Mission Statement of the CPID

The Caribbean Court of Justice Protocol & Information Division works towards providing protocol services of the highest quality to the Court and its guests and is the principal organ in the meaningful exchange of information between the CCJ and its regional and international interlocutors, both protocol and information being provided in a courteous, timely and efficient manner.

The Vision of the CPID

The Caribbean Court of Justice Protocol & Information Division provides easily accessible customer-sensitive service characterised by courtesy and efficiency and in a manner so transparent and of such integrity as to inspire universal trust and confidence.

Strategic Goals

- to ensure the professional discharge of services in relation to protocol;
- to ensure easy accessibility for all to accurate, user-friendly information, disseminated and delivered in a timely and courteous manner;
- to assist in sustaining a high quality of interaction between the Court and all its interlocutors, thus ensuring a customer-service oriented organisation in which personnel possess a sound knowledge of Court processes.

Strategic Objectives

- the development of a human resource framework to ensure that the Protocol & Information Unit is adequately and competently staffed;
- the development of a training strategy to improve and maintain the competence and skills of the unit and the wider organisation with respect to all matters under its purview;
- the documentation of procedures and policies on matters pertaining to the Caribbean Court of Justice;
- dissemination of information through an integrated Public Education and Information Programme, aimed at local, regional and international consumers through audio-visual media and outreach programmes;
- the management of all Court events in an efficient, cost-effective and professional manner.
The CPID is responsible for all aspects of protocol, information, customer service and non-judicial support for judicial officers.

*Between 1 August 2006 and 31 July 2007, the CPID comprised:*

**Dr. Michael Anthony Lilla, Court Protocol & Information Officer (CPIO);**  
**Ms. Lisa Furlonge, CPID Secretary; and**  
**Ms. Denise Dickenson, Tea Assistant.**

Ms. Seanna Anissette and Ms. Gina Affonso-Smith, Customer Service Representatives, frequently rendered assistance to the division in a variety of ways, including; the provision of protocol services.

**Protocol**

The Caribbean Court of Justice is an international tribunal. As such, certain of its attributes cause it to resemble a diplomatic entity. The CPID is the administrative section charged with the responsibility of providing protocol services of various kinds to the Court and the Regional Judicial & Legal Services Commission (RJLSC). The division has thus striven to ensure that the conduct of the Court’s affairs, both public and internal, is of the kind traditionally associated with such bodies. Over the period under review, the CPID:

- provided airport assistance for international travel;
- provided organisational assistance at formal events;
- represented Court personnel in their dealings with CARICOM Ministries of Foreign Affairs, as well as diplomatic missions based in Trinidad & Tobago and abroad;
- represented the Court in its dealings with the various Trinidad & Tobago service agencies with which it must interact, such as, inter alia, the Customs & Excise Department and the Immigration Division of the Ministry of National Security;
- represented the Court in its dealings with agencies and organisations outside of Trinidad & Tobago;
- has been the Court’s “voice” in its interaction with local, regional and international entities, ensuring that the nature and responsibilities of the Court are properly understood and the Court perceived and dealt with in a manner befitting its status and functions.

As the Court is an international tribunal, foreign dignitaries pay courtesy calls on His Honour the President, as well as other Judges of the Court. Arranging and managing such calls is the function of the CPID.
During the period under review, the following visitors were formally received at the Court:

- Ms. Betty Mould-Idrisu, Director of the Legal & Constitutional Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat (19 October 2006);
- His Excellency Dr. Helmut Ohlraun, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany (17 November 2006);
- Professor Ludger Künhardt, Director of the Institute of European Integration of the University of Bonn (17 November 2006);
- His Honour Anthony D. J. Gafoor, Chairman of the Tax Appeal Board of Trinidad & Tobago (17 November 2006);
- The Honourable Mr. Justice Lensley Woolf, Chief Justice of Jamaica (2 March 2007);
- The Honourable Mr. Justice Abdulai Conteh, Chief Justice of Belize (3 March 2007);
- Sir Francis Jacobs, former Advocate General of the European Court of Justice (3 March 2007);
- His Excellency Fernando de la Serna, Ambassador of Spain (5 March 2007);
- His Excellency Gabriel Zepeda, Ambassador of Chile (7 March 2007);
- The Honourable Luis A. J. de Lannoy, Chief Justice of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba (13 April 2007);
- The Honourable Lisbeth Moeldraad, Judge of the Joint Court of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba (13 April 2007);
- Mrs. Louise de Bode-Olton, Counsellor for Netherlands Antilles Affairs at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (13 April 2007);
- Mr. Hans de Doelder, Professor of Criminal Law, Erasmus University of Rotterdam (30 April 2007);
- Honourable Mr. Jan W. Fokkens, Procureur-Generaal to the Supreme Court of the Netherlands (30 April 2007);
- His Excellency Carlos Mauricio Pineda Cruz, Ambassador of the Republic of El Salvador (4 May 2007);
- His Honour, Ricardo Acevedo Peralta, President of the Central American Court of Justice (4 May 2007);
- Mr. Henry Charles, Regional Director of the Commonwealth Youth Programme (6 June 2007);
- Mr. Stelios Christopoulos, Minister Counsellor and Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Commission to Trinidad & Tobago (11 July 2007);
Information (As Public Education)
In 2006-2007, the provision of information to the public was essentially through media releases and interviews of Court personnel by the local, regional and international media. Court outreach thus far has been to accommodate requests for tours of the Court by interested institutions and groups. Likewise, invitations to visit and tour the Court have been extended to various parties, in order to encourage a greater sense of public awareness of the workings of the Court.

The CPID acknowledges that informing and educating the Caribbean on the nature, function and purpose of the CCJ, especially at this early stage in the life of the Court, represents a huge task. With this in mind, in the year under review, the division sought to devise a cogent Public Education and Information Programme (PEIP). The division, charged with providing information on the Court through all the media (print, audio and visual) understands its need to formulate a PEIP that would embrace all of these media.

The CPID further acknowledges that there persists much public and official scepticism as regards the Court. This naturally implies that the PEIP must be of such a nature and scope as to counter negative publicity over a large expanse.

Dutch
The Republic of Suriname being a member of the Court, Mrs. Zaitoen F. Badloe-Klaverweide, a national of Suriname, was engaged to conduct audio-lingual tutorials, during the period under review. All personnel, inclusive of Judges, participated in these tutorials.

Above: The Hon. Mr. Justice Saunders engaging with students of the Diego Martin Government Secondary School, Port of Spain, Trinidad