

Richard L. Bernal

Since July 1, 2010 he has been the Alternate Executive Director for the Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago in the Inter-American Development Bank.

Ambassador Dr. Bernal, a professional economist with over 35 years of experience was educated at the University of the West Indies, University of Pennsylvania, New School for Social Research and the School for Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University. He holds the degrees of B.Sc., MA, Ph.D. (Economics), and MIPP (International Public Policy).

Previous to the IADB he was the Director-General of the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (RNM) which is responsible for trade negotiations the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Cuba and the Dominican Republic. He was Principal Negotiator for Forum of Caribbean States (CARIFORUM) in the negotiation of the CARIFORUM-European Union Economic Partnership Agreement and CARICOM's lead negotiator in the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations. Since the late 1980's, Ambassador Bernal has been lead negotiator in numerous negotiations on behalf of Jamaica and CARICOM, including agreements on investment, intellectual property rights, textiles and apparel, trade, debt, and loans from multilateral financial institutions (IMF, World Bank, and IADB).

Dr. Bernal was Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States of America and Permanent Representative to the Organisation of American States (OAS) for the period May 6, 1991 to August 31, 2001. When he demitted office after 10 ½ years, he was the 4th most senior Ambassador in Washington D.C. and Dean of the Caribbean Diplomatic Corps. The wide-ranging duties included lobbying the US Congress on trade legislation, the US-EU banana dispute and foreign aid for the Caribbean. Ambassador Bernal has given testimonies to several Committees of Congress (House and Senate) and the US International Trade Commission on issues of concern to the Caribbean such as aid, NAFTA and the Caribbean Basin Initiative. At the OAS, he chaired its highest body, the Permanent Council and committees on hemispheric trade, the Summit of the Americas and the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, culminating as the most senior Ambassador.

Previous to his diplomatic posting, he was Chief Executive Officer of a commercial bank with merchant bank and trust company subsidiaries. He worked in the Bank of Jamaica (central bank) and the Planning Institute/Agency of Jamaica and as Advisor to the Minister of Finance on external debt management and stabilization and adjustment policy. Dr. Bernal has deputised for the Minister of Finance of Jamaica at the IMF, IADB and World Bank and at meetings of the Finance Ministers of the Western Hemisphere.

For 7 years he taught international economics and development economics at the University of the West Indies. He is a Senior Associate at the Centre for Strategic International Studies and a member of the Harvard University Trade Policy Group, He is Honorary Professor at the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies of the University of the West Indies. Dr. Bernal has published one book and over 100 articles in scholarly journals, books, and monographs (some available at richardbernal.net). He has also authored articles in financial periodicals and newspapers, including opinion editorials in the Washington Post and Wall Street Journal. Some of his presentations are available on youtube.com and the websites of the Council of the Americas and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies

