

# Caribbean Council Newsletter

12 February 2010  
Issue 97



## Jamaica National Building Society to hold Caribbean Question Time in the UK

For the most part the one million plus members of the Caribbean Diaspora in the UK have until recently played only a very small part in the UK's domestic and foreign policy agenda. However, this has begun to change as the proposed increase in Air Passenger Duty has become an election issue for many in the Caribbean community, creating a greater awareness of the need to become involved in questions affecting the UK's relations with the region.

The Jamaica National Building Society, with the support of the Caribbean Council, is organising a series of meetings in the UK in a 'Question Time' format to which one member from each of the three main political parties, well known members of the Caribbean Diaspora and others with recognized expertise in the Caribbean or Diaspora relations will be invited to address questions from an invited audience.

Question Time is a popular BBC television and radio programme in the UK.

The audience at each event will represent a cross section of ages, interests and backgrounds in the Caribbean community in the UK and will include community activists and others in marginal constituencies where the Caribbean community could have a significant impact on voting in a general election.

From soundings with the Diaspora, the focus at the events is expected to be on: whether a 'special' relationship between the UK and the Caribbean still exists; crime and security; migration and related issues; the UK's development policy towards the region; health, education and attainment; and how Britain might relate in future to a region with which many voters in the UK continue to maintain strong ties. Those invited to attend the events, which will take place in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Bristol, will be asked to submit questions in advance that they will then put to the panel at the event they attend.

For more information please contact Stephanie Whittle [Stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org](mailto:Stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org).



## Trinidad and Tobago named as Country Branding Partner at the House of Lords Reception

**6.30pm – 8.30pm, 1 March, 2010, London**

The Trinidad and Tobago Tourist Board has confirmed that it will be the Country Branding partner for the Caribbean Council's annual reception at the House of Lords on 1 March. The reception is the largest Caribbean event of its kind to take place in UK parliament, and is highly regarded as an enjoyable event

that brings together MP's, Peers, the Business Community in the UK, the Diaspora and others involved in trade and investment in the region.

In addition to the Trinidad and Tobago Tourism Development Company, the reception will also welcome De La Rue and Proyectos Especiales as business partners for the event, along with Gecko Arts and Media who are sponsoring the entertainment that will be provided by the *Nite Blues* steel band trio. Nectar Group and Rayner Essex are also supporting the event.

Guests will once again be able to enjoy Caribbean Rum Punch, made using rum from members of the West Indies Rum and Spirits Producers Association. The Caribbean Council is pleased to once again announce that it has a star prize of a one week holiday for two as part of its prize draw, with flights provided by Virgin Atlantic Airways.

The reception has already pre-registered a high number of MP's, Peers and business members and further invitations will be going out this week. Members of the Caribbean



*your window to the Caribbean*

## 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

1 March, 2010  
Annual Reception at the House of Lords

9-10 April, 2010  
SLAS Conference, Bristol

23-24 April, 2010  
Montecristo Cup, Cuba

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](mailto:admin@caribbean-council.org)

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In 2009, Virgin Atlantic celebrated 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 in 2008.

Virgin Atlantic flies to Antigua, Barbados, Grenada, Havana, Kingston, Montego Bay, St Lucia, Puerto Rico 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](http://www.virgin-atlantic.com).



Britain Business Council and the Cuba Initiative attend free of charge as part of their membership subscription. A limited number of chargeable tickets are available to non-members. For more information please contact Stephanie Whittle [Stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org](mailto:Stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org).



### **CBBC Members Providing Aid and Assistance to Haiti**

Many members of the Caribbean Britain Business Council have been providing support to the people of Haiti in the aftermath of the 12 January Earthquake. In the Dominican Republic, Edmundo Gil of Proyectos Especiales formed part of a Dominican team that went to Port au Prince in the days following the earthquake to assess the requirement for assistance. The team set up an operation centre in the Hotel Oasis in Port au Prince that included a treatment centre and distribution point for water and food. They are seeking donations of food, water and medical equipment to support the operation.

Andy Thorne, President of Kestrel Liners, was also quick to respond, securing a roll on roll off vessel to take supplies from Fort Lauderdale to Port Au Prince.

Virgin Atlantic flew in much-needed aid along with key medical personnel, aid agency workers and rescue teams to the region in the wake of the Haiti earthquake.

Amongst the aid being flown to the region by the airline were hundreds of ShelterBoxes which will help to meet the pressing and immediate need of providing shelter for thousands on the island. Each ShelterBox contains a disaster relief tent for up to 10 people, a stove, blankets and other items essential for survival. All money raised through onboard collections between 16-24 January was donated to its long-term charity partner, Free the Children, for their work for those affected in Haiti.

#### **How to Donate to the DEC Haiti Appeal**

**Online:** [http://www.dec.org.uk/donate\\_now/](http://www.dec.org.uk/donate_now/)

**Phone:** Call 0370 60 60 900

**CAF:** Donate using your CAF card [here](#).

**Post:** Please send a cheque made payable to DEC HAITI EARTHQUAKE and send it to DEC HAITI EARTHQUAKE, PO BOX 999, LONDON, EC3A 3AA.

Download the donate by post form and send it to the above address.

**Bank:** Or go to any high street bank or post office quoting Freepay 1449.

*For more information about the DEC please visit <http://www.dec.org.uk>*

### **Alicia Alonso to speak at London Metropolitan University**

**7pm, 9 April, 2010, London Metropolitan University, 166-220 Holloway Road, London, N7 8DB**

The legendary Cuban dancer and choreographer Alicia Alonso will be in conversation with Luis Rodríguez de la Sierra at Londonmet in April. Alicia Alonso, widely considered one of the most outstanding ballerinas of the 20th century, discusses her work with psychoanalyst Luis Rodríguez de la Sierra.

In 1970 Maurice Béjart, said about Alicia Alonso: "The ballerina is extraordinary and the character is not less so. Tonight 'Giselle', 'Carmen' tomorrow, the day after tomorrow with boots and army uniform she will be dancing the Cuban Revolution in the provinces of Cuba or in Havana. Passionate, ironic, headstrong, indefatigable, entirely possessed by dance and, however, inebriated with her Cuba, "su tierra" ("her land"), romantic and lucid, intuitive and at the same time highly intelligent... almost blind, but possessing the gift of clairvoyance... Yes, one day I shall choreograph a ballet about that extraordinary being called Alicia Alonso."

Connecting Conversations is produced by The Rowan Arts Project in partnership with the British Association of Psychotherapists, Freud Museum, Institute of Psychoanalysis, Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust and the Psychoanalysis Unit at University College London. Supported by the International Psychoanalytical Association.

Tickets cost £12, £8 concessions, £10 Friends of the Freud Museum. For more information please visit <http://www.connectingconversations.org>