



JANUARY, 2006

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>CARIBBEAN EXPORT DIGEST.....</b>	<b>2</b>
9TH EDF CTPSDP COMPETITIVENESS GRANT FUND PROGRAMME .....	2
CAPITA INTERIOR DECORATION AND DESIGN WORKSHOP .....	3
<b>CSME NEWS .....</b>	<b>3</b>
MORE COUNTRIES TO SIGN ON TO CSM.....	3
PERFORMANCE OF INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE 2002-2004 .....	4
<b>TRADE POLICY DEVELOPMENTS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
SWIFT ACTION NEEDED ON WTO OUTCOMES.....	4
<b>MARKET NEWS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
GRENADA GOVERNMENT REVISES LEVY RATE .....	5
JAMAICA, COLOMBIA SIGN VISA ABOLITION AGREEMENT .....	5
SURINAME READY FOR CARICOM SINGLE MARKET .....	5
<b>BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>TRADE AND INVESTMENT EVENTS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>PUBLICATIONS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS .....	6
ACP EXPORTERS DIRECTORY .....	6

## **CARIBBEAN EXPORT DIGEST**

### ***9TH EDF CTPSDP COMPETITIVENESS GRANT FUND PROGRAMME***

The **Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export)** on behalf of the CARIFORUM Member States and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States/Export Development Unit (OECS/EDU) on behalf of the OECS countries are implementing the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF Caribbean Trade and Private Sector Development Programme (CTPSDP), which is financed by the European Union. The main objective of the programme is to contribute to the gradual integration of CARIFORUM countries into the world economy and in turn to enhance regional economic growth and thus help to alleviate poverty.

The programme has as one of its main components the Competitiveness Grant Fund, which seeks to increase the competitiveness of firms in the Caribbean. There will be four (4) calls for proposals to the fund. The deadline date for the first call for proposals is February 24, 2006.

To be eligible for the grant, applicants must:

- Be a group of firms (cluster, consortia, associates, etc) represented by a trade association, BSOs or a selected firm legally established in an applicable CARIFORUM member states.
- Be a non-governmental organisations, public sector operators, local authorities, international (inter-governmental) organisations, private firms with prior agreement of strategic alliances of partnership with at least two other firms;
- Have their headquarters in any of the applicable CARIFORUM countries
- Be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action, not acting as an intermediary.

The full Guidelines for Applicants are available at **Caribbean Export's** offices in Barbados (Mutual Building, 1st Floor, Hastings Main Road, Christ Church) and the Dominican Republic (Erick Leonard Eckman# 17. Arroyo Hondo. Santo Domingo) and on Caribbean Export's Website: [www.carib-export.com](http://www.carib-export.com). The special E-mail address for queries about the Fund is [grant@carib-export.com](mailto:grant@carib-export.com). Original Application Forms must be received (in hard copy format) by 4:00 pm at our offices in Barbados and the Dominican Republic on the deadline date.

In its continuing efforts to promote the Fund, **Caribbean Export** is hosting a series of information seminars throughout the region. To date sessions have been held in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, The Bahamas and St. Kitts and Nevis.

According to Caribbean Export's Executive Director, Taiana Mora Ramis, the session in Barbados, attended primarily by members of the Barbados Coalition of Services Industries, was very well received as well as the presentation in Bahamas, which was attended by almost 100 persons. She noted that, "Strategic partnerships and alliances are key for the region to take advantage of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) and other regional processes and to increase their international competitiveness and this Programme will provide the incentives to promote these actions." She further noted that, "**Caribbean Export** will continue to support strategic alliances, not only through the grant fund, but also through direct assistance to associations, clusters and other forms of groupings."

### ***CAPITA INTERIOR DECORATION AND DESIGN WORKSHOP***

The Center for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries (CBI) in collaboration with the **Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export)** and the Suriname Trade and Development Association (VSB) is conducting a workshop on Interior Decoration and Design from March 27-28, 2006 in Suriname.

According to Clarcia Christie, Caribbean Export's Marketing Officer, "the objective of the workshop is to introduce selected companies in the aspects of interior decoration and design for the sectors domestic furniture, household and furnishing textiles and gifts and decorative articles." Ms Christie also noted that the workshop is targeted at artisans/exporters from small and medium-sized companies and Business Support Organisations (BSO) officials that are active in the sectors targeted.

**Caribbean Export** is providing fifteen (15) partial fellowships for companies wishing to attend the workshop. Interested companies should contact Sonia Bowen or Clarcia Christie, at Tel: (246) 436-0578; Fax: (246) 436 9999; E-mail: [sbowen@carib-export.com](mailto:sbowen@carib-export.com) or [cchristie@carib-export.com](mailto:cchristie@carib-export.com). Further information on the workshop may also be downloaded from Caribbean Export's Website: [www.carib-export.com](http://www.carib-export.com). The deadline for the receipt of applications is March 3, 2006.

### **CSME NEWS**

#### ***MORE COUNTRIES TO SIGN ON TO CSM***

Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts/Nevis, Saint Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines have agreed to complete all arrangements and join the CARICOM Single Market (CSM) by June 30, 2006 instead of March 31, 2006 as original proposed. According to the Prime Minister of Antigua & Barbuda, The Honourable Baldwin Spencer, the OECS' decision to push back the date, would give the individual territories a chance to look at their legislative agenda and a number of other issues; "but at the same time to be satisfied in our own minds that the machinery would be put in place fully to allow for the implementation of the Development Fund and also to ensure that the special and differential treatment in relation to our CARICOM partners."

The OECS bloc advised of their readiness join the CSM at the 20th Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED), held in Georgetown, Guyana on January 12, 2006. They will join Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago for whom the single market took effect on January 1, 2006, and was formalized at the CSM launch on January 30, 2006 in Jamaica. With respect to the other Member States, the Bahamas is not yet a part of the Single Market arrangement, Montserrat awaits the necessary instrument from the UK government in order to participate and Haiti has not yet completed its accession to the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and is therefore not a participant in the Single Market.

### ***PERFORMANCE OF INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE 2002-2004***

In 2004, the value of intra-regional domestic exports amounted to approximately EC\$3.0 billion. This total represents a 2 per cent decline on the 2003 figure of approximately EC\$3.8 billion. In percentage terms, intra-regional domestic exports accounted for approximately 16% of the value of the region's total domestic exports. This figure also represents a marginal decline of the comparable statistics for 2002 and 2003, when intra-regional domestic exports amounted to 18% in each year.

Principal domestic exports within CARICOM for 2004 were:

- Petroleum Products at approximately EC\$1.0 billion, and
- Aerated Beverages at approximately EC\$75 million.

Other major domestic export were:

- Building Cement
- Cigarettes
- Beer
- Detergents
- Sweet Biscuits
- Juice (Orange)
- Bars and Rods of Steel
- Printed Paper and Paperboard and
- Soaps.

Based on the available data, the major exporting countries to regional destinations were Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Barbados.

The value of intra-regional imports in 2004 was approximately EC\$2.8 billion compared to EC\$4 billion in 2003. As a proportion of its imports from all sources, CARICOM's intra-regional imports remained relatively low, accounting for some 11 per cent in 2004 which represents a 2 per cent decline from 2003, when the figure was 13 per cent.

Petroleum products continued to dominate intra-regional imports in 2004 with the LDCs as a group recording an EC\$47 million increase in the value of imports of petroleum products to reach EC\$252 million in 2004. The leading importers of non-petroleum products based on available data were Barbados, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago respectively.

**Source: Caribbean Community Secretariat**

### **TRADE POLICY DEVELOPMENTS**

#### ***SWIFT ACTION NEEDED ON WTO OUTCOMES***

In a commentary published in CNIS - Commonwealth News and Information Service, Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Winston Cox opined that concerted action must be taken by the Commonwealth in the first half of 2006 to build on the outcomes of the recent World Trade Organisation (WTO) meeting in Hong Kong in December 2005. He urged Commonwealth states, particularly developing countries, not to spare any effort in contributing to the detailed negotiations that must be completed by the mid-year deadline if they want to ensure that development remained at the centre of this trade round.

Meanwhile in the mini-ministerial meeting held in Davos, Switzerland from January 27-28, 2006 the WTO Member governments focused on the schedules and processes that the talks need to follow in order to be concluded by the end of the year. The timeline has been circulated to the entire WTO Membership as an informal document for discussion at the Trade Negotiations Committee meeting on February 7, 2006.

## **MARKET NEWS**

### ***GRENADA GOVERNMENT REVISES LEVY RATE***

The Grenada government has agreed that, for the first six months of 2006, persons earning in excess of EC\$1,000 per month and up to EC\$5,000 per month, will be required to contribute a 3 per cent National Reconstruction Levy, as opposed to the 5 per cent originally proposed. Effective July 1, the rate will increase to 5 per cent for persons earning up to EC\$5,000 per month, with the first EC\$1,000 being exempt. All other provisions of the National Reconstruction Levy will remain the same. The Levy was introduced as part of the government's national reconstruction effort following the hurricane damage in 2004.

### ***JAMAICA, COLOMBIA SIGN VISA ABOLITION AGREEMENT***

Jamaican and Colombian nationals holding diplomatic and official passports will no longer require a visa to travel between the two countries. The decision, was announced following the signing of a reciprocal visa abolition agreement at the conclusion of the 5th Jamaica/Colombia Binational Commission held in San Andres, Colombia from January 16 - 17, 2006.

### ***SURINAME READY FOR CARICOM SINGLE MARKET***

The Suriname government has amended six laws to facilitate its readiness for the CSME. Among these are the Trade Act, the Skilled CARICOM Nationals Act, the law regarding exercise of medical professions and the Business Service Act adapted to facilitate Suriname's participation in the Single Market. Suriname also approved two CARICOM protocols regarding the establishment of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) and the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas on January 24, 2006.

## **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

### **PRODUCTS SERVICES SOUGHT/AVAILABLE**

CARIBBEAN ARTS and craft products such as leather sandals, paintings, belts, hats, quality batik products, bamboo products, cookbooks etc. are sought. Contact: Ian B.M Charles, Western Micronics CDN International, 110 - 112 East North First Street, Seneca SC 29678, USA. Tel: (864) 985-1556; Fax: (864) 882-6593; E-mail: [caribe@carol.net](mailto:caribe@carol.net), Website: <http://www.wmicronics.com/>

PROMOTIONAL BAGS, casual bags and souvenir bags are available. The bags are manufactured using nylon or polyester oxford with PVC backing. Contact: Pyoung Ku Kim ,

President, Calle 8 No. 97, Ensanche Isabelita, Santo Domingo, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. Tel: (809) 766-1212; Fax: (809) 766-0601; E-mail: pyoungkukim@gmail.com.

### **TRADE AND INVESTMENT EVENTS**

The following are upcoming Events in the Caribbean for the month of February, 2006. The 2006 Caribbean Calendar of Trade and Investment Events is available on Caribbean Export's website at [www.carib-export.com](http://www.carib-export.com). To have your events listed in the Calendar, contact Cora Lowe at E-mail: [clowe@carib-export.com](mailto:clowe@carib-export.com).

- **The Nassau Conference 2006**, February 7-8, 2006, THE BAHAMAS. Website: <http://www.nassauconference.com/>
- **Caribbean Media Exchange**, February 9 - 16, 2006, PUERTO RICO. Website: <http://www.caribbeanmediaexchange.com/>
- **17th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government**, February 9 – 10, 2006, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. Website: <http://www.caricom.org/>
- **Caribbean Health Tourism & Spa Expo** - “Wellness and Destination Health Important Trends in the Resort Industry”, February 12 –13, 2006, JAMAICA. Website: <http://Spa.PositiveTourism.Com>
- **EXPO EUROPA 2006** (*Commercial Fair*), February 16 – 19, 2006, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. Website: <http://www.fedcamaraseuropeas.org/>
- **World Insurance Forum**, 2006, February 21 – 23, 2006, BERMUDA. Website: [www.worldinsuranceforum.bm](http://www.worldinsuranceforum.bm)
- **Agrofest, 2006**, February 24 – 26, 2006, BARBADOS

#### Other Upcoming Events

- **Fruit Logistica** (Fresh fruits and vegetables), 2nd to 4th Feb 2006, Berlin. Website: [www.fruitlogistica.com](http://www.fruitlogistica.com)
- **10th Session - Commission On Trade In Goods And Services And Commodities** February 6-10 2006, Geneva, SWITZERLAND. Website: [www.unctad.org](http://www.unctad.org)
- **Second Meeting Of The Convention On Biological Diversity's (Cbd) Open-Ended Ad Hoc Working Group On Liability And Redress In The Context Of The Biosafety Protocol**, February 20-24, 2006, Montreal, CANADA. Website: <http://www.biodiv.org>.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### ***INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS***

A new, illustrated publication entitled “Focus on: Intellectual Property Rights” that explains the ins and outs of intellectual property rights (IPR) has been released by the US State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs. For further details please visit the website: <http://usinfo.state.gov/products>.

#### ***ACP EXPORTERS DIRECTORY***

The Pesticides Initiative Programme (PIP), implemented by COLEACP has produced a directory listing of producing and exporting companies that are engaged with the PIP in a food safety & quality management process. Fruit and vegetable companies from Jamaica and the Dominican Republic are included in the directory. The directory can be access on-line at Website: [www.coleacp.org/pip](http://www.coleacp.org/pip).