Caribbean Council Newsletter

19 September 2008
Issue 72

The Caribbean Council
your window to the Caribbean

CBBC to accompany Minister to EPA signing

The EU and Caribbean (CARICOM plus Dominican Republic) have now agreed to sign an Economic Partnership Agreement which will structure the trade relationship between the two regions for the coming decades. The signing ceremony will take place in Barbados in mid-October and the British Minister for Trade and Development, Gareth Thomas (pictured), will be attending to sign on behalf of the British Government. A small delegation of CBBC members, led by David Jessop, will accompany the Minister to the signing event.

For more information, please contact Chris Bennett Chris.bennett@caribbean-council.org

Social Partnership Project

The Caribbean Council, in partnership with the Caribbean Policy and Research Institute (CaPRI), has launched a project that will look at how social partnership models such as the one used to transform the economy of the Republic of Ireland might have relevance in the Caribbean.

The first phase of the project is a research study to be undertaken by CaPRI that will identify the conditions needed to successfully employ a social partnership to accelerate its growth and development. The second stage will be a lecture tour in the first instance in Jamaica by Mr Paul Haran (pictured), Principal of the Business and Law School, University College, Dublin, and one of the individuals responsible for the design and implementation of the policies that led to the dramatic changes in the Irish economy. The visit will take place from 13-20 November 2008.

De La Rue Currency and **Virgin Atlantic** are both supporting the project in their capacity as the project's business partners. The programme is also supported by DfID. More details about the visit programme will be released as they are available.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the benefits of being associated with this exciting and high profile project should contact Stephanie Whittle Stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org.

Hurricane Appeal

Thousands of Red Cross volunteers are working around the clock to help hundreds of thousands of people affected by the hurricanes in the Caribbean. They are distributing tarpaulins and sandbags to vulnerable communities, and food, clothing, cooking utensils, hygiene items and bedding to those staying in shelters.

The British Red Cross has donated £170,000 from its Disaster Fund. Much more is needed, though, to help families who have lost everything, so the Red Cross has launched a Hurricane Appeal to assist those people in the Bahamas, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica and the Turks and Caicos islands.

Anyone who would like to make a donation should visit www.redcross.org.uk/news.asp?id=85426

The Caribbean and Latin America – Closening Ties? 9 October, London

The CBBC and Canning House will be hosting a joint event in London on the afternoon of 9 October to look at the evolving relationship between the Caribbean and Latin America. Confirmed speakers include the Head of the South America Team of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Simon Harkin; writer and academic on Haiti, Peter Hallward; and Victor Bulmer-Thomas (pictured), former Director of Chatham House.

Invitations to the event will be sent out to members over the next few days or members can contact Chris Bennett

Events Diary

7-10 October, 2008
Tobago Gas Technology Conference 2008:"Next Generation Energy Technology", VHL Tobago Golf and Spa, Lowlands, Tobago

14-17 October, 2008
International Congress on Sugar and Sugarcane by-products, National Hotel, Havana

18 October, 2008
Anglo Latin American Fiesta, For the Children of Latin America, Kensington Town Hall, London

22-26 October, 2008
Tecdo, 2008 Dominican Republic Trade Fair on Outsourcing and Technology, Dominican Republic

27-31 October, 2008
FCCA 15th annual cruise conference & trade show, Hyatt Regency, Trinidad and Tobago

3-8 November, 2008
Havana International Fair (FIHAV), EXPOCUBA Fairgrounds, Havana

9-13 February, 2009
3rd International E-Commerce Workshop, Havana, Cuba

For information on any of the above events please contact Eileen Molloy admin@caribbeancouncil.org

This newsletter is sponsored by:

Virgin atlantic

In 2008, Virgin Atlantic celebrates 10 years of flying to the Caribbean. In this time it has become the largest scheduled airline between Europe and the Caribbean, carrying 735,000 passengers on its ten Caribbean routes last year. Virgin Atlantic's initial services to Barbados, St Lucia and Antigua have been supplemented by Grenada, Tobago, Havana, Montego Bay and Kingston flights from London Gatwick, and by Barbados and St Lucia flights from Manchester.

For more details and to make bookings, please visit www.virgin-atlantic.com.

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Chris.bennett@caribbean-council.org for further information.

Dr Lawson Nurse Memorial Lecture

David Jessop, Executive Director of the Caribbean Council, delivered the second Dr Lawson Nurse memorial lecture in Barbados on 16 September. The lecture, which attracted a capacity crowd of some 300 guests from Government, opposition, the private sector, academia and civil society, took place at the Errol Barrow centre at the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus and was entitled "Developing Countries and Trade Agreements - The real beneficiaries." The lecture, which principally focussed on EPA implementation, was sponsored by the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation and the Barbados Private sector Trade team. *Anyone who would like a copy of the lecture text should contact Stephanie Whittle* *stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org*

Cuba Initiative Chairman to Visit Havana

Ian Taylor MP will visit Cuba in November for a series of meetings in Havana with his Cuban counterpart, Ricardo Cabrisas, who as Minister of State in the Cuban Presidency is also Chair of the Cuban side of the Initiative. The visit will be Ian's first since taking over as Chairman of the Cuba Initiative earlier this year. It is hoped that he will then lead a trade mission to Havana in 2009.
For more information about the Cuba Initiative please contact Stephanie Whittle Stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org

The Bahamas International Maritime Conference and Trade Show 18-21 November 2008, Grand Bahama Island

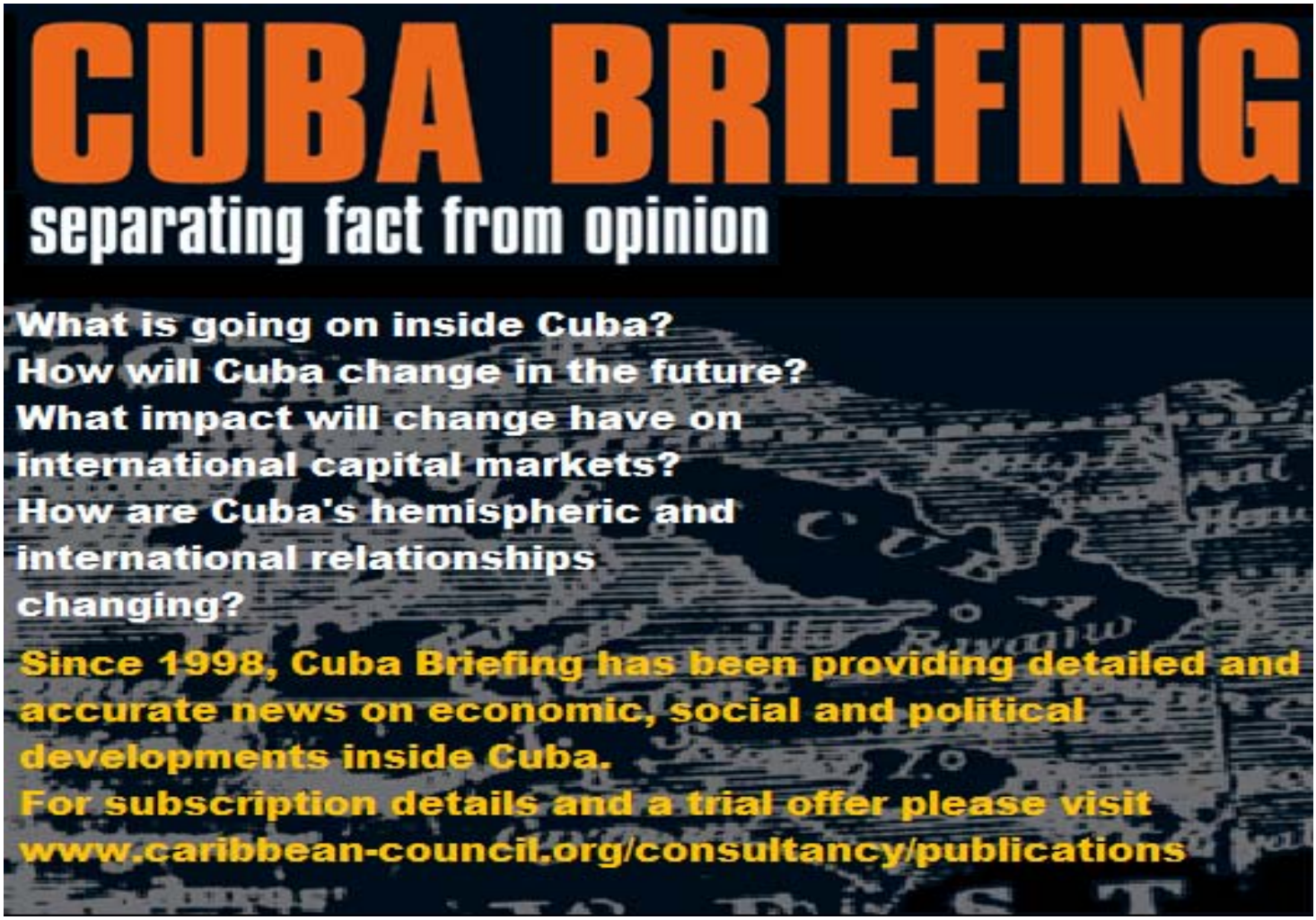
The theme of this year's conference and trade show is "Opportunities in Trade & Maritime Services." It is a joint private-public sector initiative which will serve as a platform for showcasing the multiple facets of the country's Maritime Industry. In particular the conference relates to trans-shipment, trade, ship ownership, registry services and ship repair; as well as other areas of maritime and financial services. *For further details please visit* *www.bahamasmaritimeconference.com*

Caribbean Marketplace 18-20 January 2009 St Lucia

Caribbean Marketplace is the premier marketing event of the Caribbean hospitality industry. It encompasses two days of business meetings that match buyers and suppliers through a computerized program of appointments.

The business appointments set the tone of vacation packaging over the next year.

For more information about Marketplace please visit *www.caribbeanhotelassociation.com*



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