CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

WELCOME ADDRESS

TO THE

SIXTEENTH WILLIAM G. DEMAS MEMORIAL LECTURE

AT THE

SIR CECIL JACOBS AUDITORIUM
EASTERN CARIBBEAN CENTRAL BANK
BASSETERRE
ST. KITTS

MAY 19, 2015
WELCOME REMARKS TO THE SIXTEENTH WILLIAM G. DEMAS MEMORIAL LECTURE

SALUTATIONS
His Excellency Mr. Tapley Seaton, QC, Acting Governor General of St. Kitts and Nevis
Dr. the Hon. Timothy Harris, Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, and Chairman of the 45th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of CDB
The Hon. Victor Banks, Chief Minister of Anguilla
Other Members of the Federal Cabinet and the Nevis Island Administration
Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps
Senior Government Officials
Sir K. Dwight Venner, Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
Governors and Directors of CDB
Staff of CDB
Specially Invited Guests
Ladies and Gentleman
It is my distinct honour and pleasure to welcome each of you to the Sixteenth William G. Demas Memorial Lecture.

The W.G Demas Lecture, as it is also commonly known, has become one of the highpoints of the CDB Annual Meeting.

When the idea was conceptualised more than 16 years ago, the architects envisaged the forum as a fitting tribute to a man who was known for his scholarship; his enjoyment of intellectual discourse; his role in promoting regional integration; and of course, his contribution to our organisation as its Second President.

Neither the architects nor Mr. Demas could have imagined that the concept would catch on and grow into such an integral component of our annual meeting activities.

I do look forward to being a part of this discourse every year. We have come to expect that distinguished speakers
who grace this stage will bring different and fresh perspectives to the development debates in our Region.

Tonight, our distinguished speaker, Professor the Honourable Gordon Shirley, agreed to speak on the topic ‘Rethinking Caribbean Logistics: Driving Forces; New Paradigms’.

Generally, the terms “logistics” and “logistics hubs” conjure images of Dubai, Rotterdam and Singapore and the meteoric transformations that took place in these countries with the rapid growth and expansion of their logistics sector.

With world trade growing, with emerging markets like China and Brazil becoming major centres of production, and, more recently, with the expansion taking place in the Panama Canal, many people are asking whether opportunities exist for the Caribbean to also become major logistics centres. If implemented effectively such logistics hubs could then become the “game changer” for
Caribbean economies and the key to sustained growth and development across the Region

I cannot think of anyone better suited than Professor Shirley to tackle this topic.

Jamaica has set itself the ambitious goal to become a world class logistic centre. Professor Shirley is Chairman of the Jamaica’s National Task Force, which is coordinating critical infrastructural and labour factors for the Logistics Hub initiative. And he is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Port Authority of Jamaica. He brings to both positions strong academic and private sector backgrounds, having served as Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, and having worked, as well, with several national and private organisations.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in giving a warm welcome to Professor Shirley.