

Caribbean Council Newsletter

5 October 2007
Issue 51



your window to the Caribbean

Commercial Director of Gaviota Visits UK



The Cuba Initiative is arranging a series of business meetings for the Commercial Director of Gaviota, Mr Adolfo Santa Cruz Llerena when he visits the UK later this month. Gaviota is the Cuban enterprise responsible for

developing some of Cuba's most successful hotels. It is seeking UK companies interested in management contracts. It also wants to meet with companies interested in investing in new build hotels and golf courses. Gaviota is also responsible for major buying decisions for many Cuban hotels. *If you would be interested in meeting with Mr Adolfo Santa Cruz Llerena during his visit, or in obtaining further information, please contact Chris Bennett chris.bennett@caribbean-council.org.*

Cuba Initiative Annual Reception, 9 October 2007, House of Lords, London

The annual reception of the Cuba Initiative will take place at the House of Lords in the Cholmondeley room from 7pm-9pm on 9 October.

The reception is now fully subscribed. There has been an excellent response from members of both Houses of Parliament, as well as a broad range of guests from government, the private sector and members of the Cuba Initiative.

This reception is supported by Standard Bank and Nectar Shipping. Those who regularly attend the reception will know that one of the highlights (besides the rum punch) is the prize draw. This year the top prize in the draw is a one week holiday in Havana. Virgin Atlantic has kindly donated return flights and 7 nights accommodation has been provided at the Occidental Miramar Hotel courtesy of Explorecuba.com. In addition to the holiday, there are a number of prizes donated by Havana Holdings and Tropical Ltd. The celebrated rum punch will make a welcome return, courtesy of Havana Club and Tropical.

TICKETS: Due to the postal strike, anyone who is expecting tickets but has not yet received them should contact us with a fax number so that we can send them before Tuesday. *Please contact Daisy Kenward regarding tickets for the event daisy.kenward@caribbean-council.org.*

CBBC Meeting with the CARICOM High Commissioners

The CBBC will hold its next meeting with the CARICOM High Commissioners in London on 15 October. Meetings take place twice a year, offering the opportunity for the CBBC's leadership to update the High Commissioners on recent and future activity and for discussion about other matters of mutual interest. Lord Foulkes, President of the CBBC, and HE Mr Laleshwar Singh, High Commissioner for Guyana and Doyen of the Caribbean Diplomatic Corps, will be co-chairs of the meeting. *Any CBBC members who would like to put forward comments or issues for the agenda should contact Stephanie Whittle stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org*



Meeting of the Cuba Initiative Business Executive Committee

The Business Executive Committee of the Cuba Initiative met on 4 October to discuss the Cuba Initiative's plans for the next twelve months. These include an ongoing seminar programme, inward visits from Cuba and a trade mission to Cuba most probably in March 2008. The Committee also discussed current UK policy towards Cuba and the current debate in Cuba about the process of economic change.

Events Diary

8-13 October 2007

Tourism – Harvesting Wealth Through Tourism, Jamaica

9 October 2007

Cuba Initiative Annual Parliamentary Reception, London

12 October – 9 November 2007

CHOCO: Colour and rhythm from Cuba, London

15 October 2007

CBBC Meeting with CARICOM High Commissioners, London

17-18 October 2007

Whisky Extravaganza, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

5-10 November 2007

International Fair of Havana (FIHAV), Havana, Cuba

12-15 November 2007

World Travel Market, London

3-7 March 2008

International Meeting on Globalisation and Development problems

For information on any of the above events please contact daisy.kenward@caribbean-council.org

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Following Air Jamaica's decision to cease loss-making services between Jamaica and the UK, from the end of October Virgin Atlantic will operate two new frequencies per week between London Gatwick and Kingston. This is in addition to Virgin Atlantic's current twice-weekly operation to Montego Bay. Kingston will be Virgin Atlantic's eighth destination in the Caribbean and its 30th globally. All Caribbean routes are operated with Boeing 747-400s and include Virgin's award winning onboard service. In addition to Jamaica, Virgin Atlantic also serves Barbados, St. Lucia, Antigua, Grenada, Tobago and Havana.

Cuba Initiative Seminar: Dr Peter Bourne presents ¡Salud!

The Cuba Initiative screened the film ¡Salud!, an award winning documentary about the Cuban health system and the extensive medical programme that Cuban health professionals are delivering around the world in terms of training people in remote or poorly served communities to become doctors. The film follows the experience of doctors practicing medicine and training medical students in Cuba and around the world in countries as varied as South Africa, Gambia, Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Pakistan.

The Executive Producer of the film, Dr Peter Bourne, introduced the film and took questions afterwards. In the discussion, he explained how Cuba is the only state globally providing development assistance by training local doctors in disadvantaged communities. *If you would like to obtain a copy of the film, it is available for purchase from the website: <http://www.saludthefilm.net/ns/index.html>. For more information about the Cuba Initiative seminar series please contact Chris Bennett Chris.bennett@caribbean-council.org.*

International Fair of Havana (FIHAV), 5-10 November 2007, Havana

FIHAV is the most important opportunity in the year in Cuba to see a wide range of Cuban exporters exhibiting or for foreign companies to exhibit products / services which they would like to import. 2007 is the 25th anniversary of FIHAV. In 2006, there were companies from over 42 countries present at the Fair. Many companies also attend to strengthen their existing relations with commercial partners or as a way of consolidating their existing presence in the Cuban market.

For further information, please contact PABEXPO, Tel: (537)271-6614/271-0758 Fax: (537) 271-9065 E-mail: pabexpo1@palco.cu

Scotch Whisky Tasting Event, 17-18 October, 6pm-Midnight, Santo Domingo

The British Chamber of Commerce in the Dominican Republic is organising a whisky tasting extravaganza at the Hilton Hotel in Santo Domingo on the 17-18th October. The event aims to provide an opportunity to learn about how whisky is made, what is distinctive about Scotch whisky, and what makes Scotch whisky unique to Scotland.

This charity event will raise funds for three Dominican charities: the Dominican Institute for Development, the Cigar Family Charitable Foundation and the Friends against Infantile Cancer Foundation. *For more information about the event, please visit the Chamber's website: or contact Elsa Turull administracion@britchamdr.com or tel. 001 809 616 2335.*



CHOCO: Colour and Rhythm from Cuba, 12 October to 9 November, The Chambers Gallery, 23 Long Lane, London, EC1A 9HL

In England, Cuban artist Choco is almost unknown. He is well-known on the Continent (in Spain, France, Greece, Switzerland) and in North and South America (in the USA, Mexico, Colombia, Puerto Rico). In Japan, he became the first non-Japanese to win First Prize at the Fourth Kochi International Triennial Exhibition 1999 (which received nearly 4,000 works from 1,500 artists around the world). In Spain he won First Prize at the Engravings Salon, Orense, and he has won many awards in his native Cuba. In the USA he is best-known in California, and his work has been acquired by (among others) Steven Spielberg and Robert Redford.

He will be travelling from Cuba to attend the opening of this exhibition at The Chambers Gallery – his first in the UK. The full range of his work will be on display (painting, engraving, mixed media and collography). *For further details please contact Evgenia Georgiadis evgeniag@chambersandpartners.co.uk or 0207 778 1600.*

Caribbean Council to moderate session at Caribbean Tourism Conference



David Jessop, Executive Director of the Caribbean Council, has been invited to moderate a panel at the Caribbean Tourism Organisation's thirtieth annual conference. The four day event, which will this year be held in Puerto Rico, is entitled 'The Next generation: Learning from the Past, Preparing for the Future.' He will moderate a panel on climate change and its impact on tourism. Speakers in the session are; Dr Daniel Scott from the University of Waterloo, Canada; Dr Ulric Trotz from the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, Belize; and Dr Barbara Ekwurzel from the Union of Concerned Scientists, USA. The conference takes place on 21-24 October. *For further details please see*

www.onecaribbean.org

International Meeting on Globalisation and Development problems, 3-7 March 2008, Havana

The tenth symposium looking at globalisation and development will take place in March 2008 bringing together economists, sociologists, political and other social scientists and representatives of regional and international organizations to look at alternative solutions for global development. The conference will cover a wide range of issues including: environment, the Millennium Goals, finance for development, multilateral trade negotiations and food and energy security. *More information is available on the website: <http://www.eleconomista.cubaweb.cu>; Alternatively contact anecnac@anec.co.cu or telephone (537) 209-2084, 209-3303, 204-5331.*

Other News: The UK Parliament returns from recess on Monday 9th October.