

Minister Presents SVG Consul with Fairtrade Award

17 October 2011

Belfast, NORTHERN IRELAND: Dr Christopher Stange – Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) to Northern Ireland & Chair of Fairtrade Belfast received an award from Martina Anderson MLA, Junior Minister - Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMdFM), for his outstanding individual contribution to Fairtrade at a ceremony in Belfast City Hall.



(Centre):
Dr. Christopher Stange - Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Northern Ireland & Chair of Fairtrade Belfast receiving award for Outstanding Individual Contribution to Fairtrade from Martina Anderson MLA – Jnr. Minister, Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister with Cllr. Pat McCarthy – Chairman, Health and Environmental Services at Belfast City Hall

OFMdFM is the central Government Department in the Northern Ireland Executive with the overall responsibility of running the Executive. One of the Ministerial responsibilities is to drive investment and sustainable development, which includes Fairtrade and ethical procurement.

The event was made possible by the generous support of the Northern Ireland Co-operative, Graham Construction, Fairtrade Mark Ireland, Belfast City Council and the Consulate of St. Vincent & the Grenadines. Wine, tea, coffee, juice and snacks were served, predominately from Fairtrade sourced items.

Voting was conducted by the public from May to August 2011 via the Belfast City Council's website: <http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/fairtrade/index.asp> and in paper form through Belfast City Council's publication "City Matters".

There were six different categories: Outstanding Individual Contribution to Fairtrade, Best Fairtrade Independent Retailer, Best Fairtrade Supermarket, Best Fairtrade Café, Best Fairtrade Employer and Best Fairtrade Bar or Restaurant.

These Awards afford an opportunity to recognise and honour the achievements of those who work tirelessly to promote Fairtrade, to help the most disadvantaged developing world producers and farmers.

Dr Stange commented on receipt of the award: "It is an honour to be recognised for the work being carried out for the most marginalised farmers in the developing world, that produce many commodities we often take for granted. This achievement is for the farmers, especially in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region and that we may build upon these successes, focusing on appropriately targeted central and local government procurement to encourage the Fairtrade market to further develop in the UK and Ireland."

The 2011 Fairtrade Belfast Business Award winners are:

- Outstanding individual Contribution to Fairtrade: Dr Christopher Stange, Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Northern Ireland & Chair of Fairtrade Belfast;
- Best Fairtrade Independent Retailer: Fairtrade Inspires;
- Best Fairtrade Supermarket: Northern Ireland Co-operative;
- Best Fairtrade Café: Common Grounds;
- Best Fairtrade Employer: Oxfam Ireland;
- Best Fairtrade Bar or Restaurant: The John Hewitt.

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Notes for Editor:

- Trophies were provided by the Northern Ireland Co-operative.
- The Fairtrade Belfast Committee, as a voluntary organisation, includes members of Local and Foreign Government, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community, supermarkets, educational institutions, business and private individuals.
- In June 2005, Belfast was awarded its first Fairtrade City status from the UK Fairtrade Foundation and in March 2006, Belfast was awarded its second Fairtrade City status from Fairtrade Mark Ireland.
- Belfast is the only city to be awarded dual Fairtrade City status in both the UK and Ireland.
- Renewal of Belfast's dual Fairtrade City accreditation for another two years was recently submitted to both UK and Irish Fairtrade Foundations.
- Additional information can be found on the Fairtrade Belfast Website: www.fairtradebelfast.org