



Financial Information Month 2016



Issue No. 46

September 2016

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Financial Information Month is a regional financial, economic, business and entrepreneurial education campaign executed in the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) since 2002, through the collaborative efforts of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, ECCU member governments, financial and academic institutions, the media, other private and public sector institutions and community based groups. This year marks the 15th year of celebrations.

The 2016 Theme

The Financial Information Month 2016 campaign advances the view that now is the time to expand our opportunities, locally, regionally and internationally. This message is graphically represented by hands holding a globe with the word opportunities, reflecting the message that we hold our future in our hands and what that future shapes up to be is based in large part on how we create, optimize, pursue, embrace and how we COPE with whatever comes our way.



**FINANCIAL INFORMATION MONTH
OCTOBER 2016**

The word 'Opportunities' conjures up possibilities, options, different paths, ideas, innovation, getting started, action, leadership, pushing past our comfort zone, stretching higher and more. The COPE acronym challenges us to **create** opportunities; to take advantage of the possibilities that these opportunities present by **optimising** them; to look for opportunities everywhere and **pursue** them; and then, once we have opportunities, to **embrace** them and take advantage of what is available and possible.

Regional Initiatives

- ECCU Launch of FIM 2016 theme song and video;
- ECCU Train the Trainers Workshop for Teachers;
- ECCU Declaration Speeches by Ministers of Finance;
- ECCU Business Symposium and Innovation Forum;
- ECCU Train the Trainers Workshop for Financial Practitioners
20 October

Local Initiatives

- 4th Annual Bargain Sale to fund the SKN FIM Small Business Grant
- **NEW*** St Kitts Nevis Small Business Expos at commercial banks (*two small business booths in the participating banks lobby area*) - September 30 and October 07;
- 2nd Annual Live TV Financial Seminars - October 13 and 20;
- 3rd Annual FIM Financial Fun Sports Meet on - October 15 on both St. Kitts and Nevis;
- Presentations by partners to schools, churches, community

organisations on financial, economic and business Issues—
October – November;

- 4th Annual St Kitts Nevis Primary School Quiz on Financial Issues, Social Studies and Creative Thinking - October 27.

Business Opportunity Workshop for Teachers

The half day workshop conducted on September 29 provided a forum to exchange ideas on how to engage/empower students on the possibilities of exploring entrepreneurship as a career choice:

Discussion Topics included:

- Lessons for the Classroom in Entrepreneurial Opportunity Development – Transforming ideas into viable business concepts;
- Opportunities in social entrepreneurship;
- Examining non-traditional financing models for ECCU start-ups:
 - Crowd funding and
 - Angel Investing.

Business Symposium and Innovation Forum

Now in its sixth year, this regional symposium which focuses on strategy and innovation, provides insights, valuable learning, collaboration and guidance on how to address sustainable, resilient business growth in the OECS.

This year, the Symposium was conducted on Thursday, October 06 and the topics and speakers were:

- ⇒ **Policies to support the rise of the creative industry in the OECS** – Mr. David Cox, Creative Director, Publisher, Caribbean Bride, and
- ⇒ **Improving the OECS Business Climate** - Mr. Jose Rosa, General Manager - Kajola Kristada Ltd. / President, St. Kitts Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce.



Business Opportunity Workshop for Financial Institutions - October 20, 2016


The workshop will provide a forum to exchange ideas on:

- How to better assess the viability of new business ventures. *Dr. Jürgen Engel, Savings Banks Foundation for International Cooperation,*
- SMEs as business opportunities and strategies to leverage these business opportunities. *Daniel Arthurton, Adviser, ECCB,*
- Digital currency and the financial system. *Telly Valerie Onu, CEO, Quintessence Consulting, and*
- Crowd Financing - Does this financing model hold lessons and opportunities to be exploited by financial institutions? *Telly Valerie Onu, CEO, Quintessence Consulting.*

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The FIM theme, logo and song were launched on Tuesday, August 30, 2016. There was also a re-launch of the FIM Facebook page.

 For further information visit the FIM Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FinancialInformationMonthECCU>

