

## CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES GATHER TO PROTECT WORLD HERITAGE

### *Training Course in the Preparation of Nomination Dossiers for World Heritage*

24-28 March 2013, St. Mary's, Antigua and Barbuda

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris, the UNESCO Offices in Kingston and Havana in collaboration with the Antigua & Barbuda National Commission for UNESCO organized the Caribbean Training Course in the Preparation of Nomination Dossiers, in St. Mary's, Antigua & Barbuda from 24 to 28 March 2013. This training exercise was designed within the framework of the Japanese Funds-in-Trust project "Capacity Building to Support the Conservation of World Heritage Sites and Enhance Sustainable Development of Local Communities in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)".



Official Opening of the training course in St. Mary's, Antigua and Barbuda, 24 March 2013

The official opening of the training took place on 24 March 2013 at the Jolly Beach Hotel & Spa in Antigua in the presence of **Hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Winston Baldwin Spencer**, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda; **Hon. Winston Williams**, Acting Minister of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda; **H. E. Yoshimasa Tezuka**, Japanese Ambassador in Trinidad & Tobago; **Ms Alissandra Cummins**, Chairperson of UNESCO Executive Board and the Barbados National Commission for UNESCO as well as Representatives from UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and UNESCO Offices in Kingston and Havana.

The training course which was a follow-up to the June 2012 training held in Kingston, Jamaica, brought together some 20 representatives from *Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, The Bahamas, and Trinidad and Tobago*. During the training the participants shared their draft nomination dossiers, exchanged information and received feedback/guidance from the resource persons/experts from the Caribbean, representatives from ICOMOS, IUCN and UNESCO World Heritage Centre.



Field trip to Nelson Dockyard, Antigua and Barbuda, 26 March 2013

The 5-day training concluded with an action plan aimed at strengthening professional capacities in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in preparing nomination dossiers and to increase the number and quality of nominations of cultural and natural heritage sites, with a focus on *sites of memory* in the Caribbean. Participants also made a commitment to continue their efforts towards implementation of the World Heritage convention, specifically in completing the nomination dossiers, in public awareness and education on World Heritage matters and UNESCO Culture Conventions.