



Hall of Fame's team settle in for opening ceremony at new stadium in Trelawny, Jamaica.

Cricket World Cup: What a show!

For those who were not present at the new multi-purpose stadium in Trelawny, Jamaica, for the opening ceremonies of the International Cricket Conference's (ICC's) ninth Cricket World Cup opening ceremonies, Sunday, March 11, they certainly missed an experience of a lifetime.



The colorful spectacle, which showcased the musical culture of the Caribbean and some of the other countries who participated, Ireland, India and South Africa, was a sight to behold. It was an event that made Jamaica and the West Indies proud.

Dubbed "Caribbean Energy," the opening ceremony mirrored a West Indian party – gradually building momentum before getting to a prolonged climax. Grabbed by the color and energy, some of the world's leading cricket commentators were moved to express the belief that the West Indies



have delivered the best ever opening for an ICC Cricket World Cup.

Dancers in colorful costumes perform at the opening ceremony

Unlike most Caribbean events the show started on time. It also seemed that the organizers were blessed because just as the ceremonies began the hot sun, which was blazing down on the thousands who came from many parts of the world, suddenly shutdown and was replaced with nature's air-condition, a steady cool breeze coming in from the ocean that blew across the entire stadium.

The three-hour affair was so captivating that the capacity crowd remained in their seats until the end reveling in the historic moment.

As was expected the ceremony had a lot of Caribbean entertainers, with the likes of David Rudder, Marcel Montano, Byron Lee, Sean Paul, Shaggy, Third World, Beres Hammond, The I-Threes and the legendary reggae icon Jimmy Cliff, who had the distinction of closing the show.

“The event was awesome, absolutely fabulous, and incredibly entertaining,” one spectator was heard to remark while leaving the venue. “Having seen it all, when your own people surpass your expectations, it gives you an immense feeling of pride, joy and satisfaction,” he said.

One member of a Cricket Hall of Fame’s team, which had journeyed to Jamaica for the event, Jessica Angelo-Julien, and who was visiting the island for the first time, described the ceremony as the jewel of the trip.

“What a sight to behold. Although I tried to hide it, I actually shed a tear of pride to see the precision of timing and accuracy that went with the whole program,” she said. “For once West Indians were on time for something. The ceremony was something set for royalty and better. Starting with a marching band and speeches by several dignitaries, the entertainment and the fireworks seen for miles was unbelievable,” she stated.

“What I liked most about the ceremony was the diversity. Although it was set in the West Indies it was not only West Indian entertainment. There were Indian dancers on stage, some on the spot in the audience, Africans, and others from the sister islands showing their support at the ceremony. The combination of colors blended with costumes, the like of which we might never see here in our local parade or anywhere else. Speechless is the word and the beauty for what I experienced on March 11, 2007,” she concluded.

The tournament is now in full progress and based on the results, the West Indies are not doing too good. There is a strong possibility that they may not make it to the finals. Whether they do or not, one thing is sure, as far as the opening ceremony is concerned the West Indies have walked away proud winners.