



**APRIL, 2006**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>CARIBBEAN EXPORT DIGEST</b> .....	<b>2</b>
CGCS 2006 IS LAUNCHED .....	2
ITC'S EXECUTIVE FORUM .....	2
REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS STRATEGIES .....	3
<b>CSME NEWS</b> .....	<b>4</b>
CSME UPDATE .....	4
<b>TRADE POLICY DEVELOPMENTS</b> .....	<b>5</b>
ACS MEMBERSHIP INCREASES .....	5
TRADE AND INVESTMENT COUNCIL (TIC) REVISITED .....	6
<b>PRODUCT NEWS</b> .....	<b>6</b>
REGIONAL HERBAL CLUSTER.....	6
SUGAR QUOTA SHORTFALL TO REALLOCATE WITHIN REGION.....	7
<b>BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>TRADE AND INVESTMENT EVENTS</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>APPOINTMENTS</b> .....	<b>9</b>
NEW COMMONWEALTH DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL.....	9
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b> .....	<b>9</b>

## **CARIBBEAN EXPORT DIGEST**

### ***CGCS 2006 IS LAUNCHED***

On Wednesday April 19<sup>th</sup>, to the strains of a string band and with stirring words of commitment and support from the Honourable Richard Skerritt, St. Kitts' Minister of State of State for Tourism, Culture and Sports, the thirteenth edition of the Caribbean Gift and Craft Show (CGCS) was officially launched in St. Kitts and Nevis.

The Caribbean Gift and Craft Show featuring Caribbean Fashion Rhythms takes place at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort and Royal Beach Casino from September 14<sup>th</sup> –17<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The theme for the show is “Excellence through innovation, creativity and strategic alliances” which reflects the Caribbean Export Development Agency’s commitment to maintaining the show’s well earned reputation as the premier regional event for the showcase of creativity, design and ingenuity in the gift, craft and apparel sectors.

FirstCaribbean International Bank is again the major sponsor of the show and the show’s official bank. The bank is also the sponsor of the Best of Show Awards which have been revamped with the introduction of a new top award the “Best New Product/Product Line” to recognise and reward excellence and innovation.

The show has also been launched in Barbados and in Antigua and Barbuda, with presentations to targeted groups in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. According to Caribbean Export’s Show Manager, Veona Maloney, “These activities are just part of a comprehensive marketing and promotion campaign which will see the CGCS message reaching nearly every Caribbean country and selected cities in the UK, USA and Canada.”

For more information on the show, prospective exhibitors and trade buyers are encouraged to visit the website: [www.caribbeangiftandcraft.com](http://www.caribbeangiftandcraft.com) or to contact the Head of the Participants Facilitation Team, Cora Lowe at E-mail: [clowe@carib-export.com](mailto:clowe@carib-export.com)

### ***ITC’S EXECUTIVE FORUM***

What should be the technical focus of trade promotion organisations? What should be the scope of national export strategies? What role should trade promotion organisations play in national export strategy design, strategy coordination and strategy management? And what should be the trade promotion organisation’s own strategy?

These were some of the issues discussed by members of the International Trade Centre’s Executive Forum at its consultation titled “Export Strategy and the Role of the National Trade Promotion Organisation” held in Mexico City from April 3-5. Veona Maloney, Manager Core Services, represented the Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) and was a member of the panel discussion on “Export Strategy and the TPO: A Practitioner’s Point of View.”

The forum concluded that the trade promotion organisation should be the “first stop shop” for its clients through its provision of a range of relevant services (i.e. trade information/market intelligence, financing, business counselling, and referral to specialized organisations in the service delivery network).

Export strategies must focus on enhanced international competitiveness and export development issues. Export strategies must therefore address the following four “gears”: “Border in Gear” (supply side), “Border Gear” (transaction side), “Border Out” (demand side) and the “Development Gear” (poverty alleviation, employment generation, regional development, disadvantaged groups, gender equality, and environmental sustainability).

Trade promotion organisations must play a key role in the strategy design process and must be the catalyst of the public-private sector partnership which is vital to the process. The trade promotion organisation should also facilitate the private sector’s design of sector strategies. To perform this role, it was agreed that the trade promotion organisation must be repositioned to become a trade development organisation, with enhanced authority and where necessary a wider mandate.

The trade promotion organisation should also be the coordinator of the services delivery network and function as the secretariat of the “higher” strategic management organisation (national export council).

The forum also agreed that trade promotion organisations must develop their own strategies which should be in keeping with the national export strategy, must have the full support of key stakeholders and must drive all institutional policy and action.

### ***REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS STRATEGIES***

The Commonwealth Secretariat in collaboration with the Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) is organising a regional workshop on Export Competitiveness Strategies at the Amaryllis Hotel in Barbados from May 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

The workshop will be attended by high level public and private sector officials from countries where the Commonwealth Secretariat has supported competitiveness projects in the recent past, or where a request for technical assistance on the subject is under consideration. These countries include Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and Barbados - the host country.

According to Andrew Satney, Adviser in the Secretariat’s Special Advisory Services Division - Trade Section the objective of the workshop is to promote best practices among stakeholders in the Commonwealth Caribbean Countries and raise awareness of the benefits of collaboration for enhanced competitiveness.

The workshop will address the following sectors/areas: Tourism, Services Trade, Trade Facilitation and National Export Strategies, and its format will include country paper presentations, trade expert presentations, case studies and group work.

For further details on the workshop contact Caribbean Export’s Wendy Graham at E-mail: [wgraham@carib-export.com](mailto:wgraham@carib-export.com)

## CSME NEWS

### *CSME UPDATE*

The second article in a series of articles to update Trade Watch subscribers on the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). In this article we provide an update on the Free Movement of Labour.

The Free movement of labour will be achieved through measures such as removing all obstacles to intra-regional movement of skills, labour and travel, harmonising social services (education, health, etc.), providing for the transfer of social security benefits and establishing common standards and measures for accreditation and equivalency. At present, artists and musicians, sportspersons, media workers, managerial, supervisory and technical staff, the self-employed and university graduates can move freely within CARICOM without work permits. The table below highlights the status as of March, 2006.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Exceptions</b>
Implementation of Skills Legislation (Free movement of university graduates)	11 Member countries have implemented legislation to facilitate this process	Antigua and Barbuda to amend legislation.  Suriname to amend legislation to cater for indefinite stay of CARICOM nationals
Regulatory and administrative arrangements to facilitate free movement of graduates.	Completed by 11 Member Countries	Antigua and Barbuda to take action
Implementation of for free movement of artistes, media workers, musicians and sports persons	11 Members States have explicit legal provision for free movement of these workers	Antigua and Barbuda to amend legislation.
Regulatory and administrative arrangements for free movement of artistes, media workers, musicians and sports persons	10 Member States have complied	Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts and Nevis to implement arrangements.
Legislative and administrative arrangements for Free Movement of self employed services providers, entrepreneurs, technical, managerial and supervisory staff, spouses and immediate family members, persons consuming services abroad.		Member states to take legislative and administrative action.

Category	Status	Exceptions
Elimination of the need for passport by CARICOM nationals for intra-regional travel (e.g use of ID cards)	<p>Guyana has amended its legislation to provide for acceptance of photo IDs</p> <p>OECS Members accept photo-IDs from other OECS nationals</p> <p>Conference agreed that a common machine readable passport be used for intra-regional travel.</p>	
CARICOM Passport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Antigua and Barbuda Jan, 2006</li> <li>◆ Dominica, December 2005,</li> <li>◆ Suriname, January, 2005;</li> <li>◆ St. Vincent and the Grenadines, June, 2005 and</li> <li>◆ St. Kitts and Nevis, November, 2005.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Barbados proposed first quarter 2006</li> <li>◆ Belize after current stock depleted</li> <li>◆ Grenada proposed May, 2006</li> <li>◆ Guyana proposed first quarter 2006</li> <li>◆ Jamaica before December 31, 2007</li> <li>◆ Saint Lucia proposed first quarter 2006</li> <li>◆ Trinidad and Tobago proposed July, 2006</li> </ul>

Source: CARICOM Secretariat, March, 2006

## **TRADE POLICY DEVELOPMENTS**

### ***ACS MEMBERSHIP INCREASES***

The Turks and Caicos Islands has joined Aruba, France on behalf of French Guiana, Guadeloupe, and Martinique, and the Netherlands Antilles as an associate member of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). As an associate members of the ACS, the Turks and Caicos Islands "shall have the right to intervene in discussions and vote at meetings of the Ministerial Council and Special Committees on matters which affect them directly, falling within their constitutional competence."

Member States of the ACS are Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela.

## ***TRADE AND INVESTMENT COUNCIL (TIC) REVISITED***

The long-dormant CARICOM-US Trade and Investment Council (TIC) will be revitalised. This decision was reached at a meeting of CARICOM Trade Ministers with United States Trade Representative Rob Portman on April 12, 2006 in Washington, D.C.

The discussions focussed on the following items:

- ◆ The status of Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations and prospects for future US-CARICOM trade relations.
- ◆ The status of the request by the United States for a renewal (until September 30, 2008) of the current World Trade Organization (WTO) waiver for the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA), which expired on December 31, 2005.
- ◆ The proposed Conference on the future of the Caribbean.
- ◆ The status and outlook for the WTO Doha Agenda.

It is expected that trade relations with the United States, a major export market for the region will be improved as a result of the meeting. According to the Honourable Anthony Hylton, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, “We came away with a practical mechanism on which to build further on CARICOM-US trade relations. The TIC will provide an important forum for dialogue on trade relations.” The revived TIC is expected to meet later this year.

## **PRODUCT NEWS**

### ***REGIONAL HERBAL CLUSTER***

Creating proper conditions on decision-making issues such as formulation of mission goal, project selection, setting priorities, cluster operation as well as participating in the 9th EDF Grant Fund was the main focus of the Regional Herbal Cluster, Installation & Start Up Meeting which was held at the Cara Suites Hotel, Castries, St Lucia, on April 5, 2006. The objective of the cluster is to enhance competitiveness through business clustering with the main focus on a collective approach to market development in the broadest sense, and expansion of overseas export markets.

Sam Kruiner, **Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export)** Product Development Officer attended the meeting and explained “This is the first cross border cluster established in the region and its main challenge will be to demonstrate that it is possible to establish cross border networks.” He further stated “This cluster will however have a positive impact on the business environment at the firm, sector and regional levels, including:

- ◆ Strengthening regional integration
- ◆ Expansion of businesses through collaboration
- ◆ Growth of the industrial sector and the sustainability of the firms involved
- ◆ Enhancement of export performance
- ◆ Creation of employment opportunities, investments, advancement. “

## ***SUGAR QUOTA SHORTFALL TO REALLOCATE WITHIN REGION***

CARICOM has requested that the US government reallocate any shortfall by a CARICOM sugar producing member country to the region. This comes on the heels of a similar request to the European Union (EU). The request was made to the United States Trade Representative, Rob Portman in a meeting between himself and CARICOM Ministers of Trade in Washington on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

CARICOM's position is that any country unable to meet its quota should have it reallocated within the region and those countries which have the capacity to supply the shortfall should do so.

While Mr. Portman could not give a commitment, he agreed that the US would look into the legality of the request to determine how the regionalisation of the sugar quota could be granted to CARICOM. Once granted, CARICOM could decide internally how the quota shortfall would be distributed.

### **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

STYROFOAM FISH BOXES, ice chests, and wall systems for the construction of homes/buildings are available. Contact: Nicolas Martin, Polystructure & Architectural Works Ltd. 5 1/2 Miles Western Highway, P.O. Box 1779, Belize City, Belize, Tel: 501-222-4239, Fax: 501-222-4235, E-mail: [polystructurebelize@yahoo.com](mailto:polystructurebelize@yahoo.com)

INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC SEWING MACHINES and spare-parts, electronics-goods, communication equipments, hardware, textiles/garments, foodstuffs etc. are sought. Contact: (Rtd) Gen, Rue du Gabian (jnr), Director for Import & Export, Quality Plus Marketing Centre, Quality Export Monaco Limited, 11,rue du Gabian, Immeuble Le concorde, 98013, Monaco Cedex. MONACO, Email: [nice\\_trade@lycos.com](mailto:nice_trade@lycos.com), [quality\\_plus@outgun.com](mailto:quality_plus@outgun.com), Fax: 00377-979864883-9

DEALERS and other entrepreneurs required to distribute scooters models of 49CC and 150CC. Contact: George Grimes, Owner/operator, 14041 N Florida Ave #3, Tampa, Florida 33613, USA. Tel: 813-245-7047, Fax: 813-626-7525, E-mail: [gmg99@yahoo.com](mailto:gmg99@yahoo.com).

NATURAL SKIN CARE PRODUCTS, anti aging, acne/roscea, eye gel, day creams distributors are required. Contact: Tony Caruso, President, 726 Wellington St, Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, P6B 2G6, CANADA. Tel: 705 253-8484, E-mail: [Tony@skinrevolution.ca](mailto:Tony@skinrevolution.ca), Website: [www.skinrevolution.ca](http://www.skinrevolution.ca)

## **TRADE AND INVESTMENT EVENTS**

**Salon Foire et Habitat , (The Regional Trade Fair),** May 3-7, 2006, GUADELOUPE. Tel : (+590) 590 26 60 50 /(+590) 590 59 80 58; Fax : (+590) 590 26 61 87.

**EFEX 2006,** May 4-7, 2006. CURAÇAO. Website: [www.destination-Curaçao.com](http://www.destination-Curaçao.com).

**CBR Exop.com – Caribbean Builders and Remodelers Expo, 2006,** May 8-14, 2006, BAHAMAS. Tel: (242) 393-1842; Cell: (242) 457-3834; Fax: (242) 394-3830.

**15<sup>th</sup> Apparel Sourcing Show “The Americas' Speed-to-Market Solution”,** May 16-18, 2006, GUATEMALA. Website: <http://www.vestex.com.gt>.

**Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) Second Annual Symposium,** May 17-19, 2006 JAMAICA. Website: <http://www.c-t-u.org/WTD06BLITZ.htm>

**Trade and Investment Convention (TIC 2006),** May 17-21, 2006, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. Website: <http://www.tic-tt.com/>.

**International Expo Christmas and Gift Show, 2006.** *An International Expo/show directed to decorators, and small and large businesses selling Christmas products.* May 19-21, 2006, PUERTO RICO. Website: <http://www.expochristmaspr.com>

**Workshop on Export Competitiveness Strategies,** May 23-25, 2006. Amaryllis Hotel, BARBADOS. E-mail: [wgraham@carib-export.com](mailto:wgraham@carib-export.com)

**First Caribbean Agri-Food Trade Convention,** May 24-27, 2006, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. Tel: (868) 647-3218; E-mail: [bob@namdevco.com](mailto:bob@namdevco.com)

**Kidz World Expo, (Barbados) 2006,** May 27-28, 2006, BARBADOS. E-mail: [kidzworld@caribsurf.com](mailto:kidzworld@caribsurf.com)

**Acuril, 2006.** *Information and Human Rights ; The Social, Cultural and Ethical Aspects of the Information Society.* May 28 – June 02, 2006, ARUBA. Website: <http://www.bibliotecanacional.aw/>

**Salon NTIC.** *The ITC (information technologies and communication) Show,* May 31 – June 4, 2006, GUADELOUPE. Tel : (+590) 590 93 76 00; Fax : (+590) 90 21 87

## **Other Upcoming Events**

**8th Spring Fancy Food Show**, May 7-9, 2006, Chicago, USA . Website:  
<http://www.specialtyfood.com/do/fancyFoodShow/LocationsAndDates>

**2006 Governor's Hurricane Conference**, May 8-12, 2006, Greater Ft. Lauderdale, USA  
Website: [www.flghc.org](http://www.flghc.org)

**Media Summit Caribbean & Central America**, (*Digital Technology and Business Development for the Broadcasting and Multimedia Industry*), May 31 – June 2, 2006, Miami, FL, USA. E-mail: [info@caribbeanmediasummit.com](mailto:info@caribbeanmediasummit.com)

**Interbake China 2006**, May 12-14, 2006, CHINA. Website: [www.faircanton.com/interbake2006](http://www.faircanton.com/interbake2006)

**Restaurant –Motel – Hotel Show**, May 20 –23, 2006, McCormick Place, Chicago, USA.  
Website: <http://www.restaurant.org/show/>

**18th Annual International Furniture Fair**, May 20-23, 2006, New York, USA. Website:  
[www.icff.com](http://www.icff.com)

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### ***NEW COMMONWEALTH DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL***

Ambassador Ransford Smith, has been appointed Deputy Secretary-General of the Commonwealth. He will be responsible for policy development, trade and economic issues, as well as development cooperation. Ambassador Smith is Jamaica's permanent representative to the Office of the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies in Geneva and is currently Jamaica's ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO). He is the first Jamaican to be appointed Deputy Secretary-General of the Commonwealth and is expected to assume office in mid-year.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Information and Communications for Development 2006**

This volume looks at the rapid evolution of the Information and Communication Technology and the changes it has brought to rich and poor societies alike. Attempts to answer the questions of how the ICT sector and its role in development have evolved, what has been learned, and what is the way forward.

("http://publications.worldbank.org/ecommerce/catalog/product?item\_id=5558392")