

Caribbean Council Newsletter

20 March 2009

Issue 83



your window to the Caribbean



CBBC Event: Hon. David Thompson MP, Prime Minister of Barbados

7 April, 2009, London

The CBBC are hosting an event on Tuesday 7 April at which the Prime Minister of Barbados, David Thompson MP (*pictured*), has kindly agreed to speak on the subject of the Caribbean response to the global economic crisis.

Prime Minister Thompson took office in Barbados in March 2008, leading the Democratic Labour Party to victory for the first time in 14 years. In addition to his role as Prime Minister, Mr Thompson also has ministerial responsibility for the portfolios of Finance, Economic Affairs and Development, Labour, the Civil Service and Energy.

At the meeting Prime Minister Thompson will speak about the challenges which the Caribbean faces as a whole and how he believes Barbados, together with its Caribbean partners, needs to respond in order to guide the region through the uncharted waters ahead. The event is being co-organised with Canning House and will be chaired by Lord Garel-Jones, Vice-President of Canning House. Following the event, there will be an opportunity to meet the Prime Minister and network with other guests over coffee.

All members of the CBBC will already have received an invitation to this event; however, it is open to non-members subject to availability. If you would like to attend, please contact Chris Bennett Chris.bennett@caribbean-council.org or telephone 020 7235 9484.

This event has been made possible with the kind support of:



Caribbean Council Dinner event with the Prime Minister of Barbados for Premier Members

The Caribbean Council and the CBBC are organising a separate private dinner event for premier members and guests with the Prime Minister. Premier members should have received an invitation via email and should confirm attendance with Chris Bennett Chris.bennett@caribbean-council.org

Caribbean Council welcomes British Caribbean Bank, Jamaica Trade and Invest and Eastern Caribbean Investment Corporation as Business Partners for the Annual Reception

21 April, 2009, House of Lords, London

The Caribbean Council is delighted to welcome BCB, JTI and ECIC as business partners for this year's annual reception. In addition to its business partners, the reception also has a number of supporting sponsors. The reception has been growing in size since its inauguration in 2004, and now attracts over 200 guests from the public and private sector. This enjoyable networking event is arguably the biggest Caribbean focussed event of its kind in the UK. It has always attracted high calibre speakers, and 2009 is no exception. Guest speakers confirmed are Gillian Merron MP, British Minister with responsibility for the Caribbean in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Edmund Bartlett MP, Minister of Tourism for Jamaica.

Besides the excellent speakers, the rum punch, and being an outstanding networking opportunity, the free prize draw that takes place always attracts a lot of interest. This year the prize is a holiday for two to Jamaica as the star prize along with another prize of a holiday for two to Cuba. In addition to these prizes there are a number of other prizes including Caribbean rum and dinner for two.

The reception is for members of the CBBC, Cuba Initiative and Anglo Dominican Trade Council along with selected invited guests. There are a limited number of tickets available at a cost of £100, but any non members are invited to join to receive a free ticket and all of the other associated benefits of membership, including subscription to our publications. For more information about membership please contact Stephanie Whittle stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org.

Events Diary

18-29 March, 2009
UKTI London Trade Visit to the Caribbean

24-26 March, 2009
Round Table Meeting on Sustainable Cocoa, Trinidad and Tobago

25 March, 2009
Damning the Flood: Haiti, Aristide and the Politics of Containment, London

26 March, 2009
Book Launch: The Cuba Wars, Daniel P Erikson, London

14-16 April, 2009
Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Investment Conference, Bermuda

17-18 April, 2009
Fifth Summit of the Americas

21 April, 2009
Reception, House of Lords, London

22 April, 2009
The Caribbean EU EPA: A Model Agreement? London

19 June, 2009
Canada and the Cuban Revolution, London

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

This newsletter is sponsored by:



In 2009, Virgin Atlantic celebrates 25 years of flying. In this time it has become the largest scheduled airline between Europe and the Caribbean, carrying 825,000 passengers on its ten Caribbean routes last year.

Virgin Atlantic flies to Antigua, Barbados, Grenada, Havana, Kingston, Montego Bay, St Lucia and Tobago from London Gatwick and to Barbados and St Lucia from Manchester.

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

Although three business partner packages have been allocated, one is still available, along with a limited number of supporting sponsor packages. Anyone who would like to reserve the remaining places should contact Stephanie Whittle as soon as possible stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org.

Caribbean Council Annual Reception Business Partners:



Supporting Sponsors:



Prize Donors:



Implementing the EU-CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement

The Caribbean Council is organising a one day conference that will focus on implementing the EPA. During the event, which will be scheduled to take place in Kingston in May, speakers and participants will explore national and regional initiatives for EPA implementation and how the Caribbean public and private sector can ensure that they take maximum advantage from the opportunities that the EPA provides. A number of business partnership packages will be available for UK and Caribbean companies to be associated with the conference. Anyone who would like more information about sponsorship opportunities should contact Stephanie Whittle stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org.

CBBC Meeting with Caribbean High Commissioners

The CBBC leadership will convene its next meeting with the Caribbean High Commissioners in London on 31 March 2009. The meetings provide an opportunity for the CBBC to discuss with the High Commissioners issues of mutual interest. Any members who have issues they would like to include on the agenda should contact Stephanie Whittle stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org.



The Caribbean-EU EPA: A Model Agreement?

1pm - 5pm, 22 April, 2009, The Commonwealth Club, London

This conference will assess the nature of the Caribbean-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and the 6 year diplomatic negotiation process behind the final agreement. Speakers will explore its implications for other ACP members in Africa and the Pacific, currently negotiating similar deals with the EU.

Speakers will include:

- David O'Sullivan (*pictured*), the European Commission's Director-General of Trade
- Henry Gill, Director-General of the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery
- Ransford Smith, Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General
- David Jessop, Executive Director of the Caribbean Council

This event has been organised by the Royal Commonwealth Society and the Political Studies Association with support from the Caribbean Council.

Refreshments kindly sponsored by [Jamaica National](http://www.jamaicanational.com). To book a place on the event please visit www.thercs.org/events

Damming the Flood: Haiti, Aristide and the Politics of Containment

5 pm, 25 March, 2009, Institute for the Study of the Americas, London

In this seminar, Peter Hallward (Middlesex University) and Paul Sutton (London Metropolitan University) will debate Peter Hallward's book, "Damming the Flood: Haiti, Aristide and the Politics of Containment".

This event is jointly organised by the Institute for the Study of the Americas and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. It will be followed by a reception. For more information please contact Kate Quinn kate.quinn@sas.ac.uk or Mary Turner mary.turner@sas.ac.uk

Book launch: The Cuba Wars, by Daniel P. Erikson, Senior Associate for U.S. policy at the Inter-American Dialogue

1.30 pm, 26 March, 2009 Canning House, London

There will be a panel discussion chaired by Professor Jean Stubbs, Editor of the International Journal of Cuban Studies with Ms Emily Morris, Research Director the International Institute for the Study of Cuba. Signed copies of the book will be available to purchase. This event has been organised by Canning House and the International Institute for the Study of Cuba. FCO, Ambassadors or delegates and up to 5 full-time students may attend this event free of charge. Please register for the event using the following link: <http://www.canninghouse.com/content/event/119>



Kim Marie Spence of CaPRI selected for Commonwealth Women's Trek to South Pole

Kim Marie Spence (*pictured*), a Jamaican National who has worked with the Caribbean Council, most recently on the Social Partnership Study lead by the Caribbean Policy and Research Institute (CaPRI), a part of the University of the West Indies, has been selected to be one of eight women from the Commonwealth who will make a self supporting journey to ski to the South Pole in 2009/2010. Kim Marie will be the first Jamaican National to make the journey to the South Pole, and is doing so as part of a multi-cultural and multi faith team including members from Brunei and Ghana amongst others.

The expedition has at its heart a single goal – to inspire women to reach beyond the expectations of others. Therefore the team will travel with hi-tech equipment that will enable them to keep in touch with the world as they progress towards the South Pole. On their return, the expedition team will undertake a carefully co-ordinated programme of lectures and school talks to share their experiences directly with the public.

In order for Kim Marie to participate in the Trek she must raise funds from Corporate Partners. Anyone interested in the opportunities for corporate sponsorship should either contact Kim Marie directly jamaica@commonwealthexpedition.com or Stephanie Whittle Stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org