

Ambassador Bernal Receives Inaugural Caribbean Award

On Tuesday January 29, 2008, Ambassador Dr. Richard Bernal, Director General of the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery received the inaugural Regional Award for Distinguished Service from the Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE). The award was presented at the gala opening banquet of the JSE's third annual conference on investments and the capital markets. The outstanding recipient was hailed for his sterling contribution to both national and regional development initiatives. His most recent contribution to the region was marked with the completion of the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations, where Bernal served as the Principal Negotiator for the CARIFORUM region. The JSE's General Manager, Marlene Street Forrest commended the extraordinary efforts of the stalwart in this statement, "We believe that by the service that he has given to Jamaica and the Caribbean community, Ambassador Bernal exemplifies the true regional Caribbean spirit. He has done us proud and has always worked for the community's best interest."

In his acceptance speech, Ambassador Bernal stated " Service is its own reward, but recognition provides encouragement and encouragement is important because in public service it is often the critics that are more vociferous. Whatever I have achieved builds on the foundation of established by several great regionalists. I have had the opportunity to work with and learn from Sir Alister McIntyre and P J Paterson and others. I continue to be inspired by their example. But the philosophical orientation I imbibed by osmosis is complemented and strengthened by the unavoidable logic of regional economic cooperation. This award is therefore of special significance to me. It is given for work for the Caribbean and it is a symbol and statement that the Caribbean is a natural and logical economic space. It is a great honour to receive this inaugural award. It is made even more memorable by the fact that it is presented on such an august occasion. I thank you for the privilege of receiving this ward and pledge to do everything in the future to be worthy of the goals, values and standards which this award represents."