

Caribbean Employers' Confederation

Press Release

October 14th 2021

On Thursday October 14th, 2021, the Caribbean Employers Confederation (CEC) held its 61st Annual General Meeting virtually, under the theme “Together: As strong as the sum of our parts.” The meeting was attended by fifteen (15) member countries.

The CEC’s President Mr. Wayne Chen noted the contribution of Director Mr. Herve Honore of Martinique and expressed sorrow on hearing of his death. Gratitude was also extended to retired Director Mr. Samuel Goolsarran of Guyana, for his invaluable contribution to the confederation.

The keynote speaker was Mr. Mathias Thorns-Deputy Secretary General of the International Organization of Employers (IOE). In delivering his address, Mr. Mathias Thorns noted the ongoing significant impact that the COVID 19 epidemic had on the world in general and on labor in particular noting globally, 12.3% of labor was lost as a result of the epidemic.

Mr. Thorns encouraged the CEC members and employers in particular, to take up the challenge of encouraging vaccination; emphasizing the important role that vaccinations play in managing and possibly eradicating the virus. He also recognized that the pandemic has created an opportunity for government and employers to build back better, now that they had recognized the vulnerabilities in their systems and processes. This included, building resilience to climate change, exploiting opportunities created and assisting people affected by climate change, to facilitate their participation in the new, green economy.

He also noted the opportunities that digitalization was creating for the world in general but lamented the fact that most countries could not participate because their workers are ill prepared to exploit the opportunities for creating employment and generating wealth.

The meeting was also addressed by Maria Giulietti, Senior Specialist Employers ‘Activities, Bureau for Employers’ Activities (ACT/EMP) and ILO Decent Work Team and Country Office for the Caribbean.

Ms. Giulietti thanked the CEC for the support received since assuming her role. She highlighted the work she was engaged in with employer organizations in the region that was facilitated in collaboration with the CEC.

She mentioned in particular:

1. The labor migration study
2. The study on violence against girls and women
3. A Study on how businesses in St. Kitts & Nevis are coping with COVID19.

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The elected Board of Directors for the term 2021-2023 is headed by President -Mr. Wayne Chen, a Past President of the Jamaica Employers' Federation (JEF) and he is supported by:

1st Vice President: Mr. Callistus Vern Gill

President of the St. Lucia Employers' Federation

2nd Vice President: Mr. Ruben McSween

Board Member, the Employers' Consultative Association, Trinidad & Tobago

Mr. Enrique Tito de Cuba – Director

Secretary, Aruba Trade and Industry Association

Ms. Kim Aikman – Director

CEO, Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Ms. Maly Dwarksing – Director

Director, Suriname Trade and Industry Association

Ms. Sheena Mayers - Granville – Director

Executive Director, Barbados Employers' Confederation

Ms. Sherrie-Ann Brazier – Director

President, Antigua & Barbuda Employers' Federation

END OF RELEASE