THE CONTRIBUTION OF DIASPORA NETWORKS TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC POLICY

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THE CARIBBEAN DIASPORA/TRANSNATIONAL POPULATION
‘SILENT’ DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Source: theWeek.co.uk
WHY DOES THE DIASPORA MATTER?

- History
- Size
- Desire to contribute
- Composition of migrants
  - Age
  - Brain Drain...

Source: Historiana
### WHY THE DIASPORA MATTERS....EDUCATION LEVELS

Top Emigration Countries of Tertiary Educated: 2010-2011 (Emigration rate, percent of total)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percent of Total</th>
<th>Global Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>93.0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>75.1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
<td>68.2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>66.2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>48.1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>33.4</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahamas</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Minto-Coy, et al, forthcoming 2018
# Why the Diaspora Matters: ...Level of Existing Contribution

## Remittances as a Percentage of Select Indicators for Jamaica, 2009-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected Indicators (US$mn)</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>15.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourist Expenditure</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>95.3</td>
<td>100.8</td>
<td>98.7</td>
<td>99.6</td>
<td>95.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exports</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>143.2</td>
<td>124.3</td>
<td>118.2</td>
<td>130.7</td>
<td>144.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDI Inflows</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>837</td>
<td>924.9</td>
<td>494.2</td>
<td>348.8</td>
<td>362.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imports</td>
<td>34.8</td>
<td>36.2</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31.9</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>36.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Minto-Coy, 2016 (Data compiled from BOJ, 2016)
The diaspora has been one of the Caribbean’s longest and most stable development partners.
THE STATE OF CARIBBEAN YOUTH...
Youth are more represented in or stand to gain from opportunities in areas such as:

- Cultural Industries
- Entrepreneurship
- MSMEs

Diasporas can bring their knowledge, networks and experiences from their adopted countries to create more empowered, resourced and prosperous youth.
HOW...
THE DIASPORA’S ROLE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF CARIBBEAN YOUTH

1. Offer viable alternatives and incentives to stem brain drain

- Establishing businesses at home
- Investing in business start-ups (e.g. angel investors & mentors)
- Source of innovation & entrepreneurial engagement
- Capacity-building
- Route to growth & internationalisation of Caribbean SMEs

_Diaspora as modern version of Sir Arthur Lewis’s “Wooing of foreign investors”_
Diasporans perform a number of roles in the Ecosystem - transnationally, virtually, as returnees… (Minto-Coy, 2016b)
2. Improving opportunities and outcomes for skilled migrants
   - Support for new migrants
   - Increasing contextual knowledge and intelligence
   - Information on employment opportunities
   - Mentorship
   - Direct employment
WHAT ROLE FOR POLICY?

- Managing skilled migration
- Legs. & Regs. for an entrepreneurial ecosystem that creates a nexus between youth and diasporans
- Role of embassies as nodes of support, information & contacts
- Premigration preparation and support
- Engage migrants post-migration (e.g. investment opps at home, philanthropy)
- Increase quality and quantity of migration data
HOW... WHAT ROLE FOR POLICY?

- Affirm Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) towards intra-regional/South-South skilled migration

- Equipping youths through education...
  - for mobility
  - of a global citizen
  - towards more cultural confidence

- Recognise links across different policy spaces
  - E.g. migration, youth, disaster risk reduction and development
Some of the most innovative and successful Caribbean firms have operated in the diaspora economy, utilizing diaspora networks as a competitive advantage.
Thank you!

Q&A