

October 11, 2007



Forty years ago, a group of institutions created the consortium of Caribbean universities, UNICA. Coinciding with the academic institutionalization of the so-called area studies, and the professionalization of the studies of the region, UNICA constituted at that time a sort of ecology of Caribbean knowledge.

Times have changed; the Caribbean has changed; knowledge, the ways of generating it and the ways of sharing it have changed. UNICA, therefore, must also change accordingly. The new purpose of a regional consortium of universities should now be to constitute a Caribbean ecology of knowledge.

The university members of UNICA constitute the largest base for generating new knowledge in, about, and for the Caribbean. The times demand the strengthening of that base as part of its capacity to further serve the people of the region. For this purpose, it is essential to create new means of institutional collaboration, beginning with the promotion of academic mobility of our teaching, research, and student resources.

We shall dedicate UNICA's 2007 Annual Meeting to the goal of defining the specific instrument of academic mobility that will new regional future to the agenda of our universities. The meeting will take place at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus on November 14 to 16, 2007. It is with true pleasure and enthusiasm that I await the participation of the University of West Indies.

With best regards,

Antonio García-Padilla

lea