

MAY, 2007

FROM THE EDITOR

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CARIBBEAN EXPORT DIGEST

BOOST TO BSOS

The capacity of regional Business Support Organisations (BSOs) to offer enhanced services to the region's Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) will be greatly boosted, when the **Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export)** unfurls a series of training workshops designed to strengthen the institutional capacity of BSOs.

A total of 16 workshops dealing with Proposal Writing, Strategic Planning, E-commerce, Advocacy and Lobbying will be delivered in some 10 countries throughout the month of June. According to Leonardo Castro-Puig, **Caribbean Export's** Technical Assistant, Sectors and Sub-Sectors, "Regional BSOs identified the specific as their priority training needs last July during a meeting in Barbados, which also saw in the formation of the Caribbean Network (CARIBISNET)".

The workshops are being coordinated by **Caribbean Export** under the 9th Economic Development Fund (EDF) Caribbean Regional Trade and Private Sector Programme (CRTPSDP) of the European Commission.

For further information on the seminars, contact: Leonardo Castro-Puig, Tel: (809) 531-6565, Fax: (809) 473-7532, E-mail: leo.castro@verizon.net.do.

CARIBBEAN PAVILION AT SUMMER FANCY FOOD

The **Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export)** will be coordinating regional speciality food exporters' participation to the 53rd National Association for the Specialty Food Trade (NASFT) Summer Fancy Food Show, when the Caribbean Pavilion makes its 14th appearance at Jacob K. Javits Center, New York from July 8-10, 2007. The flavour, taste and aroma of Caribbean food and culture will be on display throughout the three days in the pavilion.

According to Sam Kruiner, **Caribbean Export's** Technical Advisor, Business Support Organisations, "Caribbean food manufacturers and exporters will have the opportunity to showcase their products at the largest food exhibition in North America. Nine (9) companies from Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago will display condiments, preserves, jams, seasonings, etc. For further information on the Caribbean Pavilion, contact Sam Kruiner, Tel: (246) 436-0578, Fax: (246) 436-9999, E-mail: skruiner@carib-export.com.

AGREEMENT SIGNED

In Mid-May, the **Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export)** and the Trade Facilitation Office Canada (TFOC) signed a Letter of Agreement signalling the start of a strategic alliance between the two organisations. In welcoming the signing of the Letter of Agreement, Taiana Mora-Ramis, **Caribbean Export's** Executive Director stated "The Agreement is based on discussions held in Ottawa in late April with TFOC officials and provides a framework for enhancing the export capacity of the region's Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and will also augment the trade support capabilities of Business Support Organisations (BSOs) in the region."

The core elements of the programme to be executed over the period June 2007 – October, 2008 are:

- Training interventions for services providers and SMEs in the craft and gift sectors
- Training on investment promotion for regional BSOs
- A regional services trade mission to Canada
- Regional participation in Canada's major handicraft trade show
- Technical assistance to the development of **Caribbean Export's** online Business Information Centre.

SUCCESSFUL WELLNESS MEETING

Caribbean Export Health and Wellness Sector Road Map Planning Meeting was held on May 15, 2007 in Kingston, Jamaica. The meeting was coordinated by the Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) under the 9th Economic Development Fund (EDF) Caribbean Regional Trade and Private Sector Development Program CRTPSDP) of the European Commission, in association with the Center for the Development of Enterprise (CDE).

Approximately 30 representatives from the Caribbean Health and Wellness Sector including spa owners and operators, producers of wellness-related products, indigenous healers and alternative health service providers attended the meeting. The participants also included representatives from the Caribbean Spa and Wellness Association, and the Caribbean Herbal Business Association, the Caribbean Day Spa, Resort and Medical Association and Jamaica Trade and Invest (JAMPRO)

This Caribbean Export/CDE planning meeting immediately followed the Caribbean Health Tourism Conference and Spa Symposium which was held at the same venue from the 12 – 14th of May. Many of the participants from this conference were able to stay on to contribute to the discussions including experts from the host country Jamaica, the U.S, Greece, Germany and Mexico.

The key areas of focus included the exploration of solutions for the creation and marketing of a strong brand for the Caribbean Health and Wellness Industry and the development of internationally recognized standards for products and services within this sector.

According to Tonika Sealy, Caribbean Export's Technical Advisor, New Sectors "One of the key purposes of the Planning Meeting was to bring together decision makers in the sector in order to define ways in which they can work on a common platform. Ms Sealy also stated that "One of the major outcomes of the meeting was the formation of a Coalition of Organizations who have the mandate to develop the Caribbean Health and Wellness Sector and a Leadership Circle was identified who would be responsible for defining the way forward for this collaboration."

A background report on the regional Health and Wellness Sector was prepared by renowned consultant in this field , Mr. Denzil Philips. The final version including a summary of the recommendations which came out of this meeting will be made available to all participants and

decision makers in organizations across the region which have an interest in the development of this sector.

For further information on the meeting and on the report, please contact Tonika Sealy on tsealy@carib-export.com

CSME NEWS

MONTSERRAT EMBRACES FREE MOVEMENT

University graduates, media workers, sports persons, musicians, artists, managers, supervisors and other service providers as well as non-graduate teachers from Barbados and the Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) are now able to work freely in Montserrat. The free movement of these skilled professionals and their exemption from work permit requirements in Montserrat is expected to take place on the basis of the principle of reciprocity as well as on the authority of the Montserrat Immigration Act.

The removal of work permit requirements by CARICOM governments and the free movement of skilled professionals from across CARICOM member states form part of the goals of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

CROSQ TO HOST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) are globally perceived as the economic drivers of any nation and as such must be able to provide high quality products and services to access regional and international markets. The use of regional technical standards positively affects product and service quality and consequently improves profit margins leading to financial sustainability.

To this end, a Regional Conference entitled '**Enhancing Trade Competitiveness through Standardisation and Conformity Assessment**' will be hosted by the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality CROSQ in conjunction with the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) on July 17-18, 2007 at the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) Auditorium in Macoya, Trinidad. The aim of this regional conference is to promote the development and application of regional technical standards with the objective of enhancing the trade potential of SMEs. It is designed to provide a forum for national and regional SMEs to discuss trade issues and potential technical barriers to trade.

The CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) was created by the Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in Belize on the 4th day of February 2002 as an Inter-Governmental Organisation. Its membership consists of member states of the CARICOM Community, and associate membership is also accorded to Associate Members of the Community, states and political entities of the Association of Caribbean States, who are willing and able to enjoy rights and assume the obligations of membership, set out in the Agreement.

The mandate of CROSQ is to harmonise and implement standards, to facilitate international competitiveness, and to increase regional and international trade; for the sustainable production of goods and services in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), and the enhancement of social and economic development. Its primary objectives are the establishment and harmonization of standards for the enhanced efficiency and improved quality in the production of goods and services in the Community, thereby facilitating consumer and environmental protection and improved trade within the Community and with third states.

TRADE POLICY REVIEW

BANANAS GRANTED QUOTA-TARIFF FREE ACCESS IN EU

Banana is among the list of goods and services entering the European Union (EU) from African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries that all existing tariffs and quota limitations will be removed. This was confirmed by the first secretary and head of trade, economics, politics and information at the European Commission (EC) delegation to Jamaica, Carlo Pettinato.

In April the EU announced a proposal to grant easier preferential access to goods and services from the group of developing countries as part of a new Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), but there had been some uncertainty in CARIFORUM as to whether bananas were included among the list of goods and services.

The new EPA under negotiation is to replace the existing Cotonou Agreement the EU has with the ACP group. The outgoing agreement will end in December and the new treaty scheduled to come into effect in January 2008.

But the new offer to grant even further preferential access to commodities such as banana, for example, comes in the face of stiff opposition from low-cost banana producers in Latin America. The Latin Americans have been challenging the preferential arrangement by lobbying the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to force the EU to end it.

MARKET NEWS ACCESS GUIDE DATABASE

Exporters and potential exporters to the European Union (EU) market will now be able to easier access market information. This is because the Centre for Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries (CBI) has integrated all its information on EU markets in one online database. All EU market access requirements, formerly provided in the AccessGuide database, are now directly accessible through [CBI's Market Information Database](#), together with all complementary EU market information. The AccessGuide itself will no longer be available on the Internet.

New and improved features of the Market Information Database include:

- Complete overviews of all useful publications for each market sector at one central place
- Publications on market access requirements are still easily to differentiate from others, by making smart use of the provided search filter
- Extended scope with more than 35 different market sectors covered for each of the 27 EU Member States
- Helpdesk function on EU market access requirements at marketaccess@cbi.eu.

For further information on how to access the database visit <http://www.cbi.eu>

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

H. Ocalia Book & Gift Store Ltd is a book & gift store in Curacao. The bookstore was founded in 2004 in commemoration of the legendary naïve painter of Curacao Hipólito Max Ocalia (1916-

1984) and have the "Ocalia" copy right. The company sells school and office supplies, educational materials, computer supplies, arts & crafts supplies, books, toys, magazines, writing instruments, greeting cards and "Ocalia" greeting cards and is interested in doing business with the Tourist Board, Hotels, tourist stores, etc. in Trinidad & Tobago.

The company is also founded the Foundation of Visual Arts & Culture in 2006 and is interested in getting in contact with Arts & Culture Schools in Trinidad & Tobago as they are planning courses in Sculpture (modeling) – Textile Design Techniques and Sewing Techniques & Fashion Design.

Contact: Roselien Sabat, Assist. Managing Director, H. Ocalia Book & Gift Store Ltd, Montagne Rey 138, Willemstad – CURAÇAO, Netherlands Antilles, Tel.: (599-9) 747-6463/ (599-9) 747-7473, Fax: (599-9) 767-4574, E-mail: roosabat@yahoo.com / hocaliabv@onenet.an

Companies that bottle **CARBONATED BEVERAGES** in **PLASTIC BOTTLES** are required for contract bottling. Contact: Roger Butcher, Momazon Industries Limited, Spring Garden, St. Michael, BARBADOS. Tel: (246) 826-0263, Fax: (246) 428-5760, E-mail: rscb@carib-surf.com.

PEPPERS, hot and sweet are available. Contact: Peter Watson, Agro International Exports & Imports, Newcastle, St. John, BARBADOS. Tel: (246) 269-7847/ (246) 230-5901, Fax: (246) 433-3277, E-mail: agro_international@hotmail.com.

OCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH services are available. Contact: Anthony Rocheford, General Manager/Safety Specialist, B.A.G. Consulting Ltd, BARBADOS. E-mail: fullstop@caribsurf.com, Website: www.bagconsultingltd.com.

COMPLETE FOOTWEAR PLANT is available for sale. Contact: Eddie Justo, Vice –Pte, Calle Marcos Adon, Villa Juana, Edif.Don Pepe, Santo Domingo, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. Tel: (809) 284-2762, E-mail: ejusto@grupojham.com

DEPARTMENT STORE LIQUIDATION ITEMS, mainly apparel items are available. Contact: Alan Mongelluzzo, Account Rep., 100 Papercraft Park, Pittsburgh, Pa 15238, USA. Tel: (412) 820-3963, E-mail: mongelaj@genco.com, Website: www.gencomarketplace.com.

LEGAL SERVICES namely International debt collections and mediation, Creating contractual securities in international business transactions, Investigations and collection of business information, Legal consulting in negotiation of international trade, contracts, International transfer of intellectual property rights, International registration of intellectual property rights and Representation of clients interests in front of international arbitration courts are available. Contact: E. Ritz, Attorney At Law/Project Manager, Ari International, Zl. Antevski, Tel: ++389 70 260 389 / ++41 76 464 1773, Tel/Fax.++389 2 3239-168 Fax.++389 2 2777-290, E-mail: arianstalt@gmx.net lawyersa1@mt.net.mk, Website: http://www.ariinternational.741.com

PHARMACEUTICAL and cosmetics products from hair & skin care segment are available. Contact: Priti Garud, Asstistant Manager, D-55, MIDC, Ambad, Nasik – 422005, INDIA, Tel: +91 253 2383574, Fax: + 91 253 2383577, E-mail: export@femcareindia.com, Website: www.femcareworld.com

CONSULTING, Trading, Sourcing/Distribution, Translation/Intepretion/Localization services available. Contact: York, Director, Chaoyang, CHINA. Tel: +86-13801101304, E-mail: yorkli@vip.sina.com/york-li@vip.sina.com

MARBLE, sandstone, granite, and limestone are available. Contact: General Manager Marketing, Main Works N. H. 8, Sukher Industrial Area, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India, Registered Office 225/9, Sardarpura, Udaipur 313001, Rajasthan, INDIA. Tel: 00912945102073, Fax: 00912945102073, E-mail: sales@aravalimarbles.com, Website: http://www.aravalimarbles.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS JUNE – AUGUST, 2007

JUNE 3-6 - THE 27TH ANNUAL CARIBBEAN INSURANCE CONFERENCE

The 27th Annual Caribbean Insurance Conference, June 3-6, 2007, St. Kitts Marriott Resort & Royal Beach Casino, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS. Contact: Janelle Thompson, Marketing and Communications Specialist, Insurance Association of the Caribbean Inc (IAC), IAC Building, Collymore Rock, St. Michael, Barbados. Tel: (246) 427-5608/5609, Fax: (246) 427-7277, E-mail: janelle@iac-caribbean.com, Website: www.iac-caribbean.com.

JUNE 5 - DOING BUSINESS WITH COSTA RICA SEMINAR

Existing and potential exporters of goods and services and person interested in conducting business with Costa Rica in general, are invited to attend a "Doing Business with Costa Rica Seminar" scheduled for June 5th at the Savannah Hotel, Barbados. The Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) is organising the seminar under the 9th Economic Development Fund (EDF) Caribbean Regional Trade and Private Sector Programme (CRTPSDP) of the European Commission, in partnership with the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation (BIDC). The half-day seminar is targeted at small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the manufacturing and services sectors

To register to attend the seminar complete the REGISTRATION FORM and return to Ms Undeane Ashby Grimes at e-mail: ugrimes@carib-export.com; Tel: 246-436-0578; Fax: 246-436-9999

JUNE 5 & 7 - CHOICES CAREER & EDUCATION EXPO

CHOICES Career & Education Expo, June 5 & 7, 2007, Kingston - Tuesday June 5, 2007 - Hilton Kingston, Mandeville - Thursday June 7, 2007 - Golf View Hotel, JAMAICA. Contact: Angela deFreitas, General Manager, CHOICES Career Advice, 100 Shortwood Road, Kingston 8, Jamaica, W.I. Tel: (876) 925-0804/876-924-7473, E.mail: info@choicesonlinejm.com, Website - www.choicesonlinejm.com / <http://www.choicesonlinejm.com/choicesexpo/howtoparticipate.asp?Loc=2>

JUNE 8-9 - SALON DE LA FORMATION PROFESSIONNELLE (THE EDUCATION EXPO)

Salon de la formation professionnelle (The Education Expo), June 8-9, 2007, Palais des Congrès de Madiana - Schoelcher, MARTINIQUE. Contact: Mme Guillaume Tel: (596) 596 61 09 24. Producer: Open Soft System, Tel: (596) 596 61 16 32, Cel: (596) 696 22 79 46, Fax: (596) 596 61 18 99, Email: open-soft@wanadoo.fr,

JUNE 8-10 - CARIBBEAN FASHIONWEEK 2007

Designers will present their collections to an international audience of press, fashion editors, buyers, showroom outlets, celebrities and members of the public at Caribbean Fashionweek 2007 June 8-10 2007, at the National Indoor Sports Centre, JAMAICA. Further details on the event contact: Romae Gordon, Fashion Director CFW, Pulse, 38a Trafalgar Road, Kingston 10, Jamaica, Tel: (876) 960 1320/ 968 1089-90 Fax (876) 968 1185, E-mail: info@pulsecaribbean.com or visit the CFW website, www.caribbeanfashionweek.com.

JUNE 12 – 13 - EUROMONEY/LATIN FINANCE CARIBBEAN INVESTMENT FORUM

Caribbean Central American Action (CCAA) invites you to attend the **Euromoney/Latin Finance Caribbean Investment Forum** scheduled for June 12-13, 2007 at the Ritz Carlton in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Meet the elite players from the Caribbean financial community and learn whether and where your capital belongs in the region

For more information or to register for the Caribbean Investment Forum, please visit www.euromoneyconferences.com.

JUNE 19-21 - NOVATECH/MADINTECH 2007

Information and Communication Technology is recognised as not only a factor for balanced economic and social development and the creation of innovative enhancement of services in the interest of all, but also a factor for territorial competitiveness and attractiveness. It constitutes the essential elements for efficient and successful sustainable development policies.

The use of such technology should also assist the small island territories linking the Caribbean Basin to overcome the structural handicaps hindering their development. To draw the maximum from this potential for expansion, it is also important to foster the development of networking between Europe and the Caribbean Region. The fostering of exchange and partnerships between businesses operating in the sector will be the focus of ICT Conference and Exhibition NOVATECH/MADINTECH 2007, June 19-21, 2007 organised by the Regional Council of Martinique.

Interested Caribbean ICTs should contact: Maguy MARIE-JEANNE, Direction des Relations Internationales et de la Coopération, Conseil Régional de Martinique, Rue Gaston Defferre-Cluny, 97 200 Fort de France, MARTINIQUE. Tel: (0596 or 011 596 596) 59 64 69 /59 80 49/ 59 6440, Fax: (0596 or 011 596 596) 59 64 14/84

JUNE 24 - 27 - CANTO 2007

CANTO 2007, 23rd Annual Conference and Trade Exhibition "Leading Connectivity through ICTs" June 24-27, Sherbourne Conference Centre, St. Michael, BARBADOS. Organised by the Caribbean Association of National Telecommunication Organizations, Co-hosted by Cable and Wireless (Barbados) Ltd. For further information please visit <http://www.canto.org/23conf/conferenceinfo>

JUNE 24-29 - US COMMERCIAL SERVICE IMPORTER/INVESTMENT TRADE MISSION

The US Commercial Service in partnership with the Florida Foreign Trade Association will be hosting an importer/investment trade mission to Miami and Tampa between June 24-29, 2007. The Trade Mission will include One-on-One business meetings, an Orientation seminar with topics such as: How To Do Business with US Companies, Financing Imports/Exports, Freight Consolidations and a Networking Reception. Interested persons should contact: Michelle Hustler-Small, Senior Project Officer, Barbados Coalition of Service Industries, 14 Pine Plantation Road, Wildey, St. Michael, Barbados, Tel: (246) 429-5357, Mobile: (246) 234-2307, Fax: (246) 429-5352, E-mail: msmall@bcsi.org.bb / info@bcsi.org.bb

JUNE 27-29 - 3RD TOURISM HUMAN RESOURCES CONFERENCE

3rd Tourism Human Resources Conference, June 27-29, 2007, GUADELOUPE. Contact: Ms. Yvonne Armour-Shillingford or Ms. Marvelle Benn, Tel: (246) 427-5242, Fax: (246) 429-3065, E-mail yarmours@caribtourism.com or mbenn@caribtourism.com OR Comité du Tourisme des Îles de la Guadeloupe, 5 Square de la banque, B.P. 555, 97166, Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe, Tel: 590-590-820930, Fax: 590-590-838922, E-mail: th.gargar@lesilesdeguadeloupe.com, Website: www.onecaribbean.org

JUNE 27-30- AGROALIMENTARIA 2007

At least 50 businesses on St. Maarten and the neighbouring islands will have the opportunity to get products directly from manufacturers in the Dominican Republic during an international trade show held in that country from June 27-30. During the show, businesses will also be provided with the opportunity to network with manufacturers and producers in the Dominican Republic and purchase products. Agroalimentaria 2007, is organised by the Dominican Republic Center for Export and Investment (CEI-RD) and the Dominican Republic Agribusiness Board with the support of several organisations including the St. Maarten Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the office of the Consul General of the Dominican Republic on St. Maarten Doris Elsa Vasquez Martinez. The event will be held at the Convention Centre facilities of the Dominican Fiesta Hotel in Santo Domingo.

Interested businesses can obtain additional information from the Trade Show's website www.agroalimentaria.com.do.

JULY 5-7- BARBADOS EXPO 2007

The Barbados Investment and Development Corporation (BIDC), in collaboration with the Barbados Consulate and the Country Team in New York, will be hosting the Barbados Expo 2007 at the LaGuardia Crowne Plaza Hotel, New York on July 5-7, 2007. This expo will be held in conjunction with the National Association of Barbados Organizations (NABO) Conference 2007 which will be running concurrently from July 4-8, 2007 at the same location.

Barbados Expo 2007, themed '*Barbados Connects – Experience the Flavour*', will comprise of 38 booths. While manufactured products will be featured, there will be a significant focus on exportable services. Displays will be in the format of table-top presentations on tables sized 6'X3' and/or pop-up units. Rental of space consisting of a single table top will be US \$500, while a double table-top display will be US \$900.

The exposition will present the opportunity for participants to expose their products to the New York diaspora and wider community and to meet with a number of ethnic and main stream industry players. *Barbados Connects* will also provide opportunity for the establishment of linkages with Barbados service providers, professionals and their counterparts in North America.

The BIDC is please to extend an invitation for you to participate in Barbados Expo 2007. In light of the limited space available, priority will be given to those companies that are already in the market and need to further consolidate their presence, as well as companies with potential to do business in the US.

The BIDC will be considering requests for financial assistance, under the STA programme in accordance with the guidelines of the Fund.

For additional information on the event contact **Cora Clarke**, E-mail: cclarke@bidc.com, **Beverly Alleyne** E-mail: balleyne@bidc.com or **Micheal Piggott**, E-mail: mpiggott@bidc.com, or Tel: (246) 427-5350, Fax: (246) 426-7802.

JULY 17-18 - REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENHANCING TRADE COMPETITIVENESS OF SMES THROUGH STANDARDIZATION AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) are globally perceived as the economic drivers of any nation and as such must be able to provide high quality products and services to access

regional and international markets. The use of regional technical standards positively affects product and service quality and consequently improves profit margins leading to financial sustainability.

To this end, a Regional Conference entitled '**Enhancing Trade Competitiveness through Standardisation and Conformity Assessment**' will be hosted by CROSQ in conjunction with the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) on July 17-18, 2007 at the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) Auditorium in Macoya, Trinidad. The conference caters for a maximum of 120 persons from a cross-section of the Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) Sector within the CARICOM region, as well as stakeholders in the public and private sector who are involved in the standardization process and provide an enabling environment to support SME export competitiveness. This will include persons from the cottage industry, as well as representatives from the food, agriculture, services and tourism sectors.

The aim of this regional conference is to promote the development and application of regional technical standards with the objective of enhancing the trade potential of SMEs. It is designed to provide a forum for national and regional SMEs to discuss trade issues and potential technical barriers to trade.

Presentations will be made to address the above issues by key personnel from the Ministry of Trade and Industry (Trinidad), an international speaker with substantial experience in the areas of standardization and conformity assessment, and various regional speakers involved in trade and other related issues.

The conference is an initiative of an SME project which is being funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and executed by CROSQ, in collaboration with the Bureaux of Standards in Jamaica, Barbados, Guyana and Trinidad. Co-sponsorship has already been secured through the Caribbean Regional Sustainable Tourism Development Programme of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO), the funds of which will be used to facilitate the attendance of SME participants within the tourism and hospitality sector in each CARIFORUM country.

Interested persons may obtain the agenda and registration form from: Kenneth Mullin, Executive Secretary, CROSQ, Tel: (246) 437-8146, Fax: (246) 437-4569, E-mail: crosq.caricom@crosq.org, Website: www.crosq.org

JULY. 23-27 - WEEK OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN THE AMERICAS

Week of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas, July 23-27, 2007, Antigua Guatemala. Email: patricia.leon@iica.int

AUGUST 31 – SEPTEMBER 01 - THE FIFTH ANNUAL RE-DISCOVER THE CARIBBEAN SHOW

The Fifth Annual re-DISCOVER the Caribbean Show August 31 – September 1, 2007, Sherbourne Conference Centre, BARBADOS. Contact: Adrian Loveridge, Co-ordinator, Tel: (246) 428 2129, E-mail: re-discover@caribsurf.com, Website: www.re-discover.com

OTHER EVENTS

2nd Annual Central Florida's Caribbean American Business Expo 2007, June 1-3, 2007, Central Florida Fair & Exposition Park (Fairgrounds), Orlando, Florida . Tel: (407) 835-3617, Fax: (407) 445-2294, E-mail: guenetroberts@yahoo.com

Interfood China 2007, Canton, CHINA, June 7-9, 2007. Website: <http://www.faircanton.com/interfood2007>

Caribbean & Latin America Trade and Travel Symposium, June 8, 2007. Website: www.ctshowcase.org

Caribbean Central American Action (CCAA) invites you to Save the Date for the **Americas Competitiveness Forum (ACF): Promoting Prosperity and Economic Opportunity** hosted by United States Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez. The forum is scheduled for June 11-12, 2007 at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis in Atlanta, Georgia.

The ACF is a venue for Western Hemisphere economic and education ministers, business executives, academics, and non-profit leaders to meet, be heard and network. The ACF is a two-day conference designed to inspire and educate the 500 international leaders who will attend this groundbreaking and innovative forum. This forum will serve as a launching pad for continued, practical dialogue on competitiveness in the Western Hemisphere. More information on the ACF can be found in the attached document or at www.trade.gov/competitiveness/acf.

VINEXPO, The International Wine and Spirits Exhibition, June 17-21, 2007, FRANCE. Website: www.vinexpo.com

Salon International De L'aeronautique Et De L'espace, International Paris Air Show, June 18-24, 2007, Le Bourget, FRANCE. Contact: E-mail: sie@salon-du-bourget.fr, Website: www.paris-air-show.com

Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Conference, June 17-29, Hyatt Regency, Miami Florida. Tel: (305) 443-3040, Fax: (305) 443-3005

Business & Diplomatic Protocol Training Seminar, June 18-19, 2007, Holiday Inn Brussels City Centre, Brussels, BELGIUM. Contact: The School of Protocol, Ltd, Celovska 122, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia, Tel: +386 1 505 7187, Fax: +386 1 514 1380

The 2007 New York Venture Summit, June 19-20, 2007, NEW YORK, Tel: (718) 447-0817, Email: iwant2present@youngstartup.com

The “**Conference on the Caribbean – A 20/20 Vision**” will be held June 19–21, 2007 in Washington, DC. The main purpose of the conference is to strengthen the existing relationship between the United States and the Caribbean Community, to develop a vision of the future relationship between the two, and to focus on the way forward to achieve the various developmental objectives for the Caribbean. For further information visit <http://www.conferenceonthecaribbean.org/>

Trade Mission to Miami, Florida, June.24-29, 2007 Tampa, FLORIDA. Hosted by : US Commercial Service and Florida Foreign Trade Association. Contact: Doreen Weekes , Tel: (246) 227-4068, Fax: (246) 228-6084, E-mail: Doreen.weekes@mail.doc.gov

53rd Summer International Fancy Food Show 2007, July 8 - 10, 2007 at the Jacob K Javits Center, New York. Website: www.specialtyfood.com

New York International Gift Fair August 11-16, 2007 Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, Passenger Ship Terminal Piers and the Metropolitan Pavilion. Contact: Buyer/Attendee Customer Service, E-mail: registration@glmshows.com, 800 272-SHOW, or Operations Directory Department Public Relations, E-mail: directorydepartment@glmshows.com. Website: <http://www.nyigf.com>

NOTICES

The Caribbean Community Secretariat announces the following vacancies:

Human Resource Management, CARICOM Secretariat, Guyana

- (i) Deputy Programme Manager
- (ii) Senior Project Officer, Recruitment and Employee Services
- (iii) Senior Project Officer, Training and Development

CRITI, Suriname

- (i) Project Director/Coordinator
- (ii) Finance and Administrative Officer
- (iii) Administrative Assistant/Documentalist

Regional Statistics, CARICOM Secretariat, Guyana

- (i) Project Coordinator
- (ii) Data Management Specialist
- (iii) Economic Statistics Expert
- (iv) Specialist, Trade in Services
- (v) Economic Statistician
- (vi) Project Assistant, National Accounts
- (vii) Project Assistant, Trade in Services
- (i) Project Assistant, CESAP Merchandise Trade

These positions are being recruited under the Caribbean Integration Support Programme which is being funded under the 9th European Development Fund (EDF) and are currently being displayed on the Secretariat's web site at www.caricom.org as well as at www.caribank.org, www.oecs.org and www.caribbeanjobsonline

Applications should be addressed to: The Adviser, Human Resource Management, Caribbean Community Secretariat, Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, Guyana, E-mail: applnhrm@caricom.org.

PUBLICATIONS

2006 WTO PUBLIC FORUM

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LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: INFORMALITY, A BARRIER FOR DEVELOPMENT

The report suggests that to reduce informality, policymakers should focus their efforts on improving the conditions that promote formal sector productivity and growth and addressing the barriers, costs and benefits for informal firms and workers to participate in the formal sector. It also stresses the need to adopt an integrated approach that promotes aggregate productivity and improves the incentives for formality embedded in business, tax and labor regulations and in social security and protection schemes. Furthermore, the report calls for making progress in the process of building more accountable, efficient and inclusive states which are able to create the conditions for a social contract based on a generalized social norm of compliance with the law.

For more information on the Informality: Exit and Exclusion report visit: <http://www.worldbank.org/lac>