



UKOTA NEWS

UNITED KINGDOM OVERSEAS TERRITORIES ASSOCIATION

September 2014



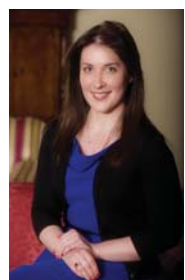
Pre-Joint Ministerial Council Meeting held in the Cayman Islands

Heads of most of the Overseas Territories' Governments and their UK Representatives met in the Cayman Islands on 15th – 17th July for the Pre-Joint Ministerial Council Meeting, to discuss the forthcoming Joint Ministerial Council Meeting (JMC), which will be held in December 2014 in London.

The purpose of the Joint Ministerial Council is to implement the principles adopted in the 2012 White Paper on

Security, Success and Sustainability and to agree on collective issues between OT Governments and the UK Government at Ministerial level.

At the Pre-JMC meeting discussions were had regarding measures to secure the long-term economic futures of the OTs, including economic diversification; good governance; global standards of financial regulation, accountability and transparency; environmental stability; and security and immigration.



New Secretary to UKOTA

Ms Edwina O'Mahony was appointed UKOTA Secretary in June this year. Edwina is a long-time member of staff at

HM Government of Gibraltar's London Office, from where the office of the UKOTA Secretary will now also operate. The honorary role of Chair is currently held by Gibraltar and that of Treasurer by Anguilla.



UKOTA Founder Member Gibraltar takes the Chair

Gibraltar, a founding member of UKOTA, was elected Chair of the Association at its Annual General

Meeting. Appropriately, the role will be taken by the UK Representative of HM Government of Gibraltar, Hon. Albert Poggio OBE, who helped establish the organisation.

Overseas Territories at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow



GLASGOW 2014
XX COMMONWEALTH GAMES

This summer sports men and women from the UK Overseas Territories competed in the 20th Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, joining the total 71 nations and territories who took part, competing in 18 different sports. Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, St Helena and the Turks & Caicos all had teams participating. The Falkland Islands fielded their largest ever team, with over 22 athletes, and competed in shooting, badminton and lawn bowls.

New Overseas Territories Minister

UKOTA looks forward to working with the recently appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, James Duddridge MP (Con. Rochford & Southend East). He has replaced Mark Simmonds MP (Con. Boston & Skegness) who stood down in August and announced he will not seek re-election.

Mr Duddridge's responsibilities include the Overseas Territories (excluding the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar and the Sovereign Base Areas) and also cover Africa, conflict issues, climate change, consular affairs, protocol and the Caribbean (excluding Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba).

UKOTA Chair, Albert Poggio, said: "We look forward to working with Mr Duddridge and wish Mark Simmonds well for the future."

Anguilla Financial Services Commission Announces New Director

The Financial Services Commission (FSC) of Anguilla announced a new Director of the Commission, Mr. Gerry Halischuk, effective on the 28th August 2014. Mr Halischuk joined the Commission from the Ontario Securities Commission in Toronto, Canada, where he was most recently the Senior Enforcement Policy and Project Advisor.

Commenting on the appointment, Mrs. Helen Hatton, Chairman of the Commission said: "We are delighted to welcome Mr Halischuk to the Commission. His considerable Caribbean capital markets experience combined with an extensive Canadian regulatory and enforcement background will strengthen the Commission's ability to implement

effectively its regulatory regime, institute and maintain compliance with international standards and thereby support the further development of Anguilla's financial services industry."

The Anguillan financial industry continues to work towards the "Vision 2020" goals set in October 2013. Successes from these goals can already be counted. The Association Captive Insurance course has been established to provide Anguillan's with internationally recognised qualifications. The Anguillan Community College in collaboration with FSC and Anguillan Finance Limited (AFL) continue to design and offer new courses that equip students with essential skills for the financial services sector.

Anguilla – At a Glance

Capital:	The Valley
Size:	91 sq km
Population:	16,086 (estimated in July 2014)
Currency:	Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC\$), United States Dollar (US\$)
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours

Anguillan Students Examination Results

The Ministry of Education was pleased to report this year's Anguillan students' examination results for the Caribbean Certificate of Secondary Level Competence (CCSLC), with 79% of those sitting English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, French and Spanish attaining acceptable grades.



HMS Argyll Stops in Anguilla for Natural Disaster Planning and a Football Friendly.

HMS Argyll arrived in Anguilla in early August in preparation for the Hurricane season and whilst there participated in a hotly anticipated football match between the crewmembers and the Anguillan team.

HMS Argyll is stationed in the Caribbean region as part of the Royal Navy's Atlantic Patrol Task (North). The UK has a maritime presence in the region throughout the year, mainly to work with local and regional coastguards to combat illegal activities. Yet, as hurricane season

approached, HMS Argyll came to work closely with Overseas Territories to support preparations for and to mitigate any possible damage from the hurricane season.

HMS Argyll started her brief visit to Anguilla with Captain Paul Hammond meeting the Acting Chief Minister Evan Gumbs, Governor Christina Scott and the Commissioner of Police. This was followed by a series of working discussions between specialist officers on the ship and disaster management personnel, including the hospital in Anguilla, so the ship could gain a better understanding of how it could best support Anguilla with potential natural disaster management.

Crewmembers also participated in community projects and relaxed with a friendly football match against a strong Anguillan team. While the remnants of Hurricane Bertha made the match a rather soggy affair, Anguilla came out victorious with the final score at four-nil to the home team.

Bermuda – At a Glance

Capital:	Hamilton
Size:	53.3 sq km
Population:	64,237 (2010 estimate)
Currency:	Bermudian Dollar (BMD)
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours



▲ The Hon. Michael Dunkley JP, MP Premier of Bermuda

The Hon. Michael Dunkley takes the helm as Bermuda's 12th Premier

Premier Dunkley is widely recognised throughout Bermuda as a successful and astute businessman in addition to being a respected politician who is extremely dedicated to the island and its people. He first entered politics in 1997 with his election to The House of Assembly in Bermuda as an MP representing the United Bermuda Party (UBP), eventually becoming leader of the opposition before joining the One Bermuda Alliance (OBA) in 2011.

After the One Bermuda Alliance's win of the General Election on 17th December

2012 Premier Dunkley was appointed Deputy Premier and Minister of Public Safety before becoming Deputy Premier and Minister of National Security after Cabinet changes in December 2013.

Now Bermuda's 12th Premier after officially being sworn in on the 20th May 2014. Today, Premier Dunkley and his Government's commitment remain squarely on the strength of the economy through investment and development as a key priority.

"The foundation for Bermuda's recovery has been set by a team of men and women

who work every day to do what is best for Bermuda. Now, I have the honour to lead that team and our mission remains the same: we must renew the promise of this country; we must create jobs for our people; we must educate our children and we must keep Bermuda safe.

Our promise is for a better Bermuda for all, and our team is dedicating all our efforts towards ensuring that this Country achieves the core principles which were articulated when we came into office."

**The Hon. Michael Dunkley JP, MP,
Premier of Bermuda**



▲ America's Cup Trophy - ACEA/Photo Gilles Martin-Raget

Bermuda bids to host events for the America's Cup

It is no secret Bermuda uses the red ensign also known as the "Red Duster" to acknowledge Bermuda's maritime history. Today Bermuda maintains a strong maritime reputation. Located 640 miles (1,030 km) east-southeast of North Carolina, Bermuda is known to sailors for the Newport to Bermuda race, as well as the Bermuda Gold Cup match-racing event, both of which have a long history of success on the island and a sterling reputation among sailors.

The America's Cup Event Authority (ACEA) has announced Bermuda as one of the final two venues shortlisted to host the America's Cup in 2017. The island is vying with San Diego for the right to host the sailing event. The America's Cup is heralded as one of the most prestigious events in the sailing community and is considered by many to be the most difficult trophy in sport to win. In the more than 150 years since the first race off England, only four nations have won what is often called the "oldest trophy in international

sport." Should the event be granted to Bermuda, racing would take place close to shore, within the Great Sound. The America's Cup predates the modern Olympic Games first held in Athens in 1896.

The Hon. Michael Dunkley JP, MP Premier of Bermuda said "If Bermuda is ultimately successful it has the opportunity of being a milestone, spectacular event for our island. It will highlight Bermuda's legacy as a maritime sailing destination and give us unprecedented international exposure.

The Hon. E. Grant Gibbons, PhD, JP, MP Minister of Education & Economic Development said, "I can only echo the Premier's comments in saying that we are very focused on our bid and on generating commercial sponsorship in support of the bid. We are extremely enthusiastic about the possibility of having the privilege of hosting the America's Cup Finals in 2017. This would be an historic moment for Bermuda, if chosen, and we look forward to continuing to progress through the bid process."

Territory celebrates 30th anniversary as a Financial Services Centre

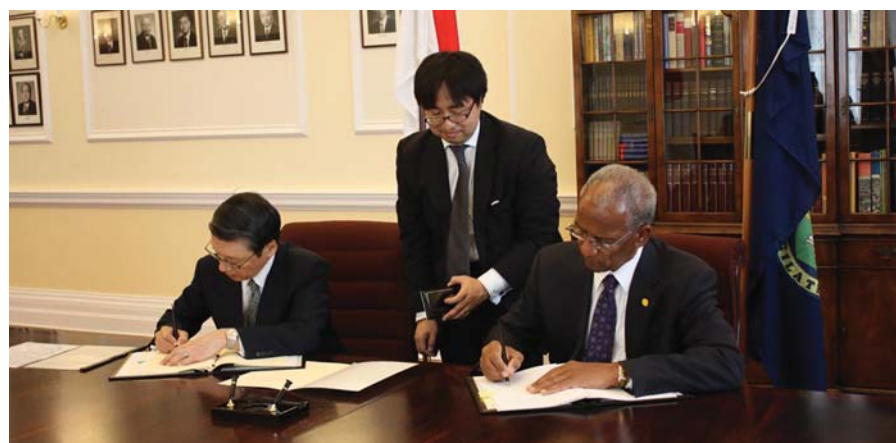
On 15th August, the British Virgin Islands (BVI) celebrated its 30th anniversary as a Financial Services Centre. The jurisdiction's establishment is considered to have begun on 15th August 1984, marked by the Government's passage of the International Business Companies (IBC) Act in the Legislative Council, led by then Chief Minister Cyril B. Romney. The passage of the IBC Act came just two years after the United States (US) Government canceled its double-taxation treaty with the BVI in 1982.

The coming into force of the IBC Act was rapidly followed by the development and take-off of the financial services industry, boosted by political developments in Panama and Hong Kong, which saw the BVI rise to become the premier offshore jurisdiction for company incorporations. Between 1989 and 1997, company incorporations grew at a rate of nearly 50%. In 1999, KPMG estimated that the BVI accounted for 41% of the global

market share for offshore vehicles. The IBC Acts has since been superseded by the BVI Business Companies Act.

As of 31st March 2014, 482,087 active companies were listed on the BVI register. The financial services industry is the second largest contributor to the territory's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and accounts for more than 60% of government revenue. In March 2014, the Global Financial Centre's Index 15 ranked the BVI 44th out of 83 international financial Centres.

Speaking on the progress made by the BVI in financial services, Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. Hon. D. Orlando Smith OBE, said "This rating is testament to the comprehensive legislative and world class regime for financial services business that exists in the BVI today. It is no coincidence that this comes as we recognise the 30th anniversary of the piece of legislation – the BVI International Business Companies Act – that has set the standard that other Centres have tried to emulate over the last 30 years."



BVI-Japan Sign Tax Agreement

The British Virgin Islands and Japanese Governments signed a Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) on Wednesday, 18th June at the Japanese Embassy in London. The TIEA will enable the two tax authorities of both countries to have greater ability to exchange

information for tax purposes in accordance with internationally agreed standards. Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Hon D. Orlando Smith OBE, signed the agreement with H.E. Mr. Keiichi Hayashi, Japanese Ambassador to the United Kingdom.

British Virgin Islands – At a Glance

Capital:	Road Town (Tortola)
Size:	153 sq km
Population:	28,000
Currency:	US Dollar (US\$)
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time -5 hours

Chairman of OCTA takes agenda to Europe



The Chairman of the Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA), Premier Dr. Hon. D. Orlando Smith OBE, has continued to promote the sustainable development of the Overseas

Countries and Territories (OCTs), by making official visits to the United Kingdom (UK) and Netherlands to discuss OCTs matters with government officials. In London, the Premier met former UK Overseas Territories Minister Mark Simmonds MP and in The Hague he met with Ronald Hans Anton Plasterk, Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. In both meetings, the Premier emphasised the importance of cooperation on trade and environment between the European Union (EU), EU Outermost Regions (ORs), African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and OCTs that can be achieved through the implementation of the revised Overseas Association Decision (OAD) adopted by the EU in 2013. The Premier also highlighted areas for regional and international cooperation that included climate change, biodiversity, green growth and innovation and competitiveness.

The British Virgin Islands will host the 13th OCT-EU Forum in the BVI in February 2015 under the theme 'Unlocking the value of the OCTs' where progress will be examined on implementation of the OAD and the environmental and economic value of the OCTs will be showcased.

Speaking on the visit, the Premier said, "Partnership between the European Union, EU Outermost Regions, ACP and OCTs can help to drive sustainable development in our territories that are located in every ocean. We can accomplish more by working with our partners in the EU and together across our regions. I would like to see the full implementation of the Overseas Association Decision toward this end."

Cayman Islands – At a Glance

Capital: George Town (Grand Cayman)

Size: 260 sq km

Population: 57,000

Currency: Cayman Islands Dollar (CI\$)

Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time -5 hours

Cayman Hosts Pre-JMC Meeting

The elected Leaders of the Overseas Territories met in the Cayman Islands on 15-17th July 2014, to discuss the forthcoming Joint Ministerial Council Meeting (JMC), which will be held in December 2014 in London.

The purpose of the Joint Ministerial Council is to implement the principles espoused in the 2012 White Paper on Security, Success and Sustainability and to agree at the ministerial level on collective issues between OT Governments and the UK Government.

At the pre-JMC meeting Leaders discussed measures to secure the Overseas Territories' long-term economic futures and these included:

- Economic diversification - To build sustainable economies that are more resilient and capitalize on changing global trends.
- Good Governance – To continue to uphold the principles of Good Governance in the administration of our respective territories and recognise the right of all people of the Overseas Territories to self-determination.
- Global Standards of Financial Regulation Accountability and Transparency – Continue to lead in the fight against financial crime and continue to be responsible international financial centres that facilitate global trade and investment in line with the emerging global consensus.
- Environmental Sustainability – As vulnerable small territories whose economies are dependent on environmental sustainability, we will continue our long history of caring for and nurturing our environments.
- Security and Immigration – Ensuring the security and protection of our borders and the safety and welfare of our people, including access to all passports, specifically emergency travel, despite the UK's new policy to repatriate the printing of all passports to the United Kingdom by the end of this year.

Leaders also reaffirmed their commitment and respect for the principles outlined in their respective Constitutions and to uphold their obligations to the electorate and the people they serve.



▲ From left, Anguilla Premier Hon. Hubert Hughes, BVI Premier Dr. Hon. D. Orlando Smith OBE, Cayman Islands Premier Hon. Alden McLaughlin, Falkland Islands MLA Roger Edwards, Gibraltar Chief Minister Fabian Picardo and Montserrat Premier Hon. Ruben Mead.

Cayman Islands continued on page 6

Pre-JMC Visitors Impressed by Health City

A tour of Health City Cayman Islands followed a press conference by the officials attending the pre-Joint Ministerial Council Meeting.

Accompanied by Premier Alden McLaughlin, Health Minister, Hon. Osbourne Bodden, and other officials, on

the East End trip, the group received a tour of front line and behind-the scenes operations, which was followed by a special presentation.

Several visiting officials posed enquiries relating to health service deliveries, as well as the potential for their nationals visiting

to access the facilities here. There were also commitments for follow-up meetings and information-sharing.

A whirlwind tour of other attractions and highlights in the eastern districts followed.



▲ CI Government Officials and Pre-JMC Delegates at Health City Cayman Islands

Health City Cayman Islands Performs First LVAD Surgery in the Region



A 49-year-old local man, Albert Seymour, and his family now have plenty to look forward to after

a life-saving operation at the Shetty hospital to insert an artificial heart pump in August, which was also the first of its kind in the region.

The complex and state-of-the-art surgery is a coup for the Health City Cayman Islands and has put the medical centre firmly on the cardiac specialist map with this

successful specialist life-saving procedure. Seymour was fitted with a Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) and the entire procedure equipment, aftercare and follow-up was estimated to be less than half a million dollars by the surgeons, supporting the claims made by the hospital's founder, Devi Shetty, that he can cut the cost of healthcare even in the western world.

Although the LVAD procedure has been performed at Health City's affiliate hospital in Bangalore, India, many times, it is a first for the Cayman Islands and the region. The team at the hospital said it marked the beginning of a new specialty that aims to bring the latest advances in the

management of advanced heart failure to the entire Caribbean at affordable costs.

Dr Ravi Kishore said that the processes regarding the creation of a specialist heart clinic at Health City Cayman Islands was well underway and would be kicking off within one month as the team actively seek out referrals to offer state-of-the-art and technologically sophisticated treatments for heart patients. Working with regional health authorities in the Caribbean as well as the local Health Services Authority, the doctor also said that the hospital would be creating the first Caribbean register for heart disease.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Members of the Legislative Assembly Overseas Visits



▲ MLAs Edwards and Summers speaking to COHA

The past quarter has been extremely busy in terms of Falkland Islands MLAs travelling overseas. In May, MLA Roger Edwards travelled to the Pre-C24 conference in Fiji, before attending the United Nations Committee on Decolonisation (C24) in New York alongside MLA Mike Summers OBE. Prior to C24, MLAs Summers and Edwards spent time in Washington, where they partook in a lively Q&A session with not-for-profit think-tank, the Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA).

First-time MLAs, Michael Poole and Phyl Rendell MBE travelled to London in June to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Westminster Seminar, designed to help new parliamentarians familiarise themselves with parliamentary practise. In July, MLA Edwards travelled to Brussels to meet with newly-elected MEPs before

accompanying Falkland Islands Representative, Sukey Cameron MBE, to Grand Cayman for the Pre-JMC conference.

MLA Summers attended the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, in his capacity as Chairman of the Falkland Islands Overseas Games Association, and was invited to present medals in the swim and shooting events.

In August, MLA Barry Elsby travelled to Medellín, Colombia, to undertake a Spanish immersion course, before continuing around Colombia, Panamá and El Salvador on a public diplomacy tour. As the MLA with responsibility for Education, MLA Elsby was keen to discuss bilingualism in schools with Panamanian officials, following a presidential decision to make all Panamanian secondary schools bilingual. At the end August, MLA Poole flew to Samoa to attend the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) conference.

South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute Continues to Grow

The South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI) was established in March 2012, with the aim of becoming a world-class academic institute carrying out research across the whole South Atlantic, from the Equator to Antarctica. Part of SAERI's function is also to build capacity within and between the UK OTs in the South Atlantic. The Institute's main base is in the Falklands, and in the last six months the team has grown to include three Marine Ecologists and a full-time PhD student to be based in the Islands, in addition to the four PhD students based in Aberdeen, who regularly travel south to study with SAERI. Recruitment is ongoing for an Ecologist Project Officer to develop and Ecosystem Profile for the BEST (Biodiversity &



▲ Dr. Paul Brickle, SAERI Director, working on Ascension Island

Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas) III Initiative.

A key undertaking for SAERI at the moment is a 'GAP Project' addressing gaps in the understanding of the ecosystem around the Islands as offshore hydrocarbons develop. This project is testament to the Falkland Islands Government's commitment to ensuring any

Falkland Islands – At a Glance

Capital:	Stanley
Size:	12,173 sq km
Population:	2,563
Currency:	Falkland Islands Pound
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time -3 hours

Battle of the Falklands Commemorations Underway

Plans are progressing to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Falkland Islands, in December 2014. The 1914 Committee was established, lead by MLA Phyl Rendell MBE and Mensun Bound, to plan and to co-ordinate the commemorations, which will see descendants of British Rear-Admiral Cradock and the German Vice-Admiral Von Spee travel to the Islands to remember the events of 8th December 1914 and also the events of the Battle of Coronel, in Southern Chile, which took place in November 1914. Part of the lead-in to the commemoration is the issue of a special £2 coin, minted by the Pobjoy Mint, depicting a warship at sea, with the date '1914' in the surrounding sea.



hydrocarbon activity carried out within Falklands waters is carefully managed and our biodiversity is protected.

SAERI is not just about the Falkland Islands, however, and Associate Research Fellows of the Institute are working and researching in other South Atlantic OTs: Drs Nicola & Sam Weber are based on Ascension Island, working for the Conservation Department thanks to Darwin funding, and Dr Judith Brown is currently working for the St Helena Government mapping inshore marine habitats. Dr Brown has past experience working in the Falkland Islands, Ascension Island and South Georgia. Director of Fisheries and CEO of South Georgia Government, Dr Martin Collins, and Dr Jennifer Lee, Environmental Officer for South Georgia Government are also Associate Research Fellows for SAERI.

HM Government of Gibraltar Office: A Profile



Gibraltar House houses HM Government of Gibraltar's representation in the United Kingdom and is responsible for all matters pertaining to Gibraltar in the United Kingdom, reporting directly to the Chief Minister.

In its consular capacity, the building also acts as the point of welcome for Sponsored Patients, referred by the Gibraltar Health Authority to the United Kingdom for specialist medical care. The Office is also responsible for overseeing the interests of the Calpe House Trust and its facilities "Calpe House", a building jointly owned by the Trust and the Government, in Bayswater, London, which offers home-from-home accommodation for patients and families while in the United Kingdom for medical treatment.

The Office works closely with both Houses of Parliament and is responsible for the

implementation of the Ministry for Tourism's policy for the growth of visitor arrivals from the United Kingdom. Activities in London relating to the Finance Centre, under the direction of the Finance Centre Director, are also coordinated through this Office.

The London Office coordinates Gibraltar's participation in a number of leading industry associations such as MedCruise, the Association of Mediterranean Ports, AITO, the Association of British Travel Agents and ANTOR, the Association of National Tourist Office Representatives, which it currently Chairs; as well as coordinating a number of prestigious events on behalf of the Government, including "Gibraltar Day" in the City of London, which is held annually at the Guildhall.

The Offices enjoy an exceptionally high standard of décor and technology, and "Gibraltar House" offers excellent meeting and conference facilities in the centre of London. With a selection of business suites available for rental on a day to day basis, this unique venue provides the perfect backdrop for businesses with a Gibraltar connection. Disabled facilities are located on the lower ground floor and the lift ensures wheelchair access to all levels.

The Showroom, which is open to the general public, offers information on all the pillars of the Gibraltar Economy. It also has an array of Gibraltar related books and an interesting display of Gibraltar stamps, which are all available to purchase.

The purchase of this superb, six-storey building is not only a sound investment on behalf of the people of Gibraltar, but also a testament to the close and long-standing ties – economic, cultural and social – between Gibraltar and the United Kingdom.

Gibraltar – At a Glance

Capital:	Gibraltar
Size:	6.5 sq km
Population:	29,752 (2011)
Currency:	Gibraltar Pound
Time Zone:	Central European Time

Spanish Hostility Continues

Agencies of the Spanish state continue to behave as if Gibraltar has no territorial waters and that the waters around the Rock belong to Spain. In each of the first few months of 2014, there were over a hundred incursions into Gibraltar's territorial seas by vessels of the Guardia Civil and the Spanish Navy. On many of these occasions the Spanish vessels operated in a dangerous and reckless manner, thereby risking injury to themselves and to Gibraltar's maritime agencies.

Meanwhile the Spanish government continues with its policy of generating deliberate delays at the land frontier between Gibraltar and Spain. In August 2013, some of the resultant queues caused motorists to wait for up to seven hours in the intense heat of a Mediterranean summer. These delays have continued into 2014 in an attempt to stop tourists and others from visiting Gibraltar, but this policy also causes considerable hardship to thousands of workers of different nationalities who live in Spain, but cross the border each day in order to work in Gibraltar.

Officials of the European Commission have paid two visits to observe the workings of the frontier and have recently recognised that the Spanish checks are disproportionate. In a recent statement, the Commission admitted to having serious concerns about the lack of progress on the part of Spain in implementing the Commission's recommendations aimed at reducing the long queues to enter and leave Spain.



Gibraltar celebrates National Day

On 10th September, Gibraltar celebrated its National Day with the now traditional annual rally in Casemates Square and a firework display to end the day. The National Day commemorates the first Referendum when the people of Gibraltar voted overwhelmingly to remain British. The Gibraltar community were joined in the celebrations by a group of visiting UK Parliamentarians from both Houses of Parliament, who as well as joining the celebrations attended a number of meetings and briefings.

Montserrat Development Corporation to receive industry honour at the Americas Property Awards in Los Angeles on 19th September



The Montserrat Development Corporation has been informed it is among the winners in the Americas regional stage of the prestigious International Property Awards 2014-15.

Montserrat Development Corporation submitted the Marine Village development at Little Bay in the Leisure Development category where the entry competed against a number of high-profile property developers in the Caribbean region to receive this recognition. All award winners have been invited to attend a high-profile gala and presentation dinner at the JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE hotel on 19th September, where they will learn exactly which honours they have secured.

If the Montserrat Development Corporation is the highest-scoring winner in its region, it will automatically be entered into the International Property Awards final competition and compete against all other

regional winners for the coveted title of World's Best.

The award represents a significant achievement for the Montserrat Development Corporation. The winners' logo is recognised as a symbol of excellence throughout the industry. All competition entrants are rigorously assessed by a judging panel consisting of over 70 highly respected experts from all over the world, chaired by three active members of the House of Lords: Lord Caithness, Lord Best and Lord Courtown.

Stuart Shield, president of the International Property Awards, said: "The quality of entries across all categories in the Americas regional stage was exceptionally high this year, so our winners fully deserve the right to display the prestigious Awards ribbon. We are delighted to honour such high standards of innovation and professionalism."

Montserrat – At a Glance

Seat of Government:	Brades
Size:	102 sq km
Population:	4,922
Currency:	Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC\$)
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours

The International Property Awards will also host the Americas Property Summit during the day on 19th September at the JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE hotel. Presidents, CEOs, Managing Directors, Chairmen and other decision makers will attend a number of professional networking events, including seminars, discussion tables and an exhibition. The event is an ideal opportunity to make connections and generate new business, and is open to Awards participants and all industry-related companies.

Montserrat Set to Elect a New Legislative Assembly

Following consultations with the Honourable Premier Reuben T Meade, His Excellency the Acting Governor issued the proclamation proroguing and dissolving the Legislative Assembly on Montserrat effective 15th August 2014 thus paving the way for General Elections set for Thursday 11th September 2014.

Under the Montserrat Constitution Order, nine persons are elected as elected members of the Legislative assembly on Montserrat. A voter may therefore cast a vote for a total of up to nine candidates.

Two political parties – the *Movement for Change and Prosperity* (MCAP) led Mr. Meade and the *People's Democratic Movement* (PDM) headed by the Mr Donaldson Romeo, who led the opposition and a number of independent candidates have declared their intentions to contest in the 2014 General Election.

St Helena – At a Glance

Capital:	Jamestown
Size:	410 sq km
Population:	4,289
Currency:	St Helenian Pound (SHP)
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time



Work progresses on the airport
© Rémi Bruneton

St Helena Airport

In November 2011, a contract was made between St Helena Government and Basil Read to Design, Build and Operate the St Helena Airport. Two anniversaries have been achieved since then, and the Airport project has gained both local and international attention. St Helena and UK Government hope that the Airport will lead to eventual financial self-sustainability for the Island.

To mark the construction of the Airport Terminal Building - the first welcoming doors all passengers will step through on St Helena - history, was made on Saturday 28th June 2014 in a special Commemorative Stone ceremony at the Airport site. There were over 100 guests present as HE Governor Mark Capes unveiled a Commemorative Stone at the front entrance of the Terminal Building, which was followed by the Blessing of the building and then burial of a Time Capsule by Prince Andrew School students

The Time Capsule buried on the day was to give future Islanders a picture of St Helena in 2014. Its comprehensive contents ranged from a St Helena Cookery Book to St Helena currency to USB sticks carrying a mass of contemporary material, and much more. This would ensure the future people of St Helena are aware of the vision - and of the hard work - of everyone involved in the Airport project.

The placing of the commemorative stone, made of local basalt rock, marks one of many significant milestones of the Airport



Prince Andrew School students burying the Time Capsule

Construction. Governor Capes spoke of the ceremony as a landmark and the construction of St Helena's Airport as a mark of 'massive progress achieved by Basil Read'. The Governor said:

"Deon de Jager and his team have shown that - with the right attitude, with determination, with a 'can do' mindset - so much can be achieved. Air access gives us the opportunity to halt the many decades of economic decline. To give St Helena the means to prosper by developing a vibrant economy, to give St Helena a confident, bright future that will reverse the flow of young Saints leaving the Island. That is the goal."

Susan O'Bey Deputy Chief Executive for Economic Development, also highlighted the 'once in a lifetime opportunity' the Airport will provide to 'ensure that there is a viable St Helena in the years to come for our children and for our children's children'.

Speaking of the project progress and of the hard work of all involved, was Basil Read Island Director Deon de Jager, Miles Leask from the Project Management Unit and Deputy Airport Director Clare Harris.

Before this memorable occasion, there has been immense progress during construction of the Airport. Below are just a few accomplishments:

- Friday 25th May 2012, the Temporary Jetty in Rupert's was completed
- Tuesday 10th July 2012, the NP Glory 4 became the first ever ship to moor alongside St Helena at Rupert's Jetty
- Friday 31st August 2012, the 14km Haul Road from Rupert's Valley to the Airport site at Prosperous Bay Plain was opened
- The structure of the Combined Building which will house Air Traffic Control and Rescue and Fire Fighting Services is 95% complete. Brickwork is now 88% complete while plastering is 30% complete
- The Terminal Building structure is 58% complete
- The Control Tower structure is complete and the steel structure of the control room is being painted prior to erection
- Window frames and cladding angles are 65% complete and glazing will soon commence
- The massive Fill of Dry Gut, situated at Prosperous Bay Plain, is now around 90% complete and is scheduled to be completely filled by September 2014
- The first stage of the formal process to procure an Air Service Provider to St Helena began on 13th June 2014

TRISTAN DA CUNHA

Harbour damage raises fears for future of Tristan da Cunha



There's a lifeline harbour for Tristan da Cunha under this powerful battering from a South Atlantic storm. Islanders fear its collapse is imminent. (Photo: Lorraine Repetto)

Emergency repairs to prevent the lifeline harbour on the most remote inhabited island in the world, Tristan da Cunha, from collapsing and thus isolating the community, are under way in the South Atlantic, with the aid of a grant from the European Union.

The relentless storms which batter this lifeline – the only means on or off Tristan

for people, goods, mail and exports of the basis of the island's economy, its gourmet-quality lobster – have punched huge holes in its breakwaters and prompted fears that collapse may be inevitable. Administrator Alex Mitham has warned in the Tristan da Cunha Newsletter: "It is very simple – without the harbour, the community is not sustainable. It is the community's life-line to the outside world. Without that, the community will not survive long-term. The

New hospital delayed

Meanwhile, the other item of infrastructure essential for the 267 residents to remain on their island, the Camogli Hospital, is due for replacement – but delays in signing contracts and commissioning the project mean it's unlikely work can commence until late 2015. Because of its condition (and the lack of a midwife), many people who could be treated on the island have to make the week long voyage in the fishing vessel MFV Edinburgh to Cape town for treatment or delivery of their baby.

Water and electricity flow afresh

The island's electricity and water supplies have recently been modernised and updated thanks to EU funding. The electrical system now runs underground (essential in a location which is beset by storms throughout the year) and includes new mini-substations and a substation to distribute power, which is generated from diesel at the fish processing factory. The water comes from a fresh stream and work

has included creating a new pump station, a new 96,000 litre steel water tank, laying new pipework across the Settlement and a UV filter cleaning plant.

Ways of harnessing renewable energy are being explored, with research involving other UK Overseas Territories, the Isle of Man and the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales.

Tristan can knit anything...

The Island's reputation for producing upmarket knitted handicrafts from island wool has been enhanced with the delivery to France of a hand-knitted projection screen from its 37 Degrees South Knitwear Brand. The knitters were sent a sketch of what was required: dimensions of 560cm x 220cm., which was created from 57 patches knitted by 48 islanders.

The Tristan Knitwear Team has now produced "Love Socks" - knitted from island wool with colour coded messages, used according to island legends, in the past for shy young women to discretely

Tristan da Cunha – At a Glance

Capital:	Edinburgh of the Seven Seas
Size:	98 sq km
Population:	267
Currency:	Pound Sterling
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time

years are taking their toll on the current structure, and repairs will not rectify the situation. This is fast becoming an untenable position.'

The UK Government has said it will ensure emergency repairs are made in the event of serious damage or collapse, but UKOTA Chairman, Gibraltar's Albert Poggio and Tristan Chief Islander, Ian Lavarello, have both written to the former Minister for Overseas Territories, Mark Simmonds MP, to point out the islanders have long believed that a new harbour in a more sheltered location from the present Calshot Harbour (constructed after the 1961 volcanic eruption smothered the Landing Beach), is the only realistic long term solution. The UK has ruled out funding a strengthened and enlarged harbour to resist the impact of sea swells and storm.

advise their admirers of their feelings. The language of "Love Socks" now being exported world wide via the island's website www.tristandc.com is:

2 Large Stripes – *Fondness*

2 Large Stripes and 2 small stripes – *Loyalty*

2 Large Stripes and 3 small stripes – *Friends Forever*

2 Large Stripes and 4 small stripes – *Great Affection*

2 Large Stripes and 5 small stripes – *Head over Heels in Love*

2 Large Stripes and 6 small stripes – *Will you be mine?*

Now selling to romantics around the world – can you translate the meaning of the stripes?



(Photo: Tristan Handicraft Centre)

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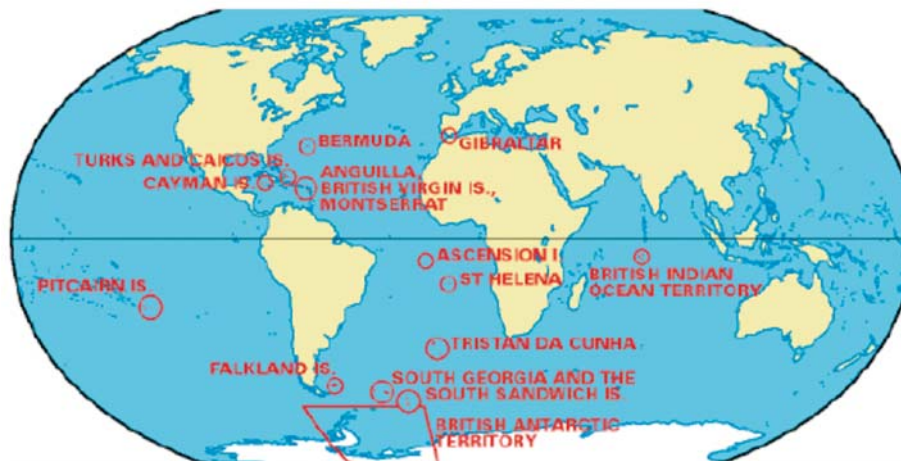
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