



## Economic Letter May 2019



### China is Our Friend

Every Barbadian knows that our first Prime Minister, Errol Barrow, stated our country's foreign policy as "friends of all, satellites of none". China is now the world's second largest economy, and they are therefore our second most important friend. Already we have become accustomed to the fact that the majority of consumption items we buy are made in China.

We know our most important friend, the USA, very well. Most of us have been there, everyone has friends and relatives there, we watch American TV channels and we participate in American social media forums.

In contrast, we hardly know China at all. What is more, what we think we know comes to us through the filter of American or English media. This is a situation Barbadians need to address. We need to get to know China intimately, and who better to inform us than the Chinese themselves.

A group of Barbadians have come together to form the Association for Barbados-China Friendship, ABCF, to promote knowledge and understanding of China and the Chinese. The association will shortly publish the first issue of an annual magazine, *Exchanges*. The magazine contains articles on Barbadian experiences in China, and Chinese experiences in Barbados. It highlights Rihanna's contribution to the career of a Chinese designer. It explains the One Belt One Road Initiative, which has been much in the news lately. There are articles on Chinese medicine, food and more.

The magazine also introduces the China Global Television Network, CGTN. This network includes a 24-hour English language channel, with news and features. It is available on MTV in Barbados and on Youtube. It is instructive to compare CGTN's coverage of global events with coverage by the BBC or CNN.

The ABCF is developing its own website, with information for travellers, business persons, students and everyone with an interest in China. We also aim to facilitate travel to China.

The Association will be launched at a gala cocktail party at the Barbados Hilton Hotel on May 23. A delegation of officials from the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries will bring greetings from Beijing. There will also be a cultural presentation by a troupe from the Minzu University of China.

We welcome the interest of all Barbadians in the new association. You may get in touch with us via my website, at [info@DeLisleWorrell.com](mailto:info@DeLisleWorrell.com), or by emailing the ABCF at [ABCFBassn@gmail.com](mailto:ABCFBassn@gmail.com).