



TABLE OF CONTENTS

FROM THE EDITOR

- [UPDATE YOUR PROFILE](#)

CARIBBEAN EXPORT DIGEST

- [COOPERATION ON MARKET INTELLIGENCE](#)
- [ATTENDANCE AT 6TH WORLD TPO CONFERENCE](#)
- [CGCS 2007 LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION](#)
- [CARIBBEAN EXPORT VACANCY](#)

CSME NEWS

- [SINGLE ECONOMY BY 2015](#)
- [INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE 2003-2005](#)

MARKET NEWS

- [CARICOM/CUBA AGREEMENT](#)
- [MARKET ACCESS INFORMATION](#)
- [BARBADOS REMOVES CESS](#)
- [DR - CAFTA](#)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

- [OPPORTUNITIES](#)

TRADE AND INVESTMENT EVENTS

- [EVENTS, MARCH](#)

PUBLICATIONS

- [MANUAL OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION](#)
- [THE WTO IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY](#)

FROM THE EDITOR

UPDATE YOUR PROFILE

Help us to serve you better by updating or completing your subscriber profile. To update your profile [click here](#). New subscribers [click here](#). Views and comments on any of our articles can also be sent to: E-mail: tradewatch@carib-export.com

>>

CARIBBEAN EXPORT DIGEST

COOPERATION ON MARKET INTELLIGENCE

The Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) is supporting the upcoming ACS Trade Promotion Organisations (TPOs) FORUM in Panama, and has placed on the table for discussion the possibility of a programme that would allow TPOs from the Greater Caribbean to cooperate in the exchange of market intelligence. This proposal will be discussed at the 8th ACS TPO FORUM meeting in Panama City, Panama, on March 6th which precedes the ACS Business Forum.

"The Forum offers a tremendous opportunity for TPOs to discuss best practices in this area and build a reciprocal system which could be very effective in promoting trade within the Greater Caribbean Region in support of various regional initiatives such as CSME, DR-CAFTA (as it relates to trade between Central American and DR as well as eventually with Mexico), CARICOM bilateral agreements with Cuba, Costa Rica, Colombia, Venezuela, Guatemala-Belize agreement, etc." stated Caribbean Export's Executive Director, Taiana Mora-Ramis. She also noted "Caribbean Export will seek to expand CARIFORUM relationship with its neighbors in the context of the Greater Caribbean. This collaboration will also strengthen the Caribbean Business Network (CARIBISNET) trade information work."

Mr. Alan Ramirez, Caribbean Export's Deputy Executive Director will represent the Agency at both events.

ATTENDANCE AT 6TH WORLD TPO CONFERENCE

"Are Regional Trade Promotion Organisations (TPOS) an aid to National TPOs trade promotion efforts?" The Caribbean Export Development Agency's (Caribbean Export) Executive Director, Taiana Mora-Ramis will form part of the panel discussing this subject during the International Trade Centre's (ITC) 6th World TPO Conference to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from March 12-13. The main CEOs and heads of TPOs from all around the globe will be attending this two day meeting to increase cooperation, share best practices and network.

Ms. Mora-Ramis will also attend the meeting of the Iberoamerican Network of TPOs which will be held on March 14th, also in Buenos Aires.

CGCS 2007 LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION

The **Caribbean Export Development Agency** is launching a logo design competition which is open to all Caribbean Gift and Craft Show (CGCS) exhibitors to design a logo to be used on CGCS memorabilia items such as rings, mugs, caps, tote bags etc The competition commences on Monday March 5, 2007 and closes on April 5, 2007.

For further details on the competition please follow the links below or visit the website:
www.caribbeangiftandcraft.com. or contact: Clarecia Christie at E-mail: cchristie@carib-export.com

CGCS Memorabilia application form- [Click here](#) to download
CGCS Memorabilia Competition Information Sheet - [Click here](#) to download

The CGCS takes place from September 27 -30 at the World Trade center, Curacao. For further details on the show visit www.caribbeangiftandcraft.com or contact: Veona Maloney, Show Manager at E-mail: vmaloney@carib-export.com

>>

CARIBBEAN EXPORT VACANCY

The **Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export)** is seeking applications for the position of Marketing Officer. The position is currently being displayed on the Agency's website at www.carib-export.com. Letters of Application along with Curriculum VitaeS should be sent no later than March 31, to: The Executive Director, **Caribbean Export Development Agency**, P. O. Box 34B, Brittons Hill Post Office, St. Michael, 14000 BARBADOS, E-mail: info@carib-export.com

CSME NEWS

SINGLE ECONOMY BY 2015

The Single Economy component of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) will be phased in between 2009 and 2015. This was agreed at the Eighteenth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on February 12-14. The phased timetable will largely follow the schedule set out by the Norman Girvan Report "Towards a Single Economy and a Single Development Vision" www.caricom.org/jsp/single_market/single_economy_girvan.pdf.

Phase One - the "consolidation" of the single market and "initiation" of a single economy is expected to be ready for approval at the CARICOM Summit in July 2008 and implemented no later than January 1, 2009.

Phase Two - the "consolidation and completion of the single economy" is expected to cover 2009 to 2015. The broad outline of phase two is expected to be the:

- Implementation of common policies in Energy-related Industries; Agriculture, Sustainable Tourism and Agro-tourism, Transport, and Small and Medium enterprises;
- Harmonisation of taxation systems, incentives, and financial and regulatory environment;
- Harmonisation of fiscal and monetary policies;
- Implementation of Regional Competition Policy and Regional Intellectual Property Regime; and
- Implementation of CARICOM Monetary Union.

The conference also approved proposals for streamlining arrangements that will facilitate the free movement of artisans in the regional labour market. The system will allow artisans to obtain credentials through the award of Caribbean Vocational Qualifications (CVQ) based on occupational standards set by industry. It is expected that the CVQ will be in place by July 2007. The Conference also agreed that the free movement of domestic and hospitality workers could be facilitated in a similar manner to the free movement of artisans and would be considered after the launching of the CVQ Model.

The conference accepted the proposal of the Regional Task Force of Stakeholders, which includes labour, business and civil society, with respect to the implementation of full free movement of CARICOM Nationals by the end of 2009 according to an agreed schedule .

With respect to the CARICOM Development Fund, the Conference agreed that donors' contributions would be welcomed. However, Member States would be required to honour their own contribution commitments in a timely manner to give effect to the July 2007 operationalisation of the Fund.

For further details on the conference and status of the CSME visit the Website www.caricom.org.

INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE 2003-2005

In 2005, the value of CARICOM's intra-regional domestic exports increased to approximately EC\$6 billion which represents a 100 per cent increase on the 2004 figure of approximately EC\$3 billion*. In percentage terms, intra-regional domestic exports accounted for approximately 21% of the value of the region's total domestic exports and compares favourably to 2003 and 2004 when the comparable percentages were 18 per cent and 16 per cent

respectively.

Based on the available data, the major exporting countries to regional destinations were Trinidad and Tobago (EC\$5 billion), Barbados (EC\$310 million) and Guyana (EC\$279 million).

The value of intra-regional imports also increased in 2005, to reach EC\$4 billion compared to EC\$2.8 billion in 2004. However, as a proportion of its imports from all sources, CARICOM's intra-regional imports remained relatively low, accounting for a mere 13 per cent in 2005 which represents a marginal increase of 2 per cent on 2004.

For further statistical data on CARICOM's trade in 2005, contact: Cora Lowe, Research and Communication Officer at E-mail: clowe@carib-export.com

*** No data available for Jamaica. No export data available for Suriname.**

INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE 2005 (EC\$)

IMPORTS	EXPORTS	BALANCE OF TRADE
4,010,579,806	6,498,696,234	2,488,116,428

MARKET NEWS

CARICOM/CUBA AGREEMENT

The Trade and Economic Co-Operation Agreement between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Republic of Cuba was signed in Canouan, St. Vincent and the Grenadines on July 5, 2000. The agreement will come into force or take effect when all parties have ratified it. However, a protocol for Provisional Application was signed on 8 December, 2002. To date, the agreement is provisionally applied between Cuba and Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. The objective of the agreement is to strengthen the commercial and economic relation between the CARICOM Member States and Cuba.

The agreement aims to achieve this through:

"X Increasing market access opportunities

"X Establishment of financial arrangements which facilitate foreign trade.

"X The progressive liberalisation of trade in services and to the sustainable development of the tourism industry in particular.

"X adopting measures for information exchange and the harmonisation of customs procedures and technical standards

The Agreement creates a framework for the progressive liberalisation of trade in goods and services by establishing an open business and investment climate and setting up positive lists of goods which will receive duty free access when traded between Cuba and CARICOM countries. The agreement also establishes lists of goods which will be subject to a phased reduction of duty and a list of agricultural products which will be subject to special trading arrangements when imported into the MDCs of CARICOM.

The Agreement also provides for the formation of a CARICOM-Cuba Joint Commission (Joint Commission) to supervise and resolve any disputes related to the agreement and ensure that the agreement is reviewed and its performance evaluated.

In Part 2 of this series we will review Market Access Conditions. To request your copy of the publication "The CARICOM/Cuba Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement Explained" contact Cora Lowe, Research and Communications Officer at Tel: (246) 436-0578, Fax: (246) 436-9999, or E-mail: clowe@carib-export.com.

MARKET ACCESS INFORMATION

Is the CARIFORUM market of interest to you? Do you wish up to date information on market access conditions

specifically duties and taxes on this market. Then contact Caribbean Export's Research and Communications Officer, Cora Lowe, at Tel: (246) 436-0578, Fax: (246) 436-9999, or E-mail: clowe@carib-export.com

BARBADOS REMOVES CESS

The 6% CESS imposed by the Barbados Government on extra-regional imports came to an end on February 28. The CESS which took effect in September, 2005, was originally imposed on extra-regional imports at a rate of 3%. It was increased to 6% from January 2006.

DR - CAFTA

The Dominican Embassy in Washington, D.C. and the United States Department of State have exchanged diplomatic notes, officially confirming the Dominican Republic's entry into DR-CAFTA Free Trade Agreement on March 1st. The agreement reduces tariffs on 77% of goods imported from the United States. US imports will now have an advantage over goods imported from China, Taiwan, Latin America and Canada. According to media reports, the effects of DR-CAFTA are already in evidence, with major supermarkets already importing new lower cost brands from the US.

In related news, the Government of the Dominican Republic has announced plans to open trade offices in 50 US states to promote opportunities for US investors arising from the DR-CAFTA Free Trade Agreement. The offices will also serve as focal points for efforts to attract US investment to the DR.

DR-CAFTA was signed on 5 August 2004, between the United States and El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and the DR. Implementation is still pending in Costa Rica.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

OPPORTUNITIES

CONSULTANTS are invited to Register with the Grenada Business Development Centre (GBDC) in order to be eligible to provide short term business consultancy services under the European Commission funded Grenada Business Gateway Project. The specific objectives of the project are to:

- enhance the competitiveness of the private sector
- improve the enabling environment for business.

For further information on the project please contact: The Team Leader, Grenada Business Gateway Project, Grenada Business Development Centre via e-mail: grenadabusinessgateway@landell-mills.com.

WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTOR of non alcoholic beverages requires broker / distributor in the Caribbean. Contact: Ivan Goldstein, President, Purity Products, Inc., 4001 Washington Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21227, Tel: (410) 242-7200, E-mail: wshotwell@comcast.net.

JERK SPICES (Jamaican) are required. Contact: Paul Thompson, SACAR Development Consultancy (cc), 16 Zareba Street, 1 Zareba Court Richmond Hill, Port Elizabeth 6001, SOUTH AFRICA, Mobile: (971) 50-8853647, Tel/Fax (971) 4-3217151, E-mail: sacar.d.c@gmail.com.

MANUFACTURER/distributor representative services available. Contact: Cuthbert Noel, 34 Felmersham Road Luton, beds lu15sg, ENGLAND, Tel: 01582453410, Fax: 01582453410, E-mail: [cuttyd@hotmail.com](mailto:cutttyd@hotmail.com).

MEDICINES are available. Contact: Lucrecia Puente, Administrator, Turey No. 115, Cacique, Santo Domingo,

REPUBLICA DOMINICANA, Tel: (809)707-6434, Fax: (809) 508-3741, E-mail: lucrecia.puentes@gmail.com-a

INTERNATIONAL TRADE SERVICES available specifically for small to medium sized companies. Contact: Chris Gasiorek, Partner, USA, Tel: (312) 771-5478, E-mail: ken@roquepartners.com, Website: www.roquepartners.com

Distillery looking for a Caribbean distiller of fine, age, light rum. for distribution under our private label. Contact: John McCormack, President, 801 Islington St., Portsmouth, NH 03801, USA, Tel: (603) 661-3755, Fax: (603) 433-6636, E-mail: jaahk@letitroll.com

LEGAL SERVICES are available with specializing in media, entertainment, telecoms and intellectual property. Contact: Kayanne E. Taylor, Managing Partner, 3 Musgrave Avenue, Kingston 10, Jamaica, Tel: (876) 927 4126, Fax: (876) 927 4126, E-mail: redesigninglegal@aol.com, Website: www.redesigninglegal.com

SCHOOL UNIFORMS, school bags are available. Contact: Lalu N. Vaswani, Director, White Park Road, St. Michael, BARBADOS, Tel: (246) 437-6181, Fax: (246) 437-3809, E-mail: satya@sunbeach.net, Website: satyaenterprisesltd.com

GARMENTS/T-shirts/Blouses, Signs and Printed Materials are sought. Contact: Fay Best, Best Speciality Advertising, BARBADOS, Tel: (246) 427-0036/ (246) 262-4074, E-mail: faybestwalker@hotmail.com

The **Caribbean Export Development Agency** assumes no responsibility for any liability arising from the pursuit of the opportunities listed above.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT EVENTS

EVENTS, MARCH

8th Business Forum of the Greater Caribbean and Expocomer, March 7-10, 2007, .
Atlapa Convention Centre, Panama City, REPUBLIC OF PANAMA. Website: [http:// www.acs-aec.org](http://www.acs-aec.org)

6th World TPO Conference - 12-13 March 2007 Buenos Aires - ARGENTINA. Website: <http://www.tpo-net.com/fcontacte.htm>

>> [Return To Contents](#)

PUBLICATIONS

MANUAL OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION

This publication is a practical guide to international dispute resolution and settlement, especially in the fields of trade and commerce, investment and intellectual property. For further information visit:

http://www.thecommonwealth.org/news/159061/new_publication_manual_of_international_dispute.htm

THE WTO IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

Three significant issues will determine the future of the WTO: dispute settlement, negotiations and regional integration. Dispute settlement is widely regarded as one of the major successes of the WTO in its first ten years. Concluding the Doha round negotiations is one of its main challenges. Regional integration is now at the frontline of debate as regional agreements proliferate and policy-makers and academics come to grips with their impacts on the

multilateral trading system. These issues, and the interplay between them, are examined by leading scholars and practitioners in the field of international trade law from North America, Europe and Asia-Pacific. For additional information visit: http://onlinebookshop.wto.org/shop/article_details.asp?Id_Article=717&lang=EN

>>
