



The Economic Crisis in Cuba 29 September 2009, Canning House, London

Speaker: Emily Morris, author of the Economist Intelligence Unit's Cuba reports and Associate at the International Institute for the Study of Cuba

Chairman: David Jessop, Director of the Cuba Initiative



Cuba is currently suffering its most serious economic crisis since the 'special period' of the 1990's. Well documented in Cuba Briefing and in some specialist media, the Cuban Government has blamed the sharp decline in Cuban growth on the global economic crisis and continuing inefficiencies in its economic system.

The crisis, which has created a balance of payments and liquidity crisis and the imposition of wide ranging austerity measures, has negatively impacted on some foreign companies operating in Cuba, with reports of many cases where foreign companies have been unable to withdraw funds from their Cuban accounts.

All of this is happening at a time when the expectations of the Cuban people about a changed relationship with the US are high and the US has begun to progressively engage in a dialogue on functional co-operation with Cuba. It is also happening as US travel restrictions have all but been lifted on Cuban Americans and there is pressure in Congress to remove the overall travel ban on US citizens completely.

In this seminar, Emily Morris will provide an economic analysis of what has brought Cuba to its current economic crisis and will share her thoughts about the future economic outlook for the island. David Jessop will support Emily's economic analysis with a more general overview of the context of the current situation in Cuba and the US.

This seminar will provide an invaluable opportunity to gain an insight in to the economic crisis and to understand the impact on change in both Cuban and US policy that it is likely to have.

This is a closed event for members of the Cuba Initiative and corporate members of Canning House. It is free of charge and will take place under Chatham House rules. The event will be followed by an informal reception with rum kindly provided by Havana Club.

To find out more about membership of the Cuba Initiative or to book your place at the event (members only) please contact Stephanie Whittle stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org



Special Discounts Available for the Commonwealth Business Forum 23-26 November, 2009, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

The Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF) is the key private sector event associated with the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). The CBF adds a significant business and economic dimension to CHOGM and will be attended by some 800 business and community leaders from 40 different countries. The theme of this year's forum is "Partnering for More Equitable and Sustainable Future – the Commonwealth and the Americas".

This year is the 60th anniversary of the modern Commonwealth. The CBF provides a platform to promote practical ways to enhance trade and investment, to build new business partnerships, and to contribute to key policy recommendations presented to CHOGM.

The four day programme features over one hundred speakers, and includes a number of Heads of Government and Ministers from the Commonwealth. Confirmed Caribbean heads include Hon Tillman Thomas, Prime Minister of Grenada, Hon Patrick Manning, Prime

Events Diary

15-17 September, 2009
Regional Workshop on Intellectual Property, Barbados

23 September, 2009
Regional Audi Visual workshop, Martinique

29 September, 2009
The Economic Crisis in Cuba, London

5 October, 2009
Cultura y Cubania Festival Launch, London

15 October, 2009
IPA/EDA Networking Event, Jamaica High Commission, London

16-20 November, 2009
Trade Mission to Jamaica

23-26 November, 2009
Commonwealth Business Forum, Port of Spain, Trinidad

4-6 May, 2010
Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Investment Conference, Puerto Rico

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

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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.

Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Hon Bruce Golding, Prime Minister of Jamaica, and Hon David Thompson, Prime Minister of Barbados. HE Kamalsh Sharma, Commonwealth Secretary General, will also be present.

Prof. Joseph Stiglitz, 2001 Nobel Prize Laureate and author of "Globalization and Its Discontents", "Rethinking the East Asia Miracle" and the "Economics of the Public Sector", along with many other high profile speakers from the private sector, will speak at the forum, which will take place on a cruise liner in Port of Spain.

Energy, technology, the new global financial sector, climate change and skills challenges are some of the key themes to be explored at CBF, with the programme featuring a mixture of plenary and interactive sessions focussed on trade and investment, along with two high profile gala dinners and a lunch gala on the final day. The programme includes a session entitled "Caribbean: A Place to do Business". There is also the opportunity to participate in the B2B Project Exchange Centre, offering an opportunity to meet with investors and discuss investment and tender proposals, as well as key site visits on 27 November.

The CBF is especially designed for those with an interest in practical networking at the highest level and who are looking to access finance, business insights, and new markets to improve business competitiveness.

Conference packages start from US\$2,600, including accommodation and meals. A discount of US\$400 is available for those booking before 15 September, and those quoting the Caribbean Council will receive an additional US\$50 discount – using the promotional code CBF09CARICOUNCIL. Discounts with airlines are also available, and include up to 20% off Virgin Atlantic and British Airways amongst others (contact the organizers for further information). To see a copy of the latest programme and to book your place, please click the links below. For further information please contact Vasundhara Puri +44 (0)20 7024 8220 or vasundhara.puri@cbcglobal.org

http://www.cbcglobal.org/CBCG_Library/CBF%20Brochure.pdf

http://www.cbcglobal.org/CBCG_Library/CBF%20Booking%20Form.pdf



Trade and Investment Mission to Jamaica 16-20 November, 2009

Jamaica Trade and Invest is organising a highly specialized trade and investment mission to Jamaica between Monday 16 November and Friday 20 November 2009.

The mission will focus on:

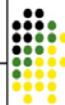
- European companies taking advantage of free trade in the Caribbean Single Market Economy (CSME) by establishing trade offices in Jamaica or distribution agreements with Jamaican companies with a view to providing your goods or services to the Caribbean Single Market Economy.
- European companies manufacturing or assembling goods in Jamaica at reduced operational costs (relative to the EU) and exporting those goods to the EU duty free, pursuant to the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).
- Reducing the operating costs of European companies by outsourcing back office services to Jamaica, which is the leading provider of business process outsourcing services in the English speaking Caribbean.
- Public/private partnerships for infrastructure projects.
- Investments in hotel and tourism attraction developments.
- Investments in agricultural and agro-processing projects.
- Creative Industries: music (networking with stakeholders in the Jamaican music industry) and Film (location scouting, networking with Jamaican film production companies, etc.).
- Maritime Industry: ship registration and investments in the provision of maritime services.
- Renewable energy: investments in wind-fields, and assembly of solar electric generators for sale in the CSME.

Discounted flights are available with British Airways for £155 return in economy or £550 return in World Traveller Plus. The mission hotel will be the Courtleigh, with a special room rates available at \$115 US Single and \$125 US double plus tax.

Besides group networking opportunities and meetings, each participant will be provided with a specialised meeting programme tailored to their requirements. *For more information about the mission please contact Laurence Jones, Regional Manager of JTI's European Office on +44(0)207 584 8894 or at ljones@jti.org.jm*

Supporting Partners

Jamaica Enterprise Network-UK



Floella Benjamin to Run Great North Run for Barnardo's

To celebrate her 60th birthday, Floella Benjamin (pictured), Trinidad born UK broadcaster and great friend of the Caribbean, is running the Great North Run on 20 September. Floella is running to raise funds for the children's charity Barnardo's on Sunday 20 September. Anyone who would like to support Floella can visit

<http://www.justgiving.com/Floella-BenjaminGreatNorthRun>



Senator Sir John Stanley Goddard

Tributes have been paid to businessman and Senator Sir John Stanley Goddard (pictured), who died on 16 August at the age of 77 years, after a brief illness. Prime Minister David Thompson described the former head of family-owned Goddard Enterprises Limited as "a voice of reason and a very stabilising influence in the corporate sector, in the area of social policy, even in politics. His wise counsel will be missed". These sentiments were echoed by Opposition leader Mia Mottley and Deputy President of the Senate Kerryann Ifill. Sir John was one of the founders of the Caribbean Council. As such, Sir John was one of a small number of leading and far sighted Caribbean businessmen who saw the need to ensure that the private sector in the region should support financially and through participation the creation of such organisations. In part, his vision was of Caribbean's business leaders helping to ensure that the

region became fully engaged in a dialogue in Europe and North America on trade economic and sometimes political issues, through much stronger external links. In this way be believed that the region might develop a truly international outlook and prepare for globalisation. Along with his five children, Sir John leaves his wife, Katherine, 16 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Discounted Prices for Two Photo Books of Cuba

Two beautiful and lavish photography books by Cuba Initiative member Clive Frost are published in October. Text and captions are in both English and Spanish.

CUBA Cubanasy Cubanos involved extensive travels throughout this beguiling country, photographing formally and informally, in meeting places, places of work and leisure, public spaces, domestic surroundings, in country fields and city streets and squares, some of the people, both as individuals and as members of groups and organisations, who make up Cuban society in the 21st century.

Atados al Mar is a photographic study of the 87 buildings on the seafront overlooking the famous Malecon in Havana. The photographs were taken in 2007/2008 as the restoration work to rescue some of the historical architecture was starting and new 21st century designs were being constructed on the avenue. The Government of Centro Habana and the Office of the Historian of the City have since decided that 28 of the 87 buildings shown in this book are beyond repair and will be demolished. *Atados al Mar* is a final record of a past era in the history of the Malecon as it rebuilds for a new future.

Clive Frost is offering a special pre-publication order price on *CUBA Cubanasy Cubanos* (£35) and *Atados al Mar* (£25). To preview and order the books and order the books please visit www.thepicture.co.uk



CBBC Members Invited to London IPA/EDA networking event

6 pm – 8.30 pm, 15 October, 2009, Jamaica High Commission, London

CBBC members are invited to attend a London IPA/EDA networking event that will be hosted by Jamaica Trade and Invest and Oxford Intelligence at the High Commission of Jamaica in London on 15 October.

The event will be a chance to meet and exchange ideas with investment and trade promotion professionals based in London representing countries around the world. The High Commissioner, His Excellency the Honourable Burchell Whiteman will say a few words, and Laurence Jones, Trade Commissioner at Jamaica Trade and Invest will give an update on their activities. Peter Lemagnen, MD of Oxford Intelligence will give a short speech about the tools and techniques agencies are using to overcome the current challenges of selling to key investment targets.

Any members interested in attending should contact Stephanie Whittle stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org



Cultura y Cubania Festival Launch 6.30 pm, 5 October, 2009, Canning House, London

Cultura y Cubania is a week-long cultural event celebrating the richness of Cuban culture in the UK, as part of the celebrations of Black History Month 2009 and in collaboration with Canning House.

This event marks the launch of the Festival and the Photographic Exhibition 'A Few Streets, A Few People / Pocas Calles, Pocas Personas' by artist John Comino-James, with music from award-winning Cuban guitarist Ahmed Dickinson and dance from members of London's newest Cuban dance company CubanaDanza.

Entrance is free but limited places are available so should be reserved.

This event is organised in collaboration with Cubacheche & Ola Latina, organisers of the festival Cultura y Cubania. For more information please visit www.culturaycubania.com

New Ferry Service for Barbados, St Vincent, St Lucia, Grenada & Trinidad

Commencing October 2009 a new ferry service will be available from Barbados to neighbouring Caribbean islands. The new routes which are to be operated by Grenada based BEDY Ocean Line will offer 2 services. One route will operate from St Vincent and stop at Barbados and St Lucia. The second route will operate from Grenada and stop at Trinidad and Barbados. In Grenada's case, it will be implemented as of February 2010.

The announcement was made by the CEO of BEDY Ocean Line, Benjamin Ross, who stated that fares from Barbados would be in the range of \$120 to \$140 US per round trip including taxes, and the expected journey time would be 4 to 5 hours depending on the route. The company had originally planned to launch the service in July, but had to delay the service to facilitate a second ferry. This has resulted in one ferry making St. Vincent its home and will service the St. Vincent to Barbados and St. Lucia routes, while the second ferry will be based in Grenada and will service the Grenada to Trinidad and Barbados route. The seating capacity per boat will be 260 and 300, respectively. The company hopes that very soon into the operation, other neighbouring countries will be added.

Regional Workshop on Certain Topical Issues in Regard to Intellectual Property for Countries of the Caribbean
15-17 September, 2009, Grand Barbados Beach Resort, Barbados

Subregional Training Workshop on International Trade Negotiations, Free Trade Agreements and the Decent Work Agenda, 16-18 September, 2009, Trinidad and Tobago

The ILO Office of Trade Negotiations of the CARICOM Secretariat will be hosting a Subregional Training Workshop on International Trade Negotiations, Free Trade Agreements and the Decent Work Agenda

Regional Audio Visual Association Meeting, 23 September, 2009, Martinique

Regional Audio Visual Association Meeting will be held on 23 September, 2009 in MARTINIQUE. For further information contact Ms Tonika Sealy, Caribbean Export Development Agency +1 (809) 531-2411 or tsealy@carib-export.com.

4th Meeting of the CARIFORUM/FCOR/OCT Task Force on Trade and Investment, 25 September, 2009, Martinique

4th Meeting of the CARIFORUM/FCOR/OCT Task Force on Trade and Investment is scheduled for September 25, 2009 in Martinique. For further information contact: Escipi3n J. Oliveira, Manager, Special Projects, Caribbean Export Development Agency +1(246) 436-0578 or eooliveira@carib-export.com

Guyana Trade & Investment Exposition: GuyExpo 2009

24 – 29 September, 2009, National Exhibition Centre, Sophia, Georgetown, Guyana

An annual event attracting some 350 exhibitors as well as overseas buyers and investors from CARICOM, Latin America, The UK, USA and India, amongst others. On display will be a range of products from various sectors including agro-processing, bamboo furniture, mining and information technology. CBBC members wishing to attend the Expo should contact the Guyana High Commission in London for assistance with preferential hotel rates.

For further information please contact Ms. Uchenna Gibson on (592) 227 0653 or at goinvest@goinvest.gov.gy

EPA Workshop and Services Mission the French Caribbean Outermost Region

23 – 24 September, 2009, Martinique

For further information visit www.carib-export.com or contact Carlos Wharton, Caribbean Export Development Agency on (24) 436-0578 or at cwharton@carib-export.com



Jamaica Basic Schools Foundation Annual Gala Charity Ball
7 November 2009, Hilton London Metropole, London

Patrons in attendance: *The High Commissioner of Jamaica, Lord Morris of Handsworth, John Barnes MBE & Courtney Walsh OJ*

Entertainment: Marcia Griffiths supported by Ruff Cutt Band & David Rodigan and King Tubbys

Tickets: £90.00

Dress Code: Black Tie/Evening Gown

Reception at 7pm, Dinner at 8pm, Carriages at 3am

For More information contact: *Po Box 19807 London SE25 5WA, Tel/fax 0208 4061914, jbsfuk@hotmail.com*

Cultural and Sporting Events in the Region (September and October)

15 August – 15 Nov.	Curacao Culture, Cuisine and heritage Experience, Curacao
13-21 September	Curacao Culture Week, Curacao
19 September	St Kitts Independence Day
19-20 September	Bermuda Cycling Grand Prix, Bermuda
19-20 September	European Days of Heritage, Guadeloupe
19 September	Coastal Clean Up, St Maarten
21-28 September	Tourism Week, Curacao
22 September	Eid-UI-Fitr, Trinidad and Tobago
23-27 September	Piano Festival, Aruba www.arubapianofestival.com
24-29 September	Guyexpo 2009, Guyana
1-30 September	Amerindians Month, Guyana
1-30 September	Dance Festival Month, St Vincent and the Grenadines
September	Wine and Food Festival, Jamaica
2-4 October	Surifair 2009, Suriname
3-4 October	Antigua Sunsplash Beach Volleyball Tour, Antigua www.sizzlinsand.com
4-10 October	International Sailing Regatta, Bonaire
4 October	Fashion Week, Dominican Republic
7-10 October	Music festival, Bermuda
7-11 October	Taste of Barbados, Barbados
9-10 October	10th annual SVG Blues & Rhythms Festival, St Vincent and the Grenadines
10 October	Music festival, Aruba
10-14 October	Cricket Classics Festival, Grenada
27 October	30th Anniversary Independence Day, St Vincent and the Grenadines
31 October	15th Annual Montserrat Fishing Tournament, Montserrat
October	"Jubilation" 6th Annual World Gospel Festival, Antigua and Barbuda

(List compiled from liat.com and onecaribbean.org)