

INVITATION



PUBLIC LECTURE

TOPIC: The Commonwealth in an Emerging Global Architecture: Thoughts and Perspective



Date: Wednesday, 27 July 2016

Time: 14h00

Venue: PK 2 Lecture Hall, University of Namibia, Windhoek Campus

Mr Deodat Maharaj

Deputy-Secretary General, Commonwealth Secretariat

ABSTRACT

The global development architecture is undergoing rapid changes. The year 2015 saw a series of major international events which began reshaping the policy agenda for the years to come. China, India and a number of other countries from the developing world have increased their presence in the global economy during the last decade. But many if not most developing countries have not mimicked this performance.

This lecture will draw on the role of the Commonwealth within this emergent global architecture and present some of the resultant economic development trends. These include the nature of trade between Commonwealth countries and trade financing options, the pursuit of an ocean economy as an alternative for countries whose land mass relative to ocean space is small, and resilience building and climate finance particularly for small and vulnerable states. The lecture will also discuss some of the opportunities and challenges for the Commonwealth which is home to one-third of the global population spread across 53 member states, 31 of whom are small states.

BIOGRAPHY:

Mr Deodat Maharaj, Deputy Secretary-General (Economic and Social Development) at the Commonwealth Secretariat, is a national of Trinidad and Tobago with over 20 years' experience working on development at the national, regional and international

levels. His most recent assignments have been at the United Nations Development Programme in New York since January 2008 where he headed the Afghanistan Division at UNDP's Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific in New York from May 2012 – February 2014. Afghanistan is UNDP's largest programme globally. His prior posts were Chief of Staff of UNDP's Regional Programme for Asia and the Pacific from August 2010 – April 2012 and Chief of UNDP's Regional Programme in Asia and the Pacific over the period January 2008 – July 2010.

Mr Maharaj also headed UNDP's Caribbean Sub Regional Resource Facility based in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago before moving to New York. He has also served with UNDP in Tanzania, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago over the period 1992 – 1997. At the regional level, Mr Maharaj served with the Caribbean Development Bank in Bridgetown, Barbados from June 2008 – August 2001. He also headed the Secretariat to the Ministerial Council on Social Development in his native Trinidad and Tobago. Mr Maharaj holds an MSc in International Affairs from Florida State University, USA; first degrees in Government (University of West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago) and Law (London University, UK); and a post-graduate diploma in International Affairs from the University of West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago.

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