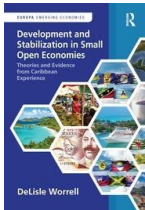


## Highlights of 2022



My new book, *Development and Stabilization in Small Open economies*, absorbed most of my energies in 2022. The manuscript was completed and submitted in June, and the production process was completed over the course of the second half of the year. The book will be published by Routledge in London and New York in January.

The topics covered in my monthly Economic Letters covered Caribbean currencies, international competitiveness, inflation, tourism, inflation, the Human Development Index, foreign earnings, development policy, Covid-19 and devaluation. In January “[The Uncertain Future of Caribbean Currencies](#)” reprised my argument the Caribbean currencies, having now exhausted their usefulness, are on a slow journey to extinction. In February “[The Origin of Caribbean Currency Problems](#)” reflected on common Caribbean practice of hasty and ill-informed decisions, in contrast with the careful consideration that informed the US Government's decision in 1971 to allow the dollar price of gold to find a new level. That story is told in the book *Three days at Camp David*. The competitiveness of Caribbean tourism was the subject in March, when “[Competing by Offering Best Value for Money](#)” alluded to a paper published in the *Handbook of Caribbean Economies*. In April I returned to tourism, with suggestions for “[Increasing Earnings from Tourism](#)”, and again in June with “[Tourism is a Powerful Engine of Development in Small Economies](#)”, pointing to the spread effects of tourism income within the local economy. In May I explained why “[There Isn't Much Government Can Do About Inflation](#)” in the Caribbean. The July Letter “[The Human Development Index is the Best Measure of Economic Success](#)” pointed to the merits of the Human Development Index as the preferred measure of economic success. The August Letter “[Imports Are the Reason Small Economies Need Foreign Exchange](#)” explained that because imports are what sustain Caribbean lifestyles, we need to expend foreign earnings to purchase from abroad, rather than hoarding excess foreign reserves. In September, “[What Should Government Do to Stimulate Development?](#)” offered a suite of six policies for stimulating development in the region, beginning with an improvement in public sector productivity. The effects of Covid-19 on Human Development Index scores and on life expectancy are discussed in October's “[How Did Covid-19 Affect Well-being in Central America and the Caribbean?](#)” and November's “[The Covid Pandemic Depressed Life Expectancy in Central America and the Caribbean](#)”. The harm resulting from devaluation in the Caribbean is the topic of December's “[Why Devaluation Harms Caribbean Economies](#)”.

My paper “[The Impact of Covid-19 in Central America and the Caribbean - Evidence to Date](#)” was presented at the Annual Monetary Studies Conference, organised by the Caribbean Economic Research Team and hosted by the Central Bank of the Bahamas from October 31 to November 2. The paper is available for comment at the link just mentioned.

My paper “[China's Economic Impact in the Caribbean](#)” was presented at the 12th China Youth Forum on Latin American Studies, hosted by Zhejiang International Studies University, on October 29. The

presentation was based on research done for the article “China in the Caribbean's Economic Future”, a revised version of which was published in the journal *Global Discourse* with the title “[Measuring China’s economic impact in the Caribbean](#)”.

On July 26, 2022, I was the presenter at a webinar on Central Bank Digital Currencies, organised by the College of Central Bankers of the Global Interdependence Center, Philadelphia, US. A recording of the event may be found at “[Central Bank Digital Currencies](#)”. I found no compelling arguments to support the apparent enthusiasm for digital currencies.

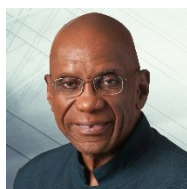
“[Economic Maps of the Caribbean and Central America](#)” shows the economies of the Caribbean in proportion to the size of their national incomes, the average income per capita adjusted to account for differences in purchasing power, and their scores on the Human Development Index.

“[Covid-19 in Barbados: Update to End-September](#)” provides annotated charts of five successive waves of Covid-19 infections, based on daily updates published by the Barbados Ministry of Health, up to the end of September 2022, when the Ministry ceased to issue daily bulletins.

A 20-minute discussion on my Economic Letter of January 2022 entitled “[The Uncertain Future of Caribbean Currencies](#)”, with Dr Andre Haughton of the University of the West Indies, was carried on Jamaica’s CVM TV on August 23. The discussion was moderated by Nadine Spence of CVM TV. I opened the conversation by remarking that there was no question that if the ordinary Jamaican were asked to choose between 151 Jamaican dollars and one US dollar (the exchange rate on August 23), nobody would choose the Jamaican dollars. The only reason we retain individual Caribbean currencies is out of force of habit, a habit which now has harmful consequences.

In my commentary published in the global edition of *China Daily* on October 13, 2022, I pointed out that “There is abundant eyewitness testimony to the success of China’s drive to eliminate extreme poverty. The most powerful testimonies are from independent observers who speak from their personal experiences of living and working in remote parts of China.”

My (almost) weekly update on Chinese affairs, social, cultural, economic, environmental and political appeared throughout the year at [ABCF-BB.COM](#), the website of the Association for Barbados-China Friendship, of which I am President. Information about the Association may be found on this website.



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December 16, 2022