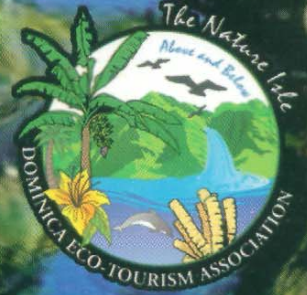


ITHE

D-ECO



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Nature's Isle

SPECIAL EDITION
25th Anniversary
of
Independence



INDEPENDENCE NIGHT 1978



ELIZABETH "MA PAMPO" ISRAEL

1875 - 2003

the Nature Island
of the Caribbean
World

Tertiary Environmental Education made in Dominica

Four Years and Growing

by DR. S. STEINER

The Institute for Tropical Marine Ecology (ITME) Inc. is Dominica's first and so far only Institution that offers university-level training in marine science, research, and conservation. Founded by marine biologist Dr. Sascha

Steiner in 1999, the initial establishment phase was characterized by the field-based assessments of Dominica's marine environments and issues of resource conservation. Avenues for educational collaborations were developed with various governmental entities such as the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment. The early days were marked by, research programs focusing on coral reef structure and health. In the meantime on-going monitoring programs have been established and a great variety biological (biodiversity, coral diseases, organism interactions, etc.) projects have been carried out. ITME's scientific data and publications are provided to governmental and non-governmental institutions in the country, but are also disseminated worldwide via international scientific

journals and the institute's database accessible via internet at www.itme.org.

Academic programs commenced in 2001 and have so far attracted students from 11 nations including Dominica. As part of ITME's academic mission, its university students engage in rigorous scientific training, environmental research and community outreach work, such as teaching at local schools and colleges. In conjunction, with a steady commitment to sharing environmental insights via public presentations, the printed media, as well as radio and TV programs, the Institute's community outreach work has provided a fruitful exchange of information between the program participants and the public at large.

By attracting students and scientists from around the

world, ITME is also contributing to Dominica's Eco-tourism product. Not only do ITME visitors spend up to one year in Dominica, but many have returned to the island 10+ times. ITME alumni have encouraged family and friends to (re)visit the Nature Island as well, and it can safely be said that the influx of foreign currency into the local economy is a substantial byproduct of the institute's operations, given its young history. In that regards, the educational markets must not be underestimated as part of Dominica's eco-tourism product.

ITME is currently running its 7th academic program and its

Clockwise from top: Prof. Jill in class with students, students at lecture; Student Amy takes notes; Preparing for dive off at the Cabrits; Students of the Institute; Dr. Sascha Steiner; Dr. Steiner diving with students



international recognition is growing quickly. The year 2004 marks the institute's 5th anniversary, to be celebrated in January 2005 with a one-week reunion of ITME alumni and friends. 🌐

