

Report on the Third Regional GEO Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean
Held in Panama from the 29th November – 1st December 2007

Report Prepared by Ms. Yoland London

I was given the opportunity to represent GEO for youth Caribbean (CYEN) in the recently held GEO for youth meeting for the Latin America and the Caribbean Held in Panama from the 29th November- 1st December 2007.

There were nineteen (19) participants from Latin America and the Caribbean present at this year's meeting. The participant's were predominantly from Latin America with two participants from the Caribbean.

PARTICIPANTS LIST
 THIRD REGIONAL GEO FOR YOUTH LATING AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN MEETING
 PANAMA 29thNov- 1st December 2007

PARTICIPANTS	COUNTRY
1.Nintus Magre	St. Lucia (CYEN)
2.Yoland London	St. Vincent and the Grenadines (CYEN)
3.Adriana Fariello Lara	Uruguay
4.Alicia Speratti	Brazil
5.Candy De Gracia	Panama
6.Cecelia Iglesias	Argentina
7.Elizabeth Osorio	Panama
8.Ennio Arcia	Panama
9.Jorge Trabuco	Paraguay
10.Jose Guzman	Cuba
11.Juan Perez	Panama
12.Juan Villa	Colombia
13.Leslie Riofrio	Ecuador
14.Norma Vaquero	El Salvador
15.Orlando Coronado	Peru
16.Oscar Brenes	Costa Rico
17.Paloma Swinburn	Chile
18.Rolando Alvarez	Guatemala
19.Vladimir Heranadez	Mexico

The sessions at the meeting were challenging giving the fact that they were all presented in Spanish. However there was one Participant from Brazil who spoke some English and she was very helpful in translating during some of the sessions for us.

During the three day meeting we have had the opportunity to visit the UNEP'S Regional Office in Panama, meet with the various department staff and understanding how each department major function and operation.

Three major presentations were done and we were placed in groups for these presentations: The three areas presented on were: **1. Ozone- Artie Durbie**
2. Environmental Law- Andrea Brusco and 3. Production and Consumption- Elvis Jaen

The group that we were placed in was **Ozone** as the presenter is from the Caribbean and spoke both English and Spanish and that was seen as an advantage for us. (English speaking participants).

Our session was presented by:

- **Artie Durbie ,**
Policy and Implementation of the Ozone Action Programme Officer,
Division of Technology, Industry, and Economics (DTIE)

This session was very informative and Interactive. We were briefed on her departments function and new plans for the Ozone Layer. We learned about their plans to develop "ozzy ozone" to fit the age group 12 -18. and, We all got the opportunity to share what we understood about the Ozone Layer and also to share our Territories experiences on the topic (what is being done; any campaigns etc)

The presenter encouraged us not to give up on our work to protect the environment and she further stated that the Caribbean especially has to continue on their fight against the destruction of the Ozone Layer as we would suffer tremendously as a result of Ozone Depletion. She went further to state that Tourism is the major source of Economy for most of the Caribbean Islands and once we loose our Ozone Layer we have lost everything, our Tourism, Our Farming and of course livelihoods.

WORKPLAN FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS 2008 -2010

During this session we were placed in groups and had to individually (each territory) write what we would like to see included in the work plan for the next two years. The three areas we had to concentrate on were:

Networking – Several points came out of this two of the points that came out on this were:

- Maintaining websites, flyers, brochures etc is a good approach to building the network however, we felt that having them done in English as well would help us a great deal in understanding what's happening and we would definitely feel apart of the process.
- Persons felt that there should be a greater connection between the Latin American Countries and the Caribbean.

Capacity Building:

Two of the points that came out under this discussion were:

- UNEP providing more funds to aid territories in organizing regular workshops on Environmental challenges each territory may be faced with.
- There should be a training seminar involving LAC training on Climate change and other environmental issues can be incorporated.

Evaluation:

The points that came out under evaluation were very similar and the two that were most common are:

- Territories should report quarterly on their process, this way UNEP would be aware of the challenges if any and would be able to offer any assistance guidance.
- There should be an annual Coordinators meeting annual this way verbal discussions can take place and any solution to challenges can be discussed openly and possible come up with solutions together.

CONCERNS

- We were told to write a ten-line summary on our regions GEO process and that would be discussed in an open forum. Although it was done there were no discussions at all on some of the regions process including the Caribbean.

The meeting ended in the form of a closing ceremony on the 1st December 2007.