

A New Economic Relationship Between the United States and the Caribbean

Thursday, March 4, 2010

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
4th floor conference room

Cecilia Babb is Executive Coordinator of the Caribbean (NGO) Policy Development Centre based in Barbados. She has been an activist within the NGO sector for the past twenty years, working with NGOs at national, regional, and international levels. Her activism is primarily concerned with women's economic security and their political decision making at Parliamentary level. As a feminist, she is devoted to gender justice. Additionally, some of her research is focused on issues of gender and trade.

Stephen Lande is the founder and President of Manchester Trade, LTD., an international trade and investment consulting firm, and an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. He was previously a Foreign Service Officer in the Economic Bureau of the Department of State. Lande had a twelve year career with the Office of the United State Trade Representative as the Senior Trade negotiator and the first of a long - line of Assistant USTRs, negotiating trade agreements in Asia, the Middle East and the Caribbean. He also had an influential role in the US Generalized System of Preferences, Caribbean Basin Initiative, and North American Free Trade Agreement. More recently, he has been directly involved with advancing the approval of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, improvements to the Caribbean Basin Initiative, the spread of bilateral free trade agreements, and the Free Trade Area of the Americas. Lande holds a BA in Economics from Colgate University and an MA in International Economics and Trade from Johns Hopkins University.

Irving A. Williamson is currently a Commissioner at the United States International Trade Commission (ITC). He worked on trade policy issues for over 40 years as ITC Commissioner, attorney at United States Trade Representative, Foreign Service Officer, and consultant. Prior to his ITC appointment, Williamson served for seven years as President of Williamson International Trade Strategies, Inc., heading a USAID project which assisted Ethiopia with its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). He has worked on USAID-funded WTO compliance and participation projects in many countries including Algeria, Cape Verde, and Guyana, and has conducted WTO training programs in countries such as Egypt, Barbados, and Lebanon. Williamson has experience with the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) and served as a trade advisor to the US-Egypt Business Counsel. He has also authored many articles on trade. Williamson received his BA in History from Brown University, an MA in International Relations with an emphasis on African Studies and International Economics from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and a JD from George Washington University Law School

Dav-Ernán Kowlessar is the President of the Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Services Industries at the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) and currently serves as the Board Chairman for the Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Services Industries. His work at CPDC focuses on business development, management, and marketing projects for the firm. Kowlessar is also the acting president of the entertainment company Control Room Company Limited. His previous engagements include Senior Audit Assistant at Chartered Accountants, Mark Castillo Toney and Company (now Pannell Kerr Forster), Management Accountant, Financial Procurement/Customs /Materials Manager at Penta Paints Limited, and Business Development Manager at Cariflex Limited. Kowlessar graduated from the University of the West Indies with a B.Sc. (Honors) Degree in Industrial Management majoring in Finance and Marketing. He is also certified as a Project Management Professional (PMP).