

Sir William Arthur Lewis

Sir William Arthur Lewis was born on the 23rd January, 1915 in Saint Lucia. At the age of 18, he earned the government scholarship to attend the London School of Economics (LSE). He graduated from LSE in 1937 with first-class honours and he was given a scholarship to read for a PhD in industrial economics. In 1947, he was selected as a lecturer at the Victoria University of Manchester.

Sir Arthur Lewis served as an economic advisor to numerous African and Caribbean governments, including Nigeria, Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, and Barbados. He was appointed as Ghana first economic advisor when the country became independent in 1957; he helped establish its first Five-Year Development Plan (1959–1963).

Sir Arthur Lewis returned to the Caribbean region in 1959, where he was appointed Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1962. In 1963, he was knighted by the British government for his achievements and for his contributions to economics. He was also appointed Professor of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University during the same year.

Sir Arthur Lewis was elected to the American Philosophical Society in 1966. From 1966 to 1973 he served as Chancellor of the University of Guyana. Sir Arthur Lewis worked at Princeton for the next two decades. He helped to establish the Caribbean Development Bank and in 1970 he was selected as its first president, serving in that capacity until 1973. He received the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1979.

Sir Arthur Lewis passed away at the age of 76 on the 15th June 1991 in Bridgetown, Barbados. He was buried on the grounds of the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College which was named in his honour.

