

Caribbean Council Newsletter

19 October 2007

Issue 52



Caribbean Council Chairman Calls on BVI Premier

John Bowers, Chairman of the Caribbean Council and head of Bowers Consulting called on Honourable Ralph T. O'Neal, OBE, Premier of the British Virgin Islands, in Tortola on 5 October.

The Caribbean Council has a long history of working with the BVI on a range of political and development issues. The Council's Chairman was delighted to have the opportunity to

meet with Mr O'Neal following his recent appointment as Premier of the territory following the success of the Virgin Islands Party in the recent elections (see Insight Vol 30 No 29.). *For further information about the Caribbean Council please see www.caribbean-council.org*

Cuba Initiative Seminar: The Labour Movement in Cuba and Economic Reform 24 October, London

Dr Steve Ludlam, Sheffield University, will lead a Cuba Initiative seminar looking at the role of trade unions and the labour movement in the future economic development of Cuba and their approach towards the current drive to find new efficiencies in the economy.

The Cuba Initiative seminar series is a monthly programme of events for members of the Cuba Initiative. *If you would like to find out more, please contact Chris Bennett chris.bennett@caribbean-council.org.*

CBBC Seminar: The Caribbean Overseas Territories in a changing world – what lies ahead? 20 November, Central London

Held jointly with the Institute for the Study of the Americas, this event will look at the practical issues facing the Overseas Territories (OTs) as they look ahead, both in terms of their political and economic futures, as well as other issues such as environmental security and the threat from increased levels of crime. The seminar will also assess the OTs relationships with a changing Caribbean region.

The event will be chaired by Lord Foulkes, the President of the CBBC and there will be presentations by the following:

- Peter Clegg, University of the West of England; (UK OTs)
- Gert Oostindie, KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies in Leiden; (Dutch Antilles)
- Justin Daniel, University of the French Antilles and French Guyane, Martinique; (French Antilles)

Following the evening event, there will be an informal drinks reception. Invitations to CBBC members will be sent out shortly. *For more information about the event, please contact Chris Bennett chris.bennett@caribbean-council.org.*

Special Rates available for Membership of the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) at the Commonwealth Club in London

The Caribbean Council has negotiated a reduced rate for membership of the RCS for members of the Caribbean-Britain Business Council, The Cuba Initiative and the Anglo Dominican Trade Council.

The Royal Commonwealth Society at the Commonwealth Club is located in the heart of London and provides one of the Capital's most distinctive and relaxed settings. Included in the member benefits package is; Use of its unique modern restaurant featuring Commonwealth and International cuisine; a members' lounge with bar, showers, cloakroom, and dining facilities; wireless broadband throughout the Club; private dining rooms, which can accommodate from 2 to 220 people; reduced rates on room hire and Day Delegate Rate; and invitations to exclusive events, including public affairs meetings, art exhibitions, as well as social and cultural evenings.



Individual membership is usually £260 per annum with a £120 entrance fee but CBBC / CI and DR members can join for £200 per annum with no entrance fee, making a saving of £180 against the first year's membership. Corporate discounts are also available. *For further queries or to arrange a private tour of the Commonwealth*

Club, please contact Ngina Pratt on Tel: 0207 766 9231 or Email: marketing@rcsint.org

Events Diary

24 October 2007

Cuba Initiative Seminar: The Labour Movement in Cuba and Economic Reform, London

5-10 November 2007

International Fair of Havana (FIHAV), Havana, Cuba

12-15 November 2007

World Travel Market, London

14 November 2007

Romancing Quisqueya – private view, London

20 November 2007

CBBC Seminar: The Caribbean Overseas Territories in a changing world – what lies ahead, London

3-7 March 2008

International Meeting on Globalisation and Development problems, Havana

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

This newsletter is sponsored by:



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.



Excellent Attendance at the Cuba Initiative Annual Reception at the House of Lords

The annual reception of the Cuba Initiative took place in the Cholmondeley Room and Terrace of the House of Lords on 9 October in London. The reception was hosted by the Cuba Initiative President, Lord Moynihan. Over 100 guests enjoyed Havana Club Rum Punch with canapés and a display of historic and modern Cuban photographs. One of the photographers, James Sparshatt, was on hand to discuss his work. The reception culminated in a prize draw. Lord Moynihan oversaw the proceedings, inviting various guests to draw tickets. The winner of the first prize of two return flights to Cuba with Virgin Atlantic and seven night's accommodation in Havana was Cuba Initiative member Phil Hedges from Pentol Enviro.



The Cuba Initiative would like to thank Standard Bank and Nectar Group for kindly sponsoring the reception. Also thanks to Havana Club, Havana Holdings, La Bodeguita del Medio, Virgin Atlantic and ExploreCuba.com for providing rum and prizes.

For more information about membership of the Cuba Initiative please contact Stephanie Whittle Stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org or visit the web site www.cuba-initiative.org.

Romancing Quisqueya -Private view- 14 November, London



Art du Monde will be exhibiting selected artists from the Dominican Republic at Art-Space galleries from the 12-18 November 2007. The exhibition composes impressive and striking works from five Dominican artists – Enriquillo R Amiama, Guillo Perez, Mayobanex Vargas, Amaya Salazar and Miguel Pineda.

There will be a private view on the evening of 14 November to which CBBC and Anglo Dominican Trade Council members are cordially invited to attend. It will take place from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at 18 Maddox Street, London, W1S 1PN. For more information about the



exhibition see www.art-dumonde.com. To confirm your attendance to the private viewing, please contact Monica Raful on email: monica.raful@codetel.net.do.

Caribbean Council Events

Following the re-development of the Caribbean Council web site (www.caribbean-council.org), the events page now details forthcoming events of the Caribbean Council, CBBC, Cuba Initiative and Anglo Dominican Trade Council alongside events being organized by other organisations. The site is updated regularly, providing users with a calendar of Caribbean focussed events in Europe and in the region. There is also a page with details of any past events for which reports are available. This includes the much requested reports from the UK Caribbean Business Forum in Trinidad, June 2007 and the Caribbean Investment Conference hosted by the British Government and organized by the Caribbean Council in 2006. *Anyone who would like to add a relevant event to the web listing should contact Stephanie Whittle Stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org.*

Caribbean-Britain Business Council Leadership Meeting with the Caribbean High Commissioners in London



The CBBC leadership met with the Caribbean High Commissioners in London on 15 October at the Bahamas High Commission. During the meeting there was a review of the UK Caribbean Business Forum on climate change organised by the CBBC and the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce in Trinidad & Tobago, in June 2007. This was followed by a discussion about the investment climate for UK investors in the Caribbean. An exchange took place on the possible subject matter and scope of the UK Caribbean government to government forum that will take place in London in 2008 and on the CBBC's forward programme of events. The meetings take place regularly to facilitate co-ordination between the CBBC and the Caribbean High Commissions in London in order to better work together to achieve mutual objectives.



World Travel Market: Caribbean Village Street Party, 17.30 – 20.00, 13 November, London

The Caribbean Tourism Organisation, in collaboration with a number of partners from the Caribbean Tourism Industry, will once again be hosting its Caribbean Street Party. The party will take place at the Excel exhibition centre in London during World Travel Market. Performing live will be "Elakru", a Soca band from Antigua & Barbuda. Only Meridian Club members and exhibitors can gain access to the event on 13 November. The party will take place on stand number CA 6500. For more information about World Travel Market, please see www.wtmlondon.com.