

**Conference on: “Bridging the gap between research and policy for sustainable development in Caribbean small island developing states”
27-28 March, 2009, Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago)**

Paris, Monday 23 March 2009. **Organized by the Sustainable Economic Development Unit (SEDU), at the University of the West Indies St. Augustine, the Annual Conference of the Sustainable Economic Development will take place on 27-28 March, 2009 in Port of Spain.**

With the aim to enhance research and policy, the theme: “Bridging the gap between research and policy for sustainable development in *Caribbean small Island developing states – SIDS*” has been chosen for this year’s conference.

Under the leadership of UNESCO, **Latin American and the Caribbean** countries are determined to continue their efforts towards enhancing the role of social sciences in developing their local and regional social policies, especially through establishing linkages between research and policy. UNESCO is taking part in the conference through its cluster Office in **Kingston (Jamaica)**, by sponsoring a panel on “Policy – Research Dialogue”.

Port of Spain, the capital of **Trinidad and Tobago**, often referred to as “the jewel of the Caribbean”, will be hosting scholars, policy-makers, representatives of the civil society and other development stakeholders from different countries in the region to discuss how research institutions, NGO’s, international organizations and civil society can collaborate to achieve sustainable development.

SEDU was launched on 19 October 1996. SEDU’s mission is “to conduct empirical and theoretical research and facilitate interdisciplinary work on the most promising policies for Sustainable Economic Development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)”.

Social science research is increasingly recognized for its crucial role in providing decision support in all fields of development. Social science forums, as permanent spaces for dialogue between the worlds of science and social policies have also emerged in **Africa**, **Asia** and the **Arab region**.

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<http://sta.uwi.edu/sedu/conference2009.asp>