



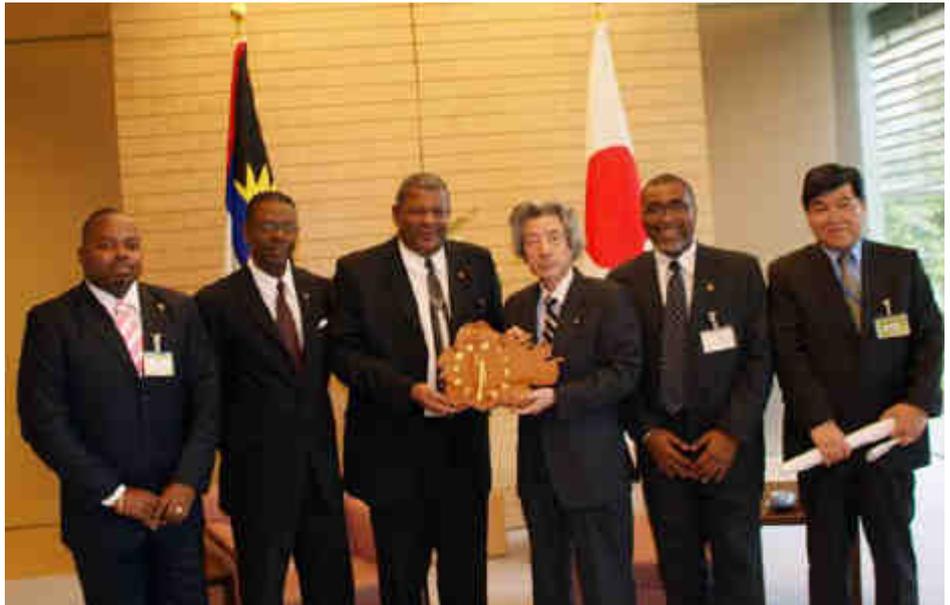
# NEWSLETTER

The Antigua and Barbuda High Commission

ISSUE No.110 May 2006

On Thursday 1st June, Prime Minister the Honourable Baldwin Spencer and the Prime Minister of Japan Junichiro Koizumi, were engaged in lengthy discussions on wide ranging issues of concern to both nations.

Prime Minister Koizumi, who indicated that he was made aware that Antigua and Barbuda's main industry is tourism, advised Antigua and Barbuda to immediately commence marketing the country in Japan and suggested that sustained marketing will result in increased number of travellers knowing about the Caribbean island and wanting to visit.



*Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer (third from left) and his delegation with Prime Minister Koizumi (third from right) of Japan*

He pointed out that every year over 16 million Japanese travel abroad and Antigua and Barbuda should market itself in Japan to capture a share of that huge travelling market.

Prime Minister Spencer updated the Japanese Prime Minister on the country's marketing strategy along with its position on a number of issues ranging from United Nations reform to the sustainable management of the world's resources.

Both leaders also spent a great deal of time discussing sports, tourism, natural disaster management and fisheries.

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The Japanese leader pledged his country's continued cooperation with Antigua and Barbuda in its developmental efforts.

Both countries have signalled their intention to sign a technical cooperation agreement after approval from the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

# A MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY DR CARL ROBERTS, HIGH COMMISSIONER

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Dear Readers,

On the 6th June 2006, the High Commission was represented at a Panel discussion, sponsored by the Royal Commonwealth Society, entitled **'Doves and Dragons - Is China a threat or opportunity to the Commonwealth?'**

This was a very important topic for us since China has been very helpful to many countries in the Caribbean including Antigua and Barbuda, hence our attendance.

The panellists were Mr Duncan Innis-Kerr, Editor of the China Report, The Economist/Economist Intelligence Unit and Mr Jonathan Galea, Political Officer, Asia/Pacific; Commonwealth Secretariat Political Affairs Division. Mr Galea was speaking on his own behalf and not for the Secretariat.

Both presentations were excellent even though there was not much of a debate

as both speakers seemed to be in general agreement that China's impact on the Commonwealth was positive.

China, being the 4th largest economy in world is definitely in a position to, and often does, assist developing countries with infrastructure projects. For instance, in Antigua and Barbuda, the Chinese are building our state-of-the-art Sir Vivian Richards Stadium to enable us to properly play our part in hosting the Cricket World Cup in 2007. From all accounts this work is proceeding very well, thanks to the Chinese workforce which is dedicated, disciplined and hard-working. This is only one of a long line of projects involving China's assistance.

During a visit to China in November 2004 Prime Minister Spencer, in a meeting with Vice President Zeng Qinghong said that, 'over the 21 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties between Antigua and Barbuda and China, the bilateral political relations have been strengthened constantly and economic and trade cooperation has made great achievements. The Antigua and Barbuda government will continue to follow the one-China policy, [and] highly compliments China's contributions to maintaining world peace and security and [the government] stands ready to work with China to push forward and enhance the economic and trade cooperation between the Caribbean countries and China.'

Our country's views have not changed.

China is the largest developing country in the world, and we have much to gain by working closely with our 'big brother' and trust that that perception is mutual.

**Dr Carl Roberts**  
**High Commissioner**

## Antigua and Barbuda reacts to Indictments of Gaming Operators

On the 18th May, Antiguan government officials reacted to news that the United States Department of Justice had released indictments of two Antiguan residents on money laundering charges related to their operation of an Antiguan based and licensed gaming service provider.

The charges, contained in an indictment dated 7 April 2005, accuse William Scott and Jessica Davis of violating United States anti-money laundering laws through their operation of World Wide Telesports, or WWTS. Ironically, the allegations hinge on purported violations by the two of United States legislation known as the "Wire Act" and the "Travel Act," the application of both of which to gaming operators from Antigua was found last year by the World Trade Organisation to be contrary to the American obligations under WTO law.

Antigua's Ambassador to the WTO, Dr. John W. Ashe, does not see the indictments and Antigua's WTO victory to be unrelated. "These indictments, coming down at a time when the United States is supposed to be undertaking efforts to comply with the rulings of the WTO, are surely no coincidence. It is more than just a little ironic that the United States Department of Justice has chosen to single out for prosecution a well-known gaming service provider from Antigua, a jurisdiction that has been leading global efforts to license, regulate, supervise and oversee a robust yet clean and safe gaming industry over the Internet-and the only jurisdiction to take on the United States at the World Trade Organisation-and win-on this exact issue."

Under WTO procedures, the United States had until 3 April 2006 to comply with the rulings of the WTO in the gambling case. Having initially stated that coming into compliance would involve significant legislative efforts, the United States made a surprise announcement at the WTO meeting last month that it was already in compliance with the adverse ruling, despite having taken no apparent corrective action at all. The parties are in the early stages of a process at the WTO whereby a panel will review the current situation and assess the status of United States compliance. "We are looking forward to this review process," said Dr. Ashe, "and we feel very confident that once again the WTO will agree with us that the United States' position on Internet gaming from our country is simply trade discrimination-disguised restrictions on trade in services in violation of the WTO agreements. In the year since we won our case, facts have only gotten better for Antigua and worse for the United States."

The indictments do not allege that Mr. Scott and Ms. Davis engaged in any money laundering conduct other than by virtue of conducting the ordinary business of a licensed Antiguan gaming company, conduct that not only is lawful in Antigua, but much of which is clearly lawful in the United States as well.

The Antiguan Solicitor General and Chairman of Antigua's Financial Services Regulatory Commission, Mr. Lebrecht Hesse, announced that the Antiguan government would be contacting the United States directly to lodge a protest over the latest action of the Department of Justice. "Coming at a time when Antigua and the United States are expected to be working together on a reasonable solution to our dispute, these indictments announced by the Americans yesterday-which I note have been laying unsealed, in secret, since they were returned over a year ago-are

pretty incredible. We trust that these indictments do not represent the official position of the United States government and rather represent the work of some over-zealous prosecutor. We look forward to the US administration's prompt clarification of this most unfortunate incident."

Turning to the subjects of the indictments, Mr. Hesse observed as Chairman of the FSRC "both of these individuals have been through the extensive due diligence process we subject all major participants in our gaming industry to, and both have been found fit and proper to conduct this kind of regulated business in Antigua. To our knowledge, Mr. Scott and Ms. Davis-Dyett have been law-abiding citizens since coming to this country some years ago."

## Finance Ministry heightens awareness on the Antigua and Barbuda Sales Tax (ABST)

The Inland Revenue Department is proceeding with a registration drive in preparation for the Antigua and Barbuda Sales Tax (ABST)

According to Co-ordinator of the ABST Implementation Team Mr. Everton Gonsalves, efforts are being made to ensure that all stakeholders are properly sensitized on the Antigua and Barbuda Sales Tax.

To this end, prospective registrants can expect to receive registration materials and invitations to attend registration and training seminars which commenced on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Antigua and Barbuda Sales Tax Act provides for the

imposition, collection, and administration of a broad-based tax on consumption in Antigua and Barbuda, which will replace a number of existing, less-efficient taxes. The tax is modelled on the "value added" type consumption taxes in use in over 120 countries around the world, including many of the other countries in the Caribbean region.

ABST is a single rate, broad-based, multi-stage transaction tax, imposed and collected at each stage in the chain of production and distribution. The tax will be collected by businesses, but the final tax burden is intended to fall on domestic consumers. The broad base of the tax will limit the distortions produced by the current taxation regime and provide for simpler compliance and administration than the existing raft of taxes being replaced.

Mr. Gonsalves added that the ABST is likely to replace a number of existing taxes including the Consumption Tax, the Hotels Tax, the Hotel Guest Levy, Restaurant and Catering Services Tax and the Telecommunications Tax.

A standard rate of 15 per cent has been considered for the Antigua and Barbuda Sales Tax however, a special introductory rate will be offered to hotels.

The ABST is likely to take effect in the third quarter of 2006.

## Ministry of Tourism launches Team 2K7 for Milestone Celebration Year 2007

The Ministry of Tourism has announced the establishment of a national steering committee to oversee the country's entertainment activities for 2007 which will be a monumental year of celebration for Antigua and Barbuda.

Tourism Minister Harold Lovell, who heads the committee, officially launched "Team 2K7" in a media event on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May, when the details of the committee's plans for 2006 and 2007 was outlined.

"Work has begun in earnest but I am elated at the progress we have made to date. I am more confident now than ever that Antigua and Barbuda will put on a magnificent, high quality showcase of our culture and natural environment, so that visitors and residents alike will have an unforgettably enjoyable experience during the various milestone activities to be celebrated during 2007," the Minister noted.

These events include ICC CWC 2007, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Classic Yacht Regatta, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sailing Week and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Carnival.

Team 2K7's kick off activity will be an after cricket lime dubbed "A Taste of 2007" in downtown St. John's on Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup>, followed by a public Input Session on June 22 during which members of the public will be encouraged to share their ideas and volunteer for the various sub-committees.

The National Theme Contest to identify the phrase which best captures the spirit of the nation during the 2007 milestone year of celebration has been extended. All residents of Antigua and Barbuda are eligible, and entries should be 10 words or less, and should be contained to one theme per person.

Entrants grant the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation the right to use and publish the submission in print, online or in any other media in connection with the theme and or activities, without compensation.

Submissions should be accompanied by a summary in not more

than 25 – 50 words of your interpretation of the submitted theme. The deadline for submissions has been extended to Monday 26 June, 2006, and should be addressed to the Manager of education awareness and training Mrs. Cynthia Simon.

"2007 will present a perfect opportunity for our store operators, promoters, entertainers, vendors, entrepreneurs and volunteers to show the world what we in Antigua and Barbuda can produce deliver. We need everyone to come on board and help make this a resounding success," said Minister Lovell.

## Government to remain seized with Internet gaming dispute with the United States

On 25<sup>th</sup> May, Minister of Finance and the Economy, Dr. L Errol Cort, reassured the nation that his government remains seized with the matter of the WTO dispute on Internet gaming between the Antigua and Barbuda and the United States.

"The United States and us have just agreed on and jointly submitted to the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), a set of procedures known as a "Sequencing Agreement," with the US regarding the timeframe for the establishment of a compliance panel by the DSB to determine if the United States has implemented the recommendations and rulings of the DSB and if it remains out of compliance with its WTO obligations," said the Minister.

The Minister went on to add that if the DSB finds that the United States failed to comply with that body's recommendations and rulings, or that a measure taken by the United States to

comply with the recommendations and rulings is inconsistent with a covered agreement, his government reserved the right to request authorization to suspend concessions or other obligations under the relevant WTO provisions.

The Minister also expressed his government's concern with pending legislation before the House Judiciary Committee of the US Congress.

He stated, "I have requested our Ambassador to the WTO, Ambassador John Ashe, to write to Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. James Sensenbrenner, and inform him of my government's concern with legislation introduced into the United States Congress on 16 February 2006 entitled the "Internet Gambling Prohibition Act" (the "Goodlatte Bill"), and similar legislation, introduced on 18 November 2005 as H.R. 4411, cited as the "Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2005" (the "Leach Bill")," he said. "We are concerned that these Bills may be expressly contrary to the rulings and recommendations of the DSB," he added.

Ms. Kaye McDonald, Director of Gaming, Financial Services Regulatory Commission also expressed concern with the Bills. "We note, on the one hand, that the Goodlatte Bill, which is cast as an amendment to the US federal criminal statute known as the "Wire Act," is designed to expand the coverage of the Wire Act to most types of gambling services offered over the Internet, and on the other hand, the Leach Bill seeks to criminalise facilitation of or participation in certain financial transactions associated with what the legislation defines as "unlawful Internet gambling," she said.

Mark Mendel, the legal adviser to the government on this matter added that a settlement was proposed to the then United States Trade

Representative, Ambassador Robert Zoellick, almost two years ago now, after the WTO panel report was first released to both parties.

"An approach was made to Amb Zoellick with a view towards reaching an accommodation between both parties prior to the release of the panel report, that would in essence, use the Antigua-based industry as a "test case" of sorts, since we believed that a thoughtful study of the gaming industry in cooperation with US would demonstrate the efficacy of Antigua and Barbuda's regulatory scheme and the ability of the government to adequately supervise this kind of activity," he said.

"In my communication to the Chairman Sensenbrenner, I informed him that Minister Cort remains available to meet with the members of the Judiciary Committee to discuss the pending legislation and their impact on the WTO dispute," said Ambassador Ashe.

### Statement by H.E. Edwin W. Carrington, Secretary-General, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on the occasion of the Inaugural Caribbean-American Heritage Month, June 2006

"We, the peoples of the Caribbean, both in the Homeland and in the Diaspora, will without doubt always remember the sixth month of the sixth year of the 21st century. It is both an historic and a momentous occasion, as on 5 June 2006 the President of the United States of America, George W. Bush, officially proclaimed June 2006 Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

For centuries, the United States of America has benefited from the contributions of the sons and daughters of the Caribbean. As stated by the President, "We celebrate the great contributions of the Caribbean-American, to the fabric of our nation and we pay tribute to the common culture and bonds of friendship that unite the United States and Caribbean Countries. Our nation has thrived as a country of immigrants and we are more vibrant and hopeful because of the talent, faith and values of Caribbean-Americans. For centuries Caribbean-Americans have enriched our society and added to the strength of America."

The President pointed to Caribbean-Americans being "leaders in Government, sports, entertainment, the arts and many other fields." Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Oakland), lead sponsor of the Bill which was passed in the Congress in February of this year, and to whom our profound gratitude goes, cites a long list of Caribbean people and their descendants in this regard, including: "Alexander Hamilton, Hazel Scott, Sidney Poiter, Jean Michelle Basquit, Eric Holder, Colin Powell, Susan Taylor, Edwidge Danticat, Kelsey Grammer, Jean Baptiste Point Du Sable, Roberto Clemente, Maryse Condé, Cecily Tyson, Harry Belafonte, Celia Cruz, Mervyn Dymally and Shirley Chisholm." Congresswoman Lee and her co-sponsors truly deserve our gratitude for providing the voice that strongly called for the recognition of the people of the Caribbean Diaspora.

In marking this historic step in the strengthening of ties between the Caribbean and the United States, it would be remiss not to pay tribute to the Institute of Caribbean Studies for the very important role it played in lobbying for the recognition of this month as Caribbean-American

Heritage Month. Since 1999, the Institute has been observing June as Caribbean-American Heritage month. In addition, its efforts to make the celebrations nationwide this year must be highly commended.

This is therefore, definitely a time for celebration for the people of the Caribbean, be they in the Homeland or in the Diaspora. In so doing however, let us not forget that there are even more valuable benefits to be gained from such an observance. And, while we greatly value and give due praise to the sterling contributions Caribbean-Americans have made to the United States in a wide variety of fields, we must always remember the intrinsic bonds that forever bind the Diaspora to the Caribbean region.

During the lecture series to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Caribbean Community in 2003, the former Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Honourable P.J Patterson used the occasion to speak directly to the Caribbean Diaspora. He was of the firm view that persons of Caribbean descent needed to come together to advance concerns of common interest to all CARICOM countries, concerns relating to trade and investment issues, developments in US immigration policy, security matters, the narcotics trafficking, gun-smuggling and criminal deportees.

The Caribbean Diaspora, he emphasised, needed to continue as an essential partner in Caribbean civilisation. All needed to be involved! It is in this spirit that it behoves us all to keep working to strengthen the ties that already exist between the peoples of the Caribbean and of the United States, as we launch this inaugural Caribbean-American Heritage Month."

## Day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking to be observed

Students in learning institutions in Antigua and Barbuda will play a very important part in this year's observance of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which will be observed on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

Norma Dorsett, Substance Abuse Prevention Officer from the Substance Abuse Prevention Division, said her department (a division of the Ministry of Housing, Culture & Social Transformation) has organized an essay competition for students from primary to tertiary levels under the theme, "The Role I Can Play in the Fight Against Drug Use/Abuse in Antigua & Barbuda."

Dorsett said judges will review the various entries, make an assessment and determine the best essay for each of the four categories from primary, junior secondary, secondary and tertiary institutions.

Participants in the competition will not be 'labouring in vain' as there are great prizes up for grabs including a laptop and desktop computer, digital camera, ipod and Mp3 players.

Meantime, Dorsett said plans are coming together for the staging of a march in recognition of International Day Against Drug Abuse, which will be held under the theme, "Partners Against Drug – Join the Fight."

"We are hoping to send a strong message to the community that we are against illicit drugs and will do whatever we can to reduce and even stop the use of the substances that are causing great problems on our community", Dorsett said.

## BAIG's commitment to tackle the diseases of the developing world

A year ago, the Biomedical Industry Advisory Group (BIAG) offered its submission to the World Health Organisation Commission on Intellectual Property Rights Innovation and Public Health (CIPIH).

The submission was selected from the expertise and insights of thousands of their colleagues across the globe in the biomedical industry.

The BIAG's intent then and now is to foster a global dialogue on how best to ease the burden of diseases that disproportionately affect the developing world, and examine ways to spur the discovery, development and delivery of innovative therapeutics to improve public health worldwide.

The Biomedical Industry stands ready to strengthen its already substantial investments in innovative treatments, training and other solutions that save and improve lives around the world.

The BIAG has renewed its commitment to improving the quality of public health in the developing world. (BIAG Secretariat) (<http://biag.org>).



The following poem was submitted by a young member of the Antigua Diaspora, we hope you enjoy it as much we do.

# Antigua

There it lies, a speck in the Caribbean  
Sea

365 beaches, swaying palms,  
Awesome Antigua, Awesome  
Antigua.

Jolly, Jumby and Grand,  
Special Safaris and sailing seas.

Tiny towns and tall townsmen,

Big broad, banks,  
They don't use Francs,

Have a nice swim

Or go to a Gym,

Try Antigua,

You'll love it!!!

By: Adam C. Samuel

Age: 12

Dagenham, Essex

## Antigua and Barbuda delegation in Japan holds successful meetings

Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer and Tourism Minister Harold Lovell described the first day of official meetings in Japan with government officials as being very successful.

The delegation which also comprises Ambassador to Japan and the International Whaling Commission Anthony Liverpool, held meetings with the Japanese Association of Travel



*(left to right) Ambassador Anthony Liverpool, Foreign Minister of Japan Taro Aso, Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer and Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Harold Lovell*

Agents, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Yasushi Kaneko, the Whaling Caucus of the Liberal Democratic Party and Foreign Affairs Minister Taro Aso.

Tourism Minister Harold Lovell said that the meeting with the Japanese Association of Travel Agents was an eye opener as the Antigua and Barbuda delegation was encouraged to tap into the lucrative Japanese tourist market.

He noted that in addition to the country being invited to participate in the World Tourism Fair to be held in Japan in September of this year, an offer was made to provide assistance to Antigua and Barbuda to develop a Japanese Tourism website to expose Japanese travellers to Antigua and Barbuda.

“Japan is an untapped market, but a market with tremendous potential. The JATA representative is of the view that the Caribbean area is ripe for development in terms of Japanese tourists. We discuss the real possibility of promoting multi-destination marketing whereby its not only Antigua and Barbuda but the entire OECS. JATA will be prepared to work with US to reap

economic benefits from having a presence in Japan to facilitate marketing the region here,” Minister Lovell said

The issue of direct flights between Antigua and Barbuda was addressed and it was suggested that connections from the USA to Antigua and Barbuda for Japanese tourists can be utilized. Minister Lovell mentioned with the direct flights to Antigua from Atlanta by Delta Airlines and the American Airlines flight from US ports into Antigua via Puerto Rico.

It was also recommended that Antigua and Barbuda collaborate with other OECS countries to jointly market the Caribbean in Japan. The JATA official recommended that Antigua and Barbuda should establish a system in Japan for daily contact between the Japanese Travel Agents Association and Antigua and Barbuda. This, Minister Lovell said will be further explored by Ambassador Anthony Liverpool.

Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer said that the meeting highlighted the potential for the



*The Antigua and Barbuda delegation in discussion with Japanese Association of Travel Agents*

development of the travel business between Japan and Antigua and Barbuda. He said that his government is looking forward to putting the necessary mechanisms in place to ensure that Antigua and Barbuda taps into the Japanese travel market.

Commenting on his meetings with the Foreign Minister of Japan and other members of parliament, Prime Minister Spencer said that they were very productive resulting in the Japanese government pledging further technical cooperation.

On the issue of whaling he said that Antigua and Barbuda shares the same position with Japan for scientific monitoring and the sustainable use of whales. This position he said will be articulated by Antigua and Barbuda at the upcoming International Whaling Commission meeting in St. Kitts in June.

“We discussed a wide range of issues including United Nations reform and Japan’s technical cooperation programme with Antigua and Barbuda. We outlined that the government is fully supportive of sustainable use of the world’s resources and in that concept we support Japan’s position on whaling. I am of the view that our meetings so far

have firmed up our relations and it will result in the relationship deepening,” said the Prime Minister.

Both Prime Minister Spencer and Minister Lovell underscored the need for a greater bond with Japan that will extend beyond cooperation in fisheries.

The Antigua and Barbuda delegation also visited the largest fish market in the world.

## Antigua and Barbuda makes case for Vulnerability Index

The Antigua and Barbuda delegation that recently visited Japan made the case for developed countries and international donor organizations to use the Vulnerability Index as an indicator to qualify countries for aid packages.

Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Harold Lovell during a Luncheon Meeting with the President of the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) Mr. Shimada, said that Antigua and Barbuda does not qualify for numerous aid packages

because current World Bank indicators put the country in a middle-income bracket due to a relatively high per capita income which is at US\$12, 000.

“We feel that this is a misleading index and that another basis of calculation should be used in the determination of the level of assistance given to us by international donors. We support the development and use of a vulnerability index,” Minister Lovell said .

The development of the Vulnerability Index was spearheaded by the Small Island Developing States SIDS and after extensive analytical work and discussions at several high-level meetings in 1999, the Commonwealth Secretariat produced a Commonwealth Vulnerability Index which is used as a policy instrument in determining assistance requirements.

Minister Lovell pointed out that the index indicates that irrespective of income levels, small states are generally more vulnerable than other developing countries. He noted that the index takes into consideration issues that are of particular concern to small states and over which they have no control, such as their vulnerability to external economic and environmental shocks, the transitional costs of integration into the rapidly globalizing economy, the changing international trading system, susceptibility to environmental change and natural disasters, and security concerns.

The Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister told the Japanese executives that in assessing Antigua and Barbuda’s eligibility for economic assistance, his government encourages Japan and other developed countries to consider the use of the Vulnerability Index.

## **International College Fair 2006 – Antigua** **November, 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>**

The Ministry of Education will be staging an International Fair on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November 2006 at the Multi-Purpose Exhibition Centre, Perry Bay, St. John's Antigua.

The Fair will be opened from 10:00am to 5:30pm each day.

The objectives of the fair are to:

- help prospective students and their parents make informed decisions about further education;
- provide interested students/parents/guardians with an opportunity to discover the diversity of higher education in the Caribbean, United States, United Kingdom, and Canada;
- minimise the time and money spent in application to tertiary institutions;
- give Caribbean and International Institutions a unique opportunity to diversify their student's population by recruiting a high calibre of student from Antigua and Barbuda.

The registration fee of US\$300.00 provides each institution with a table 6x2.6ft and two chairs. The fee also includes lunch, coffee breaks and transportation to and from the centre on both days. Information, exhibits and other materials necessary to stimulate interest in your College/University, can be sent in advance by courier service to Mrs. Maureen Lewis, College Fair Coordinator, Ministry of Education, St. John's Antigua.

Telephone: 1(268) 462-4959  
Fax: 1-(268) 462-4970  
E-mail: [lenorelew@hotmail.com](mailto:lenorelew@hotmail.com)

We will ensure safekeeping and delivery of your package to the Exhibition Centre.

A short profile (130 words maximum) of your institution will be included in the ICF Programme, and should be sent by e-mail no later than 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006, to maintain uniformity, only the following information will be printed: short profile, telephone and fax numbers, mailing, e-mail and website addresses, academic programme, tuition and living costs, enrollment (undergraduate/graduate/international student). We are making contact with hotels for special rates and will inform you later concerning costs.

Should your College/University decide to participate, please complete the attached registration form and return along with the registration fee by 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2006. Bank draft in US dollars or Cheque Drawn on a US Bank should be made payable to International College Fair and addressed to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, P.O. Box 1264, St. John's, Antigua, West Indies.

The Ministry of Education Looks Forward to your participation.

**Maureen Lewis**  
**Coordinator – International College Fair**

Ministry of Education  
International College Fair 2006  
Registration Form

Date: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2006

Early registration: US\$ 300.00 – Deadline – August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
Late registration: US\$ 450.00 – Deadline – October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006

**Please Complete in Block Letters**

**Name of College/University:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Representative:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Position:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Office:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Website:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please register and reserved a booth for my institution at the Antigua International College Fair 2006. The fair will be held from 10:00am – 12:30pm and from 2:00pm – 5:00pm on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2006, and from 9:00am – 12:00pm and 1:30pm – 5:30pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2006, at the Multi-Purpose Exhibition Centre, St. John's Antigua.

I understand that the registration fee is non-refundable and due to limited space, booths cannot be guaranteed for institutions that have not paid by 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2006.

Enclosed is a cheque for US \$ 300.00 - Paid as early registration fee for my participation at the Antigua International College Fair. □

Enclosed is a cheque for US \$ 450.00 - Paid as late registration fee for my participation at the Antigua International College Fair. O

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Office:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheque payable to International College Fair.  
(Bank draft/cheque drawn on a U.S Bank)

Mrs. Maureen L. Lewis  
Coordinator International College Fair  
Tele: (268)-462-4959  
Fax: (268)-462-4970  
E-mail: lenorelew@hotmail.com

## Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) encourages Antiguan exports to Japan

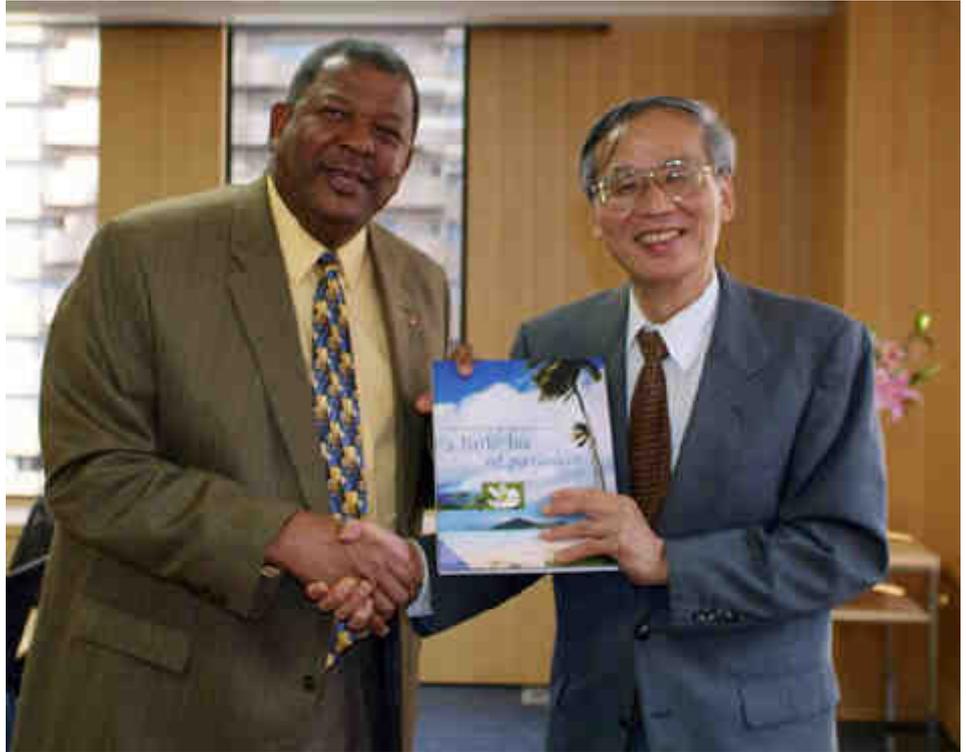
Chairman of the Japan External Trade Organisation, Osamu Watanabe, has encouraged Antiguan and Barbudan businesses to export their products into the Japanese market.

During a meeting between the Antiguan and Barbuda delegation led by Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer visiting Japan and officials of the trade organisation, Antigua and Barbuda was encouraged to promote the popular Susie's Hot Sauce and the English Harbour Rum in Japan.

"These two products are very popular on the international market and I will encourage Antigua and Barbuda to promote these popular brands in Japan. Every year there is a food exhibition in the spring in Japan and we encourage you to participate. JETRO will provide subsidies for developing countries to participate," outlined JETRO's CEO Osamu Watanabe.

As part of their remit, JETRO identifies promising export products in developing countries and provides technical assistance on how to improve their quality and design. At the request of individual countries, JETRO holds several exhibitions each year to enable foreign exporters to visit Japan and introduce their products directly to Japanese buyers and consumers.

Prime Minister Spencer said that the suggestions and assistance that JETRO is prepared to lend towards facilitating Susie's Hot Sauce and English Harbour Rum to enter the Japanese market are very timely and is an opportunity that should be utilized to the fullest. Susie's hot Sauce and



*Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer presented 'A Little Bit of Paradise' to JETRO's CEO Osamu Watanabe*

English Harbour Rum have won numerous awards worldwide, with English Harbour Rum recently being named one of the world's best ten rums by Forbes Magazine.

During the meeting Prime Minister Spencer also updated the JETRO executives on the progress of the CARICOM Single Market and noted that Japan should expand its cooperation in the Caribbean beyond shipping and one such way is supporting the establishment of the Regional Development Fund.

"The Regional Development Fund is an important aspect of the CARICOM Single Market which will facilitate developing countries within the regional grouping to find their niche and we are anticipating that the Japanese government will assist us in the establishment of this fund," said Prime Minister Spencer.

The JETRO CEO said that the establishment of the CARICOM Single Market is a very positive move for the region and such cooperation can only lend to regional attractiveness.

The Japan External Trade Organisation JETRO also helps developing countries achieve sustainable economic growth by working with them to strengthen their export industries, improve business-related systems and nurture human resources.

In line with Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) Charter, JETRO takes into account the diversity that exists among developing economies and tailors its assistance accordingly.



## Response to Readership Survey

During December 2005 and January 2006 the High Commission sought to obtain feedback from you regarding the Antigua and Barbuda High

Commission's Newsletter through a Readership Survey.

From 583 persons to whom this was sent there were 35 respondents. 27 respondents were generally satisfied with the information provided and when asked for recommendations for

improving the Newsletter gave remarkable responses, most of which can and will be implemented.

The High Commission would like to thank those who participated in this survey. Your responses were indeed appreciated.

## Minister signs deal on merchant shipping with Cyprus

Senator Aziz Hadeed, Minister of State with responsibility for Merchant Shipping and Shipping Registration, recently revealed that his government has signed an agreement on merchant shipping with Government of the Republic of Cyprus, aimed at promoting cooperation between the two countries in the field of maritime transport.

"Given the importance my government attaches to the development of our shipping registry on the international plane, we felt it was rather important to establish such a link with the Republic of Cyprus," whose shipping registry has shown phenomenal growth in recent years," said Senator Hadeed.

"In 1981 Cyprus was ranked thirty-second on the list of leading maritime nations. It now ranks sixth with a merchant fleet exceeding 26 million gross tons, and is considered an international maritime centre. This is a model we intend to emulate," he added. The Senator also noted that other such agreements with some of the major maritime nations are in the works.

"As we establish partnerships with other nations, my government intends to ensure that our Merchant Shipping and Shipping Registration Unit



*Senator Aziz Hadeed with Foreign Ministers from the European Union during a recent meeting in Austria*

becomes internationally recognized as a responsible entity for the development of maritime activities, including: registration of ships, administration of the Merchant Shipping Laws, control of shipping and enforcement of international conventions, investigation of casualties, resolving labour disputes onboard Antigua and Barbuda-flagged ships and training and certification of seafarers," he said.

The Senator praised the Antigua and Barbuda's Mission to the United Nations for its assistance in facilitating the signing of today's agreement at the Republic of Cyprus' Mission to the United Nations.

The agreement which entered into force immediately, called for, among

other things, parallel registration of ships in the respective registry of the two countries, the adoption of appropriate measures to reduce unnecessary delays of vessels in the ports of each country, the reciprocal recognition of the identity documents issued by the competent authorities to enable crew members from each country to embark from their respective vessels for temporary shore leave, and the simplification of administrative, customs and sanitary formalities applicable to their respective ports.

