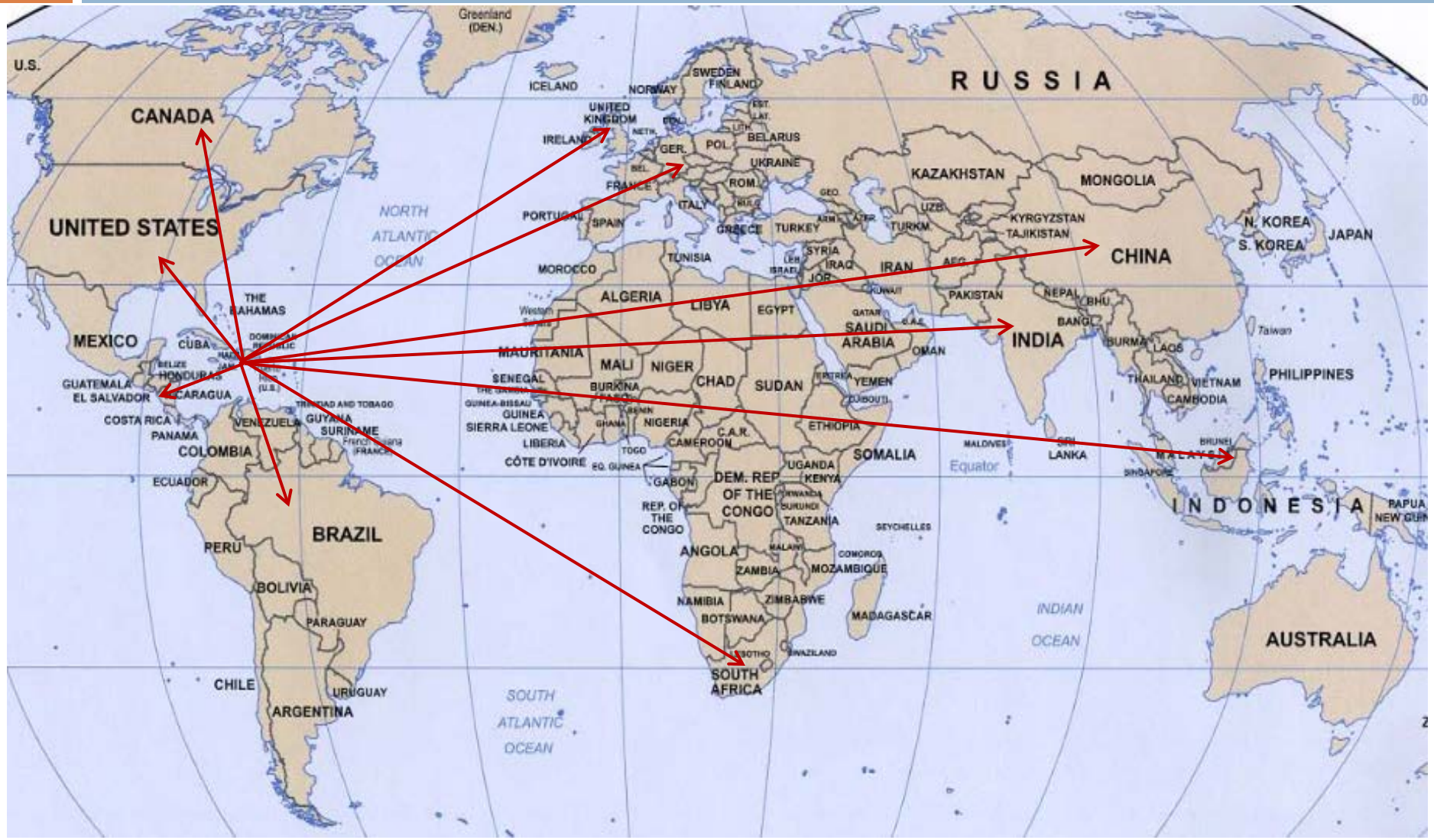
Major Accomplishments / Factors

- Rigorous Quality Assurance Systems for Undergraduate / Graduate Programmes
- Attentiveness to Teaching Quality (Certificate in University Teaching and Learning for academics)
- Research directed at Regional needs (History, Literature, Culture, Sustainability in Small Island States, Marine Studies, Chronic Non-communicable Diseases, Economic Development in Small Island States, etc)
- Academics play significant roles in regional governing / policy making bodies

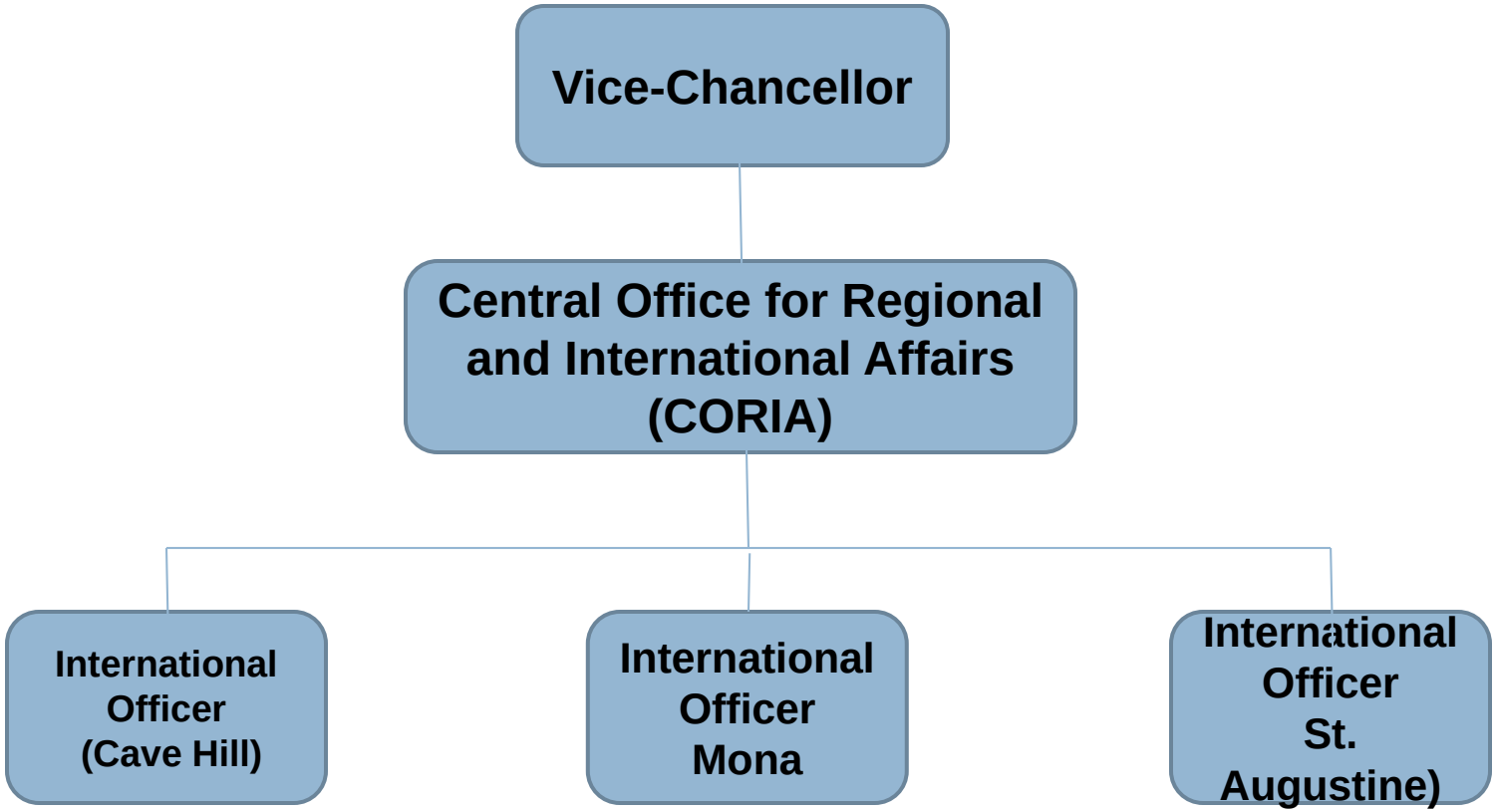
Why Does this Regional Partnership Work?

- Common History, Language, Culture
- Governments all members of Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- Shared geographic space with positives (tourism) and negatives (hurricanes, earthquakes)
- Shared social and economic challenges

Reaching Beyond the Anglophone Caribbean



Organisational Chart for International Affairs



Each International Officer reports to Principal of their campus and to the Vice-Chancellor through CORIA

Linkages Beyond the Anglophone Caribbean

Region	Reasons for Linkage	Challenge
Central / South America	Related history; culture; geographic space; social, economic, health problems	Language
North America (USA/Canada)	Common language, research funding opportunities, large Caribbean diaspora	(Mis)perception that universities in Caribbean not strong
Europe	Tremendous funding support for African/Caribbean/Pacific universities (EDULINK, Erasmus Mundus)	Language, (Mis)perceptions about quality as per North America

Linkages Beyond Anglophone Caribbean

Region	Reason for Linkage	Challenge
Africa	Ethnic / Cultural relationship	Inadequate resources for travel and joint research
India	Ethnic / cultural relationship	Inadequate resources for travel and joint research, geographic distance
China/Japan	Beginnings of student / academic exchanges promotes by Governments (Confucius Institute / Japanese Language	Language, cultural differences, geographic distance

Linkages Beyond Anglophone Caribbean

Region	Reason for Linkage	Challenge
South Pacific	Common issues related to small island states (sustainability, natural hazards, economies of small islands)	Geographic / time difference
Consortium of Small Island States Universities	University Consortium of Small Island States (UCSIS) • UWI • University of the South Pacific • University of Mauritius • University of Grand Canary Islands • University of the Virgin Islands	

Linkages Beyond Anglophone Caribbean

Research Area	UWI Personnel / Centre / Institute	Participating Universities in Colombia
Sustainable Development	Institute for Sustainable Development	Universidad de Cartagena Universidad del Atlántico Universidad de Córdoba Universidad Simón Bolívar Universidad de la Guajira
Education	School of Education	
Epidemiology	TMRI	
Gender Relations	IGDS	
Crop Management	Faculty of Food & Agriculture Cocoa Research Unit	
Crime and Violence	Institute for Criminal Justice & Security	
Tourism	Prof. Ian Boxill	
Cultural	Institute for Cultural Studies	

SUE CARIBE
SISTEMA DE UNIVERSIDADES ESTATALES DEL CARIBE COLOMBIANO

Linkages Beyond Anglophone Caribbean

Details	Value	Funding Agency
Strengthening Capacity for Food Science and Technology Teaching, Learning and Research to Add Value to Indigenous Foods For Food Security in Africa and the Caribbean. (FSTinAC)	€588,296.00	EU (Edulink) UWI as partner
Mainstreaming Energy Efficiency and Climate Change in Built Environment Training and Research in the Caribbean	€573,298.00	EU (UWI as lead)
Global-Local Caribbean Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Scenarios	€613,000.	EU (UWI in partnership with Stockholm Environment Institute, Cropper Foundation and the CCCCC
Building the Capacity of Regional and National Fisherfolk Organisation Networks	€1,290,000	European Union

Summary

- Linkages are easiest within the same region with shared culture, language, social and economic circumstances
- Language differences can be a major barrier even if in same region with shared interests (Caribbean Basin – Spanish, English, French, Dutch, etc)
- Availability of resources for joint research, student / academic exchanges promotes linkages despite geographic distance
- Commitment of administration, academics, students to internationalisation can overcome many barriers outlined previously

Thank you!