
May 7, 2013 - OAS Experts Meeting on Cultural Heritage takes place in Barbados

A three-day consultation with stakeholders of the project "Expanding the Socio-Economic Potential of Cultural Heritage in the Caribbean" is taking place in Christ Church, Barbados from May 7 to 9, 2013. The project is being developed by the Organization of American States (OAS) Office of Education and Culture in collaboration with Coherit Associates, LLC, and is funded by the United States Permanent Mission to the OAS. The Barbados Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth of Barbados is hosting and co-organizing the meeting.

The event brings together some 30 experts, mostly nationals from countries of the Caribbean, to examine risks to cultural heritage, gaps in policy and practice, and possible regional responses to promote and protect both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The group includes individuals from government heritage and tourism sectors, civil society, the private sector, and academia.

The meeting was opened by the Honourable Stephen Lashley, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth of Barbados, who called the project extremely critical and said that it could not be coming at a more appropriate time. He noted that, managed well, heritage properties can play a critical role in increasing foreign exchange earnings while providing exciting commercial opportunities for young entrepreneurs.

Also speaking at the opening ceremony were Mr. Frances McBarnette, Representative of the OAS in Barbados, Mr. Christopher Sandrolini, Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, and Ms. Lenore Yaffee Garcia, Director of the OAS Office of Education and Culture

This meeting provides a regional platform for consultation and discussions based on analysis of the results of a recent survey administered to stakeholders throughout the region. The meeting will formulate recommendations for action and identify the selection criteria for future pilot projects in a planned subsequent phase of the project.

For further information on the project, please visit <http://caribheritage.org/>
