China, to name but a few. What is more, the island has rigorously safeguarded its reputation for integrity by responding quickly to such international concerns as money laundering and lack of transparency.

Another hugely important factor in the island’s development that has been at work over the same 10-year period – and is still at work – is the steady strengthening of investor confidence in Barbados. This confidence has been encouraged by the island’s political stability, sound management of its economy and the calibre of its workforce. As a result, hundreds of millions of dollars in direct foreign investment have flowed into luxury resorts, vacation homes and upscale real estate developments that incorporate marinas, golf courses and polo fields. And these projects are being facilitated and managed by local professional services providers – architects, engineers, lawyers and accountants – most of whom are the products of our own University of the West Indies campus at Cave Hill.

But it is not only investors who have been showing confidence in Barbados: several regional and international agencies, particularly those concerned with development in the Caribbean, have established their regional headquarters here; put down their roots, so to speak. For example, the United Nations has seven of its agencies here, some of them serving as many as 29 countries in the Caribbean. A stone’s throw away from the UN’s purpose-built headquarters you will find the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the