
Foreword

At the beginning of the 21st century the Caribbean region faces major challenges, many related to issues emerging from the globalisation process and the associated concerns of trade and financial liberalisation, with their social and economic implications. As small states in an era of large economic blocs and increasingly powerful corporate groupings, the next several years will, therefore, test the skills, strength, cohesiveness and innovation of the region in a persistent and unrelenting fashion.

While this book marks the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Central Bank of Barbados, the topics are addressed principally from a regional perspective, as the Caribbean must have a unified approach to effectively cope with the challenges of globalisation. Also, it is impossible for central banks to be restricted to only national monetary policy initiatives if their main objective is general macroeconomic stability. This is because new developments are changing the ways domestic sectors are evolving, their interaction with the global economy, and their influence on macroeconomic stability. Indeed, the impending impacts of these global forces both locally and regionally make past responses no longer appropriate.

The issues raised in this book are about the globalisation process and are, therefore, critical to the kinds of responses the region must make or must consider, as it reacts to current changes in trade, corporate reorganisation, technology and sectoral restructuring. The area of finance stands out as one in which major adjustments and repositioning are already evident. This publication draws on the insights of our economists, as they examine, analyse and ventilate the challenges facing us, delving into various aspects of our economic performance. In this way, they seek to contribute to the forging of a way forward for the Caribbean.

I congratulate the economists of the Central Bank for dealing with the issues before us in a bold, forthright and searching manner. Particular thanks and congratulations go to the editors Harold Codrington, Roland Craigwell and Darrin Downes, whose hard work, skill and dedication to the editing of

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several drafts are responsible for the successful publication of a most interesting volume. The book recommends itself to both economists and policy-makers.

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