

## officially launched in Castries Harbour!

social and economic benefit of the people of Saint Lucia."

Director of Tourism Louis Lewis said the ARC continues to grow with each event. "I think finally we are getting where we want to be—getting the public to really embrace the event. We had about six new sponsors come on board this year, so there are a lot of exciting events taking place for the ARC," he said.

"The numbers that we have seen here today are also very encouraging," Lewis continued. "Our estimate is that between this year and any previous year, we have about 400 more people."

Since its inception here 25 years ago, the ARC Race to Rodney Bay has evolved into a staple for Saint Lucia's tourism industry. The race will however be 30 years old in 2015.

About 300 yachtsmen and their families are expected here in early December.



*The Castries Harbour boasted a flotilla of craft of all types, shapes and sizes to mark the launch of the 29th ARC race from Las Palmas to Rodney Bay. (Photo by Marius Modeste)*

## delayed third 29 years

and wind acceleration zone off the south of Gran Canaria, both meant it was prudent to wait before departing.

"The majority of ARC boats are family cruisers and even the experienced crews on some of the race boats were pleased to delay departure," Bishop explained.

The delay is the third time in the 29 years of the ARC that the start has needed to be changed.

## istry hosting n delegation

sub-sectors both public and private.

The e-learning courses being offered are Introduction to On-Line Marketing, Environmental Management in Tourism and

## Successful Regional Sustainable Development workshop concluded Thursday

The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology earlier this week hosted the third Caribbean Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) workshop.

The workshop was organized to assist Caribbean countries in strategizing for the sustainable use of genetic resources and traditional knowledge and was facilitated by the EU ABS Initiative and CARICOM, following the October 12 entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.

Several countries have been taking steps to advance the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol which aims to provide greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources.



*Sustainable Development is rooted in the soul and conscience of those who understand the relationship between roots and fruits.*

These countries have also taken steps to create a framework to promote the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge while strengthening the opportunities for fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their use.

Fifty participants from around the region attended the workshop held at the Bay Gardens Hotel from November 24 to November 27. They included Cuba, Saint Vincent, Belize, Guyana, Surinam, Jamaica, Antigua, Barbuda, Barbados, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.