SOCIAL STUDIES NOTES 5

WORKING WITH OUR NEIGHBORS

MEMBERSHIP of CARIBBEAN ORGANIZATIONS

If people live close together in a community, whether it is a village, a town, a country or a group of countries, they can help each other by working together. They **cooperate** often by forming local, regional or international organizations.

Countries of the Caribbean have always been closely linked. Today this '**togetherness**' continues with our membership of Caricom and other Caribbean organizations. Caricom is a short name for the **Caribbean Community and Common Market**. It came into being on 4th July 1973 with the **Treaty of Chaguaramas**. The Bahamas became a member a member on 4th July1983.The main aims of Caricom are as follows:

- To encourage free trade between member countries (that is, with no duties to be paid on imports);
- To cooperate in economic development
- To cooperate foreign policies
- To find solutions to problems facing the members of Caricom;
- To exchange information and work together particularly in areas of health, education, sports and communications.

Member countries also work together when there is a natural disaster (a hurricane, for example).The Bahamas also joins with other members of Caricom to promote the export of selected goods.

CARICOM

Flags of Caricom member countries



LIVEWORKSHEETS

SOCIAL STUDIES NOTES

The countries of Caricom are represented in several conferences and councils:

The Conference of Heads of Government

This conference, which is held once a year, is attended by the prime ministers or presidents of the Caricom countries. All major decisions are flown during the period of the conference.

The Common Market Councils of Ministers

These ministers are responsible for trade between Caricom countries.

Other councils of Ministers

These are other groups of ministers who look after activities other than trade – for example: cooperation in agriculture, education, culture, or finance.

The Secretariat

The Secretariat is headed by the Secretary-General of Caricom. It is responsible for the daily running of Caricom. It arranges meetings, and decides what services are to be given to member states. The offices of the Secretariat are located in Georgetown, Guyana.

The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO)

The Caribbean Tourism Organization or CTO has more members than Caricom. It helps to promote each member state world-wide, through trade shows and exhibitions. CTO's promotions encourage tourists to visit and enjoy our islands. The Caribbean Tourism Organization collects information about tourists and hotels throughout the region and trains people in the tourist industry. The **head office** is situated in **Barbados**.



LIVEWORKSHEETS