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**Patron: Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy
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Press Release

Saint Lucians to be recruited for Global Consultation on Climate Change

Some one hundred Saint Lucians from all across the island will be recruited to participate in the World Wide Views (WWViews) on Global Warming on September 26, 2009. WWViews is the first ever, globe-encompassing democratic deliberation in world history. The consultation will allow ordinary citizens from over 40 countries around the world to define and communicate their positions on issues central to the UN Climate Change negotiations (COP 15) which takes place in Copenhagen in December 2009.

The main objective of WWViews is to give a broad sample of citizens from across the globe the opportunity to influence global climate change policy. WWViews is initiated and coordinated by the Danish Board of Technology (DBT) and the Danish Cultural Institute. The coordinators believe that this project will set a ground breaking precedent by demonstrating that political decision-making processes on a global scale benefit when everyday people participate.

The National Citizen meeting in Saint Lucia is being coordinated by the Saint Lucia National Trust. In preparation for this crucial September meeting, the Trust's Communications and Advocacy Officer, Mrs. Karetta Crooks Charles attended a training seminar at the DBT in Copenhagen on June 4th. According to Mrs. Charles, "It was a very useful session, which explored the project in detail, from the media and disseminating strategies to be employed, how to acquire funding and the recruitment of citizens. Practical exercises were also carried out on how to conduct the actual consultation on September 26th and how to input the results in the WWViews database."



Figure 1 Mrs. Charles (centre) with WWViews colleagues in Denmark

Mrs. Charles also noted that “At this juncture the Trust as the Saint Lucia partner will be approaching various entities for support to execute this important project, which will highlight the views of ordinary Saint Lucians on the issue of global warming and how they are prepared to deal with it. We will also be undertaking a recruitment strategy for citizens (participants) and facilitators.”

Everyone will live with the consequences of climate change. As such the coordinators of WWViews believe that the results of the one day global consultation will provide useful information for COP 15 to be able to adopt timely, appropriate measures to advance the global common good. In addition, the consultation will heighten public awareness on climate issues which unfortunately does not appear to be considered an urgent matter for many Saint Lucians.