



## First Science, Technology, Math & Engineering Conference Set in October

The **University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI)**, in collaboration with the **University of the West Indies (UWI) St. Augustine Campus**, **Caribbean Institute of Astronomy (CARINA)**, the **Cayman Islands Ministry of Education, Training & Employment** and the **Cayman Islands Astronomical Society (CIAS)**, is staging a **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics** Conference, dubbed **STEM Carib 2012** on October 17-19, 2012 at the UCCI Campus.

The first of its kind to be offered in Cayman, STEM Carib 2012 seeks to engage educators, students and professionals in a meaningful learning environment about current trends in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The event will also serve as a venue for experts to share insights and knowledge in the hope of making advances in the country and the region.

“We believe that the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are those that can be solved by science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Hence, there is a need for renewed focus on these subject areas as a way into the future,” said Mr. Roy Bodden, JP, UCCI President.

Planning Committee member Dr. Bill Hrudey expressed that this is an exciting event that the island can look forward to this fall. “Following the establishment of an observatory and a successful teachers’ astronomy workshop in the first quarter of 2012, we are now ready to embark on this new project towards numerous other scientific disciplines. STEM Carib 2012 is one that will be of interest to local and regional academic communities, students of all ages, professionals in related industries, hobbyists as well as the general public,” he said.

STEM Carib 2012 boasts an impressive line-up of local and international speakers headed by renowned astronomer and physicist Dr. Shirin Haque, Senior Lecturer at UWI St Augustine Campus in Trinidad and Tobago. Apart from giving the keynote presentation and leading a plenary session, Dr. Haque has also agreed to extend her time to include sessions with primary and high school students all over Grand Cayman.

“It is hoped that with the success of the conference, STEM Carib can become a landmark event here in Cayman, rendering our islands as a major science centre in the Caribbean,” said Dr. Hrudey.