



Participating In Cuba's Energy Revolution: A Cuba Initiative Seminar for the UK Energy Sector

In the first event of its kind, former UK Energy Minister, Rt. Hon Brian Wilson, led a delegation to Cuba of UK companies specialising in renewable energy and oil and gas technologies and services. The two day event, which was organised by the Cuba Initiative, was hosted by the Ministry of Basic Industries in Havana. UK delegates were able to hear presentations from senior figures from the energy sector in the Cuban Government and state companies about the current priorities for Cuba and the opportunities which exist for foreign involvement and investment.

In the evening, the 22 British delegates were able to network more informally with the over 50 Cuban participants in a networking reception kindly hosted by the British Ambassador to Cuba, HE Dianna Melrose.

The event was a resounding success and pointed to great possibilities for an enhanced relationship between UK companies in the energy sector and their Cuban counterparts. Particular areas of opportunity were identified in the areas of biomass, waste to energy, oil and gas exploration, wind, wave and tidal energy.



The Initiative will be following up the event in 2010 with a second seminar to take place in the UK and companies wanting more information about this or more generally about the opportunities which exist in Cuba in the energy sector should please contact Chris Bennett Chris.bennett@caribbean-council.org for more information.



Cuba Initiative round table discussion with Professor Hal Klepak

Members of the Cuba Initiative participated in a round table discussion with Professor Hal Klepak on 2 December in London. The discussion centred on the role of the Cuban military in Cuba's future development. Hal Klepak (pictured) is Professor Emeritus of History and Strategy at the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, Ontario and is currently living in Cuba working on a book on Raúl Castro. Dr Klepak is special adviser to the commander of the Canadian Army on Latin American strategic issues and has held similar positions with both the defence and foreign ministers of Canada. Professor Klepak publishes widely on Latin American security and diplomatic matters. His most recent book had as title *Cuba's Military 1990-2005: Revolutionary Soldiers in Counter-revolutionary Times*, published by Palgrave/Macmillan in late 2005.

Dr Klepak provided members with an invaluable insight into his perspective of the Raul Castro government and the role of Cuba's military.

For more information about membership of the Cuba Initiative please contact Stephanie Whittle stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org.



CBBC Premier and Corporate Members Meet with Baroness Kinnock

On 16 November, the Caribbean Britain Business Council had its first meeting with Baroness Glenys Kinnock (pictured), the new Minister in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with responsibility for the Caribbean. Amongst the range of issues discussed during the meeting were the economic outlook for the region, stability, climate change, air passenger duty, and UK government support for the region. It is hoped that a follow up meeting will be convened in early 2010.

For more information about membership of the CBBC please contact Stephanie Whittle stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org

Events Diary

22-25 Feb, 2010
UKTI Aid Funded Business Services trade mission to the Caribbean Development Bank, Barbados

28 Feb – 10 March, 2010
UKTI Trade Mission to the Caribbean

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

9-10 April, 2010
SLAS Conference, Bristol

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

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

Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Investment Conference 2-6 May, 2010, Puerto Rico

The Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association and the Caribbean Tourism Organization will be hosting the 14th Annual Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Investment Conference (CHTIC) in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from May 4-6, 2010. Enjoying broad support and endorsement from Caribbean governments, hotel associations, hoteliers and developers, CHTIC is the leading forum for communication, networking and deal-making for the hospitality and tourism investment community in the Caribbean region.

The format for the 2010 program will provide delegates with the opportunity to network with the key decision makers, featuring additional networking opportunities supported by significantly enhanced programming.

Delegates will be able to choose among a wide variety of Breakout Sessions, Development Track Workshops and Plenary Sessions in which leading experts will provide information on the outlook for investment in the region, new trends and opportunities, and solutions to challenges in development and ownership.

The conference is aimed at investors, hotel owners, lenders, hotel chain executives, developers, financial advisors, mortgage brokers, real estate agents, lawyers, designers, architects, tourism officials, timeshare developers and government officials.

While many have been sold, some sponsorship opportunities are still available and anyone interested in finding out more about the benefits of sponsorship should contact Gabi Doria gabi@caribbeanhotelandtourism.com.

For more information about the event, including an attendance list from last year, please visit <http://caribbeanhotelandtourism.com/InvestmentConference.php>



Development & Inequality in the Contemporary Caribbean Society for Latin American Studies Annual Conference 9-10 April, 2010, University of Bristol

Caribbean societies have not escaped the effects of the global financial crisis. Circumstances of territorial and demographic scale, insularity and enduring relations of dependency make the region particularly exposed to the economic, political and social effects of the international downturn. Across the region, governments face a combination of decreasing investment, tax revenue, exports, remittances and income from tourism, matched by increased indebtedness. Many Caribbean countries 'are now the most indebted in the world' (Clegg 2009).

The political and social consequences of the current economic situation are manifold. Within the last couple of years, many Caribbean societies have witnessed civil protests over everyday living conditions: food riots in Haiti led to the resignation of the prime minister, while general strikes and demonstrations over low wages and the high price of basic commodities in Guadeloupe and Martinique exposed deep racialised and class disparities in the French Caribbean territories.

This panel will explore the many implications for the Caribbean (economic, political, social and cultural) of the current economic crisis, examining the responses of governments and citizens alike.

Papers from across the humanities and social sciences are welcomed - including those on the social and cultural dimensions of the current crisis. Anyone wishing to submit a paper should submit a 200-word abstract for paper proposals to kate.quinn@sas.ac.uk and david.howard@ed.ac.uk by 15th December, 2009, including affiliation and contact details.



UKTI Trade Mission: Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and Jamaica 28 February – 10 March, 2010

UKTI London is organising a trade mission to Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and Jamaica in early 2010. The mission package price is £1,100 per person and includes market visit support, flights and hotels. The package includes briefing meetings with British High Commissioners; drop in sessions and one to one meetings. Those who take out Overseas Market Intelligence Services (OMIS) reports will be provided with 9 or 15 prearranged meetings for a cost of £980 or £1,470 respectively.

For further information please contact Elaine Cameron elainecameron@uktilondon.org.uk



Caribbean Diaspora raising funds following the St Jude Hospital Fire in St Lucia

On 9 September 2009, the St Jude Hospital in Vieux Fort - Saint Lucia suffered extensive damage from a fire. Three people lost their lives in the devastating fire that consumed the surgical, recovery and laboratory wing of the hospital.

The Government of Saint Lucia has pledged to reconstruct the hospital as a brand new state of the art premier medical facility, serving not only Saint Lucia but the rest of the southern Caribbean. A development plan has already been presented to the Government and it is expected, if all goes well, the reconstruction of St. Jude Hospital could start in January 2010. Members of leading charitable organisations are collaborating with local business entities and the Government to raise funds.

Some compatriots in the UK have already donated hospital items, which are expected to arrive on the island in the coming weeks. The St Lucian community in the UK in association with the High Commission for Saint Lucia are planning a series of fundraising events starting with a charity dance on Saturday 23 January 2009, at Chocolate City - East Ham.

For more information on planned events or the hospital fund, please contact the High Commission for Saint Lucia on 0207 370 7123 or Bertram Leon: 07989095265