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CARIBBEAN EXPORT DIGEST

NEW POLL ON TRADE WATCH

A new poll starts in July when we ask "Which sections of the newsletter are of most interest?" Please visit the TRADE WATCH website www.tradewatch.carib-export.com and participate in the poll. Your views and comments on any of our articles can be sent to: E-mail: tradewatch@carib-export.com.

EXCITING BSO EVENTS

Defining a common regional strategy for Business Support Organisations (BSOs) activities and identifying possible areas of collaboration are some of the activities which will be undertaken by the Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) as part of the first phase of the European Union (EU) funded Caribbean Regional Trade and Private Sector Development Programme (CRTPSDP).

In effecting the BSO initiative, Caribbean Export is collaborating with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to organize a series of events during June and July explained Ronald Dubrisingh Caribbean Export's Project Manager for the CRTPSDP.

On June 26th, Caribbean Export and the ACS will host the VII Forum of Trade Promotion Organisations of the Greater Caribbean at the Barbados Hilton. The forum, entitled "Beyond Trade Promotion in the Greater Caribbean" will examine issues surrounding trade promotion and attracting foreign investment and is expected to attract participants from across the region.

On July 19th, ECLAC and Caribbean Export will host a workshop exploring the "Experiences and challenges of cluster and network initiatives". On July 20th - 21st Caribbean Export's Strategic Planning Workshop for BSOs will be convened. Over sixty (60) regional BSOs will review a draft report outlining a common regional strategy for BSOs' activities. The basis of the draft report is the survey of regional BSOs undertaken by Caribbean Export to determine the national needs for trade and private sector development.

It is anticipated that participants to the workshop will develop a final strategic document which will define common needs. For further information on the BSO events please contact: Ronald Dubrisingh at E-mail: rdubrisingh@carib-export.com.

ACTIVITIES FOR CGCS 2006 IN HIGH GEAR



Promotional activities for the Caribbean Gift and Craft Show (CGCS) 2006 are moving into high gear with a series of market visits and official launches planned for the Cayman Islands, St. Maarten/Martin, Puerto Rico and Curacao over the latter part of June and early July. These visits are in keeping with Caribbean Export's strategy to take the CGCS message across the Caribbean to attract potential exhibitors and trade buyers to the Show.

CGCS 2006 will take place at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort and Royal Beach Casino from September 14th -17th, 2006. According to Veona Maloney Show Manager CGCS 2006, Caribbean Export is confident it will achieve the targets set for CGCS 2006 and thus "justify the confidence and support of our major sponsor the FirstCaribbean International Bank."

Ms Maloney also noted the continued and critical support of the regional airlines including Air Jamaica, BWIA, Caribbean Star and LIAT and the support of private sector companies such as Amerijet, FEDEX, Panagraphix and Caribbean Packaging.

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

PROMOTION OF EXPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The Commonwealth Secretariat in collaboration with the Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) will launch on July 10th in Barbados the project Promotion of Exports of Professional Services for the Commonwealth Caribbean.

The overall objective of the project is to enhance the ability of the Commonwealth Caribbean to diversify their economies and increase their trade in professional services. The project is also expected to build Caribbean Export's capacity to assist its members in developing a strategic programme for the promotion of professional services.

Four countries will be involved in the project namely Barbados, Dominica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. The project team including representatives from the Commonwealth Secretariat, Caribbean Export and consultants Emerging Market Economics Ltd (EME), will undertake launches and fact finding missions in each of these countries which will involve meetings with key businesses, public sector officials and a workshop with key stakeholders to gain a comprehensive understanding of the constraints to exporting professional services and to secure local buy-in to the project.

The final phase of the project will focus on the drafting of national plans which will be subsequently discussed during national workshops to be hosted in each country, following which the final plans will be prepared based on the feedback and recommendations emanating from the workshops.

For further information on the project contact Caribbean Export's Manager, Core Services, Veona Maloney at e-mail: vmaloney@carib-export.com

DR/CARIFORUM BUSINESS COUNCIL AGREEMENT SIGNED

On June 9th, an Agreement establishing the CARICOM/Dominican Republic (DR) Business Forum was signed by Mr James Moss-Solomon representing the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC) and Mr Fernando Gonzalez Nicolas on behalf of the Santo Domingo Chamber of Commerce. The Forum is expected to assist in the achievement of the primary objective of the DR/CARICOM Free Trade Agreement (FTA), namely to strengthen the commercial and economic relations between the Parties.

The creation of the forum was provided for under Article XIII of the Free Trade Agreement between the Caribbean Community and the Dominican Republic signed in July, 1998. The specific role of the Business Forum is to analyse trade and investment opportunities, exchange business information, organise business encounters, and deal with any other relevant matter including any matter as may be referred to it by the Council noted Taiana Mora Ramis Caribbean Export's Executive Director.

In addition, the Business Forum is expected to assist in the following specific areas:

- Increase trade in goods and services;
- Promote investments including Joint Ventures;
- Facilitate business development initiatives for Agriculture, Mining, Industry, Construction, Tourism, Transportation, Telecommunications, Banking, Insurance, Capital Markets, Professional Services, Science and Technology

Membership of the Business forum comprises the following:

CARICOM Counterpart:

- . Chambers of Industry and Commerce
- . Manufacturers' Associations
- . Pan Caribbean Companies
- . The Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC)

A supportive role is identified for the following:

- . Caribbean Export
- . CARICOM Secretariat/ DICOEX
- . CARICOM Trade Promotion Organisations (TPOs)

Dominican Republic Counterpart

- . The Santo Domingo Chamber of Commerce
- . The National Business Council of the Dominican Republic (CONEP)
- . The Industries Association of the Dominican Republic
- . The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Commerce in the Dominican Republic
- . Any other entity as identified by the Steering Committee

A supporting role on the Steering Committee is identified for:-

- . Centre for Investment and Exports (CEI-RD)
- . Caribbean Export

NON STATE ACTORS MEETING

Establishing the approach to trade liberalization with a view to promoting sustainable development within the CARIFORUM region is the objective of Phase III of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between CARIFORUM and the European Union (EU). The provision of inputs into this phase is therefore vital to ensure the success of this negotiating process and will be the main focus of the Non State Actors (NSA) meeting scheduled for June 23rd at the Hotel Intercontinental V Centenario, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

According to Taiana Mora Ramis Caribbean Export's Executive Director, "The main objectives of this meeting are to agree on the key issues that concern the Non State actors in the region and to establish the NSA network, its guidelines and membership. This schedule would allow us to establish the Network before the forthcoming July round of EPA negotiations in Jamaica."

Ms Mora Ramis also noted that "This meeting is in keeping with the Cotonou Agreement which sets the framework for the active participation and consultation process for the non state actors in the ACP-EU relations. In addition the plan for CARIFORUM-EU Negotiations for the EPA also provides the framework for the active participation and consultation of the non state actors in the EPA negotiations and the establishment of a Non State Actors Network".

The meeting will be attended by a number of NSAs including:

- Caribbean Policy Development Centre
- Caribbean Congress of Labour
- Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce
- Caribbean Hotel Association
- Women and Development
- Caribbean Conservation Association
- Windward Islands Farmers' Association
- NAO Offices in Belize, Haiti and Suriname
- NSA representative from the Dominican Republic
- University of the West Indies - Mona Campus

- Caribbean Association of Small and Medium Size Enterprises

CSME NEWS

CSME UPDATE

In this fourth article on the CSME we provide an introduction to the Free movement of Capital.

Free Movement of Capital

Free Movement of capital would allow CARICOM nationals to:

- Transfer money to another Member State on the same basis as a national of the Member State to which the money is being sent.
- Have equal rights to buy stocks and shares
- Freely move capital from one member state to another
- Have access to a wider source of capital with the potential of lowering costs in national markets thus reducing the cost of capital
- Diversify investment portfolios and invest in best performing stocks and shares across the region at lower costs

To date all Member States except Belize have established national stock exchanges. However, Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago are the only countries comprising the Regional Stock market. Suriname and Montserrat have not signed nor ratify the Intra-regional Double Taxation Agreement. Of the member states which have signed and ratified the Agreement, Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis have not enacted legislation to give effect to the agreement.

Member States are also in the process of developing a harmonized policy framework designed to achieve increased flows of investments and improved competitiveness of the region's business sector. The proposed policy framework would include:

- A CARICOM Investment code that will address the protection and promotion of both intra-regional and foreign investments in the Community;
- Implementation of wide ranging reforms of national investment policy frameworks including streamlining the investment approval process
- The adoption of a harmonised investment incentives regime for the main economic sectors of manufacturing, tourism and agriculture.

Source: CARICOM Secretariat

CSME GOING FORWARD

The inclusion of artisans, nurses, domestics and teachers to move freely as skilled nationals under the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) will be one of the topics to be discussed at the 27th Meeting of the Heads of Government Conference on July 3-6 in St. Kitts. Mr. La Rocque CARICOM's Assistant Secretary-General for Regional Trade and Economic Integration noted that as part of the exercise to expand the category of persons under the CSME several member states have conducted research and will present their finding at the meeting. To date

3,500 free movement certificates have been issued by member States.

Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts/Nevis, Saint Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines are expected to complete all arrangements and join the CARICOM Single Market (CSM) by June 30. 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.

In related news, the contribution formula for the Regional Development Fund put forward by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) been finalised by the CARICOM Council for Finance and Planning (COFAP) at its recent meeting in Jamaica. Mr. La Rocque CARICOM's Assistant Secretary-General for Regional Trade and Economic Integration, said the Ministers also decided that the Development Fund would be a separate legal entity with its own personality, and would be capitalised at US\$250M of which US\$100M would come from Member States via contributions, and \$20M from the Petroleum Fund operated by Trinidad and Tobago. The remainder will be sourced from donor contributions. Mr. La Rocque noted that the Development Fund was considered an instrument that will help us to transform the regional economy to help it to become more competitive pointed the positive feedback and positive feedback to the fund from potential donors.

In other related news Caribbean Connect: A High Level Symposium of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)" will be held on June 28-30 at the Sherbourne Conference Centre Barbados, under the patronage of the Rt. Honourable Owen Arthur, Prime Minister of Barbados and Lead Head of the Government with responsibility for the CSME.

Three policy areas critical to the CSME namely Macro-Economic and Sectoral Policy Harmonisation; Production Integration and capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening will be discussed at the Symposium. These areas were decided at the 7th Meeting of the Conference of Heads of CARICOM which took place in Port of Spain on February 9-10. Consultation on the fourth policy area Enhanced Monetary Cooperation"" was held in Montego Bay, Jamaica on May 18.

TRADE POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

22 BILLION EUR AID PACKAGE EXPECTED FOR THE 10TH EDF

A 22 billion EUR aid package of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) in operational credits for development projects in the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries for the period 2008 to 2013 was discussed at The ACP-EC Council of Ministers annual meeting on June 1-2 in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea). The European Union's (EU) proposals represent a 35% increase from the 9th EDF[1]. The European Commission hopes that the ACP-EC Council will recommend the adoption of the proposal, which must then be ratified in the next 18 months by all EU Member-States in order to take effect.

In addition to the development budget of the EDF, ACP countries will also benefit from over 500 million EUR per year for thematic programmes in areas such as human rights, non state organisations, migration, environment and food security. Under this new programme it will also be easier for Member States to co-finance and contribute to projects funded by the 10th EDF.

The 10th EDF will come into action just as the EU and ACP countries enter the last negotiation phase of their Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). This provides an opportunity to further the link between trade and development, and the Commission will stress that development and trade must support each other in order to generate economic growth.

PRODUCT NEWS

SUGAR CANE POLICY REVISED

The regional sugar policy which will cater for the wider utilisation of sugarcane is to be revised and resubmitted to the CARICOM Heads of Government (CHOG) at the earliest opportunity for their consideration. This was agreed at the 145th meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sugar Association of the Caribbean (SAC). At the meeting, the directors revisited the regional sugar policy which was originally adopted by CHOG in July 2000, and considered the need to revise the sugar policy in light of further challenges to the regional sugar industry, such as reform of the EU Sugar Regime, as well as new developments such as the production of energy from sugarcane.

The sugarcane policy will address the maintenance of existing quotas in the EU and US markets as well as policy measures to expand intra-regional trade in both raw and refined sugar and other value-added sugar products. The EU had agreed to assist ACP sugar suppliers with accompanying measures in light of the price cuts for sugar which will begin to take effect from July 1, with the coming into being of the new EU sugar regime.

The SAC represents the sugar cane industries of Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago.

MARKET NEWS

CUSTOMS WAITING TIME REDUCED

The Single Administrative Document (C87), the latest invention for Jamaican Customs will be implemented by the Customs Department by September, 2006. The Form is expected to significantly reduced customs waiting time. The C87 form will replace six forms currently in use, namely, the Import Entries, C78, C25 and C24, Trans-shipment Bill C36 and Export Entries C43 and C82 and is intended for use by all CARICOM Member States. It is expected that the form will aid the CARICOM Single Market and Economy's (CSME) objective and may reduce regional documentation, interpretations, inefficiencies and achieve documentation uniformity throughout the region.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RESIDENTIAL AND OFFICE FURNITURE, beds, wardrobes, bedside tables, chest of drawers, buffets, bedroom units, cradles, bunk beds, dining room sets, racks, dressers, PC tables, tubular furniture, sofas and armchairs, kitchen cabinets, laundry and bathroom units are available. Contact: Mariângela Vieira Kohler, Export Manager, Movexport, BRAZIL, Tel/Fax: +55 32 3531-5172, E-mail: manager@movexport.com.br, Website: www.movexport.com.br

PURE RAINFOREST health products are available. Contact: . Ms. C. Oosterwolde, marketing manager N.V. Odany - Jewa i.o., Cattleyastraat no.14, Paramaribo, Suriname, Tel: +597-403844, Fax: +597-403591, E-mail: odany@sr.net

SPORTS retail business seeks investors. Contact William Bourne, The Sports Connection, Mall Internationale, Haggatt Hall, St. Michael, BARBADOS. Tel: (246) 427-1373, E-mail: renchris@caribsurf.com

2006 CARIBBEAN CALENDAR OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT EVENTS

TRADE AND INVESTMENT EVENTS

Salon de la mode, July 13-16, 2006, GUADELOUPE. Tel: (+590) 590 80 23 33,
Fax : (+590) 590 80 08 93

Commonwealth Secretariat Professional Services Workshops, Barbados, Dominica, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, July 8-19, 2006. Tel: 246-436-0578.

Reggae Music Expo, Jamaica 2006, July 17 - 20, 2006. E-mail: astor@bobartsinstitute.edu

Business Support Organizations (BSO) Week, July 19-21, 2006, BARBADOS. Tel: 246-436-0578

CARIFORUM/DOMS/OCTs Meeting, July 28, 2006, JAMAICA. Tel: 246-436-0578

Other Upcoming Events

52nd Summer Fancy Food Show, July 9-11, 2006, Jacob K. Javits Center New York. Website:
<http://www.specialtyfood.com/do/fancyFoodShow/LocationsAndDates>

2006 CARIBANA Festival, July 20-August 7, 2006, CANADA. Website: www.caribana.ca

ICEE-2006 - International Conference on Engineering Education, July 23-28, 2006 San Juan, PUERTO RICO.
E-mail: ponce.icee@gmail.com

Forum with the World Customs Organisation, July 25 - 26, 2006, World Free Zone Convention, GENEVA.
Website : www.freezones.org

APPOINTMENTS

NEW PROJECT OFFICERS

Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) announces the appointment of new project members to undertake activities under the Caribbean Regional Trade and Private Sector Development Programme (CRTPSDP).

Mr. Ronald Dubrisingh, has been appointed as Programme Manager, CRTPSDP. Mr. Dubrisingh will be responsible for management oversight and coordination of the project and all of its components. He has over 15 years experience in trade and private sector development and holds a MSc Management and Production Engineering, BSc Mechanical Engineering and is a Certified ISO9000 Lead Auditor.

Mr. Sam Kruiner is Technical Advisor, Collaboration with Business Support Organisations (BSOs). Mr. Kruiner will be responsible for the development of the programme to strengthen the BSOs in the CARIFORUM countries. Mr. Kruiner, has worked more than 6 years at the Agency as Export Business Advisor working closely with SMEs in the region and implementing the 8th EDF Competitiveness Grant Fund. Mr. Kruiner holds a MBA in General Management from the University of West Indies and various certificates in trade promotion.

NOTICES

CABA

The Secretariat for CARICOM Agri-Business Association (CABA) has relocated to the St. Augustine Campus of the UWI. The official address is as follows: Room 109, School of Continuing Studies Building, St. Augustine Campus, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad, Tel; 868-663-3556/868-662-2002 ext 3540 / (868-674-5292 (President), Fax: 868-663-9686

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