

Winston Dookeran

Winston Dookeran personifies the statesman, the principled political leader; the passionate intellectual for the prosperity of the people. He is Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Finance, the political leader of the Congress of the People and a Member of Parliament. Mr. Dookeran-through the newly formed People's Partnership coalition- is re-aligning the economy as Finance Minister.

Politics and Leadership

Having served as an elected Member of Parliament over fifteen years, Mr. Dookeran founded a new party, the Congress of the People in 2006. This party is a vehicle for good governance, public integrity, the battle against corruption; and the application of sound and inclusive developmental economics, which acts to draw people out of dependency. He developed a partnership approach to politics that resulted in a new coalition, the People's Partnership to bring people together to solve national problems. This party subsequently received a sweeping mandate in 2010 to govern the country. He aims to use this approach to set Trinidad and Tobago on the course to sustainable economic prosperity.

Governor of the Central Bank

Mr. Dookeran, as Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago from 1997-2002 has managed to bridge the gap between academia, politics and the effecting of practical policies. As Governor and statesman Mr. Dookeran moved beyond partisan politics to seek stability for the nation- a mentality which he has carried with him into political leadership. This movement toward an ethical, transparent and effective politics in the Caribbean quickly progressed after the election of 2002, when he rejoined parliament after a successful term as governor.

Acting Prime Minister- Leadership in Crisis

In few other times was Mr. Dookeran's fortitude more evident than on 27th July 1990, in the crisis of Trinidad and Tobago's attempted coup. A terrorist organisation attacked in a bid to seize control of government. They violently took control of parliament, Trinidad and Tobago's only television station and a major radio station, burning down the police headquarters and instigating fires and looting throughout the capital of Port-of-Spain. Law and order broke down- many were shot and killed. The then Prime Minister and other members of parliament, including Winston Dookeran, were held hostage in parliament. Winston Dookeran took control of negotiations and was able to meet terrorist demands with firm refusal. He assembled an emergency cabinet and negotiated a peaceful return to democracy, meeting with key stakeholders in business, national security, the diplomatic corps, and religious organizations, later earning local and international praise for his political strength and statesmanship.

Political Background- The Early Years

Then, he was Deputy Leader of the National Alliance for Reconstruction acted as Prime Minister, a position which he has often held, whilst also charting the economic recovery of Trinidad and Tobago as Minister of Planning and Mobilization. Indeed, he was instrumental in the formation of the National Alliance for Reconstruction which took government in 1986 with an historic

mandate of more than 91% of seats, defeating the incumbent post-independence regime which had held office for thirty years.

He entered active politics in Trinidad and Tobago in 1981, winning his seat as a United Labour Front member. This was hardly new to the aspiring leader: Mr. Dookeran's early introduction to politics started at 22 when he was elected President of the University of Manitoba Student Union in 1965.

Academics and Developmental Economics

This political aptitude is based on a firm intellectual foundation. Winston Dookeran has long been a scholar of economics. He began at the University of the West Indies, teaching economics for several years. Later, he became a Visiting Scholar at the Centre for International Affairs at Harvard University and developed several attachments to universities in the United Kingdom and Canada. He graduated with a BA in Economics and Mathematics from the University of Manitoba, Canada and received his MSc. in Economics, at the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London, UK. In 1991 he was further recognised for his work and awarded a Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*) by the University of Manitoba.

Positions in Development

He served as senior economist for the United Nations Economics Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and as a consultant to several Caribbean governments on the political economy for their development.

He was a Fellow at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University and an exchange scholar at Leeds University, UK. He worked with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and was engaged with the Governments of the Bahamas, Belize, Suriname, Guyana, St Vincent, Nevis and the British Virgin Islands on planning structures, macroeconomic policy and the political economy of structural adjustment strategies.

Mr. Dookeran played a significant role in the formation of the Free Trade Areas of the Americas (FTAA) and served as Chairman of the Investment Negotiating Committee. Whilst in government, he served as Governor of the Inter American Development Bank (IDB), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and as Alternate Governor to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Mr. Dookeran was a member of the Leadership Council for Inter-American summits under the auspices of the North-South Centre, the University of Miami, the University of California and the Institute for International Economics.

Scholarship and Publications

He is widely published on Caribbean economic development. Winston Dookeran has contributed articles and interviews to numerous professional journals including *the Economist* and *Latin Finance* and has made several speeches in and out of Parliament on the politics of economic change in a small state perspective. His long career as an economist and politician has allowed him to work on all aspects of the political economy of the Caribbean region.

His most recent book, *Uncertainty, Stability and Challenges-* fiscal and monetary policy in a small state perspective, was published by Lexicon (Caribbean) Limited, 2006. Other publications

include *Choices and Change: Reflections on the Caribbean* 1996 (Ed), John Hopkins Press and *The Caribbean Quest: Directions for Structural Reform in a Global Economy* 1998 (co-editor), Stockholm University. His upcoming book is likely to be his most influential: *Power, Politics and Performance: A Partnership Approach for the Development of Small States* He has published several articles on economics, finance and development in international journals. More details can be found at www.congresstnt.com and www.facebook.com/winston.dookeran.

Mr. Dookeran has time and again shown his regard for principles and consensus building and rejection of opportunism. He embodies the new multi-disciplinary statesman of the Caribbean-one who stands for his principles above self-interest.

Appendix- Winston Dookeran's Resumé

Degrees Awarded

1991: Doctor of Laws Honorary Degree
(honoris causa)

University of Manitoba, Canada. Awarded for distinguished public service.

1969: MSc Economics

London School of Economics & Political Science, University of London, U.K.

1966: BA (Hons) Economics and Mathematics

University of Manitoba, Canada.

Key Career Positions

Minister of Finance for Trinidad and Tobago (2010- present)

Political Leader, Congress of the People. (2006-Present)- A Political Party in Trinidad and Tobago (www.congresstnt.com)

Visiting Scholar, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs WCFIA, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. (2002-03)

Fellow, WCFIA, Harvard University. (1993-94)- Fellow at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Senior Economist at the United Nations. (1996-97)- Previously held the post of Senior Economist at the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC).

Chairman of Negotiating Committee on Investment, FTAA.- Participated in many international negotiations, which included the 2000 - 2001 negotiating cycle of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) in which he was Chairman of the Negotiating Committee on Investment that comprised all members of the FTAA.

Acting Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.

Planning and Mobilization Minister, Trinidad and Tobago- Served as Planning and Mobilization Minister in the Government of Trinidad and Tobago during the year 1986-91

Governor of the Central Bank, Trinidad and Tobago- Served as Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago from July 1997 to July 2002. (www.central-bank.org.tt)

Lecturer: University of the West Indies- During the period 1971-86 he was a Lecturer at the University of the West Indies, where he taught a wide range of courses, including Mathematical Economics, International Economic Relations and Advanced Macroeconomic Theory in the post graduate programme.

Alternate Governor for Trinidad and Tobago, Caribbean Development Bank during the period 2002 - 1997

Alternate Governor for Trinidad and Tobago, International Monetary Fund during the period 2002 - 1997

Member, Board of the Leadership Council for Inter-American Summitry during the period 2000-2003.

Publications- A Listing Of Publications Authored And Edited By Winston Dookeran

Books

Power, Politics and Performance: A Partnership Approach for the Development of Small States by Winston Dookeran and Manfred Jantzen, Forthcoming Work, 2010

Leadership and Governance in Small States - Getting Development Right by Winston Dookeran and Akhil Malaki (Ed.) published by VDM Verlag, 2008

Uncertainty, Stability and Challenges: Economic and Monetary Policy Small State Perspective by Winston Dookeran published by Lexicon Trinidad Ltd. 2006

Money Matters: Emerging Challenges for Small States by Winston Dookeran Distinguished Lecture Series, Institute of International Relations, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, 2000.

The Caribbean Quest: Directions for Structural Reforms in a Global Economy: edited by Winston Dookeran and Ramesh Ramsaran published by Nordic Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies the Institute of Latin American Studies, Stockholm University, 1998

Choices and Change : Reflections on the Caribbean edited by Winston Dookeran published by the Inter- American Development Bank, 1996

East Indians in the Caribbean: Colonialism and the Struggle for Identity edited by Winston Dookeran and Bridget Brereton published by Kraus International Publications, London, England, 1982

Articles

‘Foreign Direct Investment: Policy issues and recommendations for Caribbean Development’: Article published in *No island is an island: The Impact of globalization on the Commonwealth Caribbean*, Gordon Baker (editor), published by Brookings Institution, 2007

‘World Economic Slowdown: What it means for Economic Policy in Trinidad and Tobago’: Article published in *The Caribbean in the International Arena: The Implications of Global Instability and Conflict*. Ramesh Ramsaran (editor), published by Lexicon Trinidad Ltd., 2003.

‘The Financial Liberalization Agenda: Performance and Prospects’ published in *Caribbean Survival and the Global Challenge*, Ramesh Ramsaran ed., Ian Randle Publisher: Kingston, Jamaica, forthcoming, 2002.

‘Small States adapting to a Transforming Global Economy’ *Policy Transfer, New Public Management and Globalization*, Dr. Ann Marie Bissessar (editor), University Press of America, Inc., 2002.

‘New Beginnings, New Divides – A New Diplomacy Needed’ Informative, publication of *LASPAU: Academic and Professional Programmes for the Americas*, an affiliate of Harvard University, Spring/Summer 2001.

‘The Commonwealth Caribbean Contemplates the Rock and the Hard Place’ Published in *Americas Insights*, on-line publication of the Institute of the Americas, <http://www.iamericas.org/publications>, October 2000

‘A New Multilateralism: Agenda Issues for Small States’ in *Imagining Tomorrow, Rethinking the Global Challenge*, United Nations Publication edited by Kamalesh Sharma, August 2000.

‘Preferential Trade Agreements in the Caribbean: Issues and Approaches’ in *Trade Liberalisation in the Western Hemisphere*, IDB/ECLAC, Washington, 1995.

‘Caribbean Integration: An Agenda for Open Regionalism’ *The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs*, University of London, July 1994.

‘The Pension Fund System in Trinidad and Tobago’ *Sistema de Pensiones en America Latina y el Caribe*, CEPAL, Santiago, Chile, 1994.

‘The New Regionalism: Caribbean – Canada Trade Agenda’ (co-author with Miriam L. Campanella), *Identities, State and Markets: Looking at Social Change in Latin America* edited by Jose Havet, published by Canadian Scholars’ Press, Inc., 1999.

‘The Borrowing Trap: What the Caribbean Needs to Enter a New Era of Hope’ *Caribbean Affairs*, Col. 1, No. 3, 1988.

'Income Distribution in Trinidad and Tobago 1956 –76, The Review of Income and Wealth' in *Journal of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth*, New Haven, USA. June 1981.

'Towards a Macro Dynamic Theory for Transportation Planning in the Caribbean' *International Journal of Transport Economics*, Rome, Italy, June 1981.

'The Teaching of Economics at St. Augustine – A Comment' *Social and Economic Studies*, The Institute of Social and Economic Research, The University of the West Indies, June 1981.

'Economic Issues Facing the Caribbean Working Class' in *Central Statistical Office Research Papers* (Trinidad and Tobago), 1980.

'NAFTA, the EC and the Uruguay Round: Does the Caribbean Have a Place in the New Economic Order?' The Round Table, *The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs*, University of London, April 1993.

'The Borrowing Trap: What the Caribbean Needs to Enter a New Era of Hope' *Caribbean Affairs*, Col. 1, No. 3, 1988

'Income Distribution in Trinidad and Tobago 1956 –76, The Review of Income and Wealth' in *Journal of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth*, New Haven, USA. June 1981.

'Towards a Macro Dynamic Theory for Transportation Planning in the Caribbean' *International Journal of Transport Economics*, Rome, Italy, June 1981

'The Teaching of Economics at St. Augustine – A Comment' *Social and Economic Studies*, *The Institute of Social and Economic Research*, The University of the West Indies, June 1981.

'Economic Issues Facing the Caribbean Working Class' in *Central Statistical Office Research Papers* (Trinidad and Tobago), 1980

Winston Dookeran's website: www.winstondookeran.com

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