

Caribbean Council Newsletter

26 April 2010
Issue 98



your window to the Caribbean



CARIBBEAN
HOTEL & TOURISM
ASSOCIATION

CARIBBEAN HOTEL & TOURISM INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

May 4-6, 2010 | Puerto Rico Convention Center
Caribbean Tourism's Official Investment Conference
PRESENTED BY CARIBBEAN HOTEL & TOURISM ASSOCIATION AND CARIBBEAN TOURISM ORGANIZATION

potential, and much anticipated, lift of the US travel restrictions to Cuba, with a session titled *"Cuba – Will It Become The #1 Tourism Destination."*

Speakers on the panel include Emily Morris, a UK based Cuba specialist who writes for the *Economist Intelligence Unit*; David Jessop, Director of Britain's Cuba Initiative and Executive Director of the Caribbean Council; and Dr. Timothy Ashby, a US specialist on trade and investment strategies for Cuba.

For the first time CHTIC will explore the background on the Cuban tourism sector, the opportunities it presents for investment and an insight into how it is developing its tourism infrastructure. A major focus will be placed on the outlook for U.S. legislation that aims to end the travel ban and the economic impact it will have on other destinations throughout the Caribbean.

"The opening of Cuba for U.S. tourists will have profound implications on the entire region," said Enrique De Marchena Kaluche, President of CHTA. "It's an exciting, long overdue moment in our history, but it must be carefully strategized to ensure the right kind of developments are in the pipeline as we prepare to welcome Cuba back into the mainstream tourism sector for the U.S. market," Mr De Marchena noted.

The Caribbean Council publishes a news briefing "Cuba briefing" that provides detailed social, political and economic insight in to Cuba. The weekly electronic publication is available free of charge to members of the Cuba Initiative and is also available on a subscription basis. For more information please contact Stephanie Whittle Stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org.

For more information on CHTIC 2010 – including sponsorship opportunities – please contact CHTA events@caribbeanhotelandtourism.com or visit <http://caribbeanhotelandtourism.com/InvestmentConference.php>.

The UK election and the Caribbean Community

As the UK General Election campaign draws to a close, it has become clear that in some marginal constituencies minority communities could have a significant effect on the outcome. The Caribbean Community is a good example of this, with many marginal seats in cities such as London and Birmingham, being home to sizeable communities from the region.

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

Recognising the importance of the forthcoming general election, the Caribbean community has been actively engaged over the last three months in a series of events including a Caribbean Question Time series aimed at encouraging the Caribbean community to become more involved in the political process. Others have been focussed on single issues such as Air Passenger Duty.

Will Cuba Become the Number One Tourism Destination in the Caribbean?

Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Investment Conference

4-6 May, 2010, Puerto Rico

The Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Investment Conference (CHTIC 2010) will focus on the

Events Diary

28 April, 2010
Black Britain Decides, London, UK

29 April, 2010
INTERLINK Trinidad and Tobago
Networking Event, London, UK

30 April, 2010
Caribbean Community Meeting on
UK Air Passenger Duty, Reading, UK

30 April – 16 May, 2010
ICC World Twenty20

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

12-24 May, 2010
West Midlands Market Visit to the
Caribbean, Barbados, Jamaica,
Trinidad and Tobago

19-22 May, 2010
Trade and Investment Convention,
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

17-20 June, 2010
EXPO Jamaica, Kingston, Jamaica

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

This newsletter is sponsored by:



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.



Caribbean Question Time

The Jamaica National Building Society, with support from the Caribbean Council, organised 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 were invited to sit on a panel to address questions from the audience. Question Time is a popular BBC television and radio programme in the UK.

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The inaugural event took place in Central London on 24 February and attracted an audience that represented a wide range of ages, interests and backgrounds from the Caribbean Community in Greater London. This was followed by events in Manchester on 25 February, Birmingham on the 26th and the final Question Time was held in Bristol on 27 February.



Each event had a different panel that included MPs, Parliamentary Candidates, Church Leaders, Entrepreneurs and Councillors. Bishop Dr Joe Aldred (pictured right) proved to be an efficient, witty and challenging moderator – certainly a prime candidate for the television role should David Dimbleby ever retire from the BBC television and radio programme!

Overall, the feeling was that the Caribbean community in the UK should seek to engage more in the political process, whether as voters or as prospective members of political parties standing for elected office. There was a clear feeling that while the Caribbean community has traditionally tended to vote for the Labour party, the Diaspora should seek to engage with all political parties to ensure that their needs and interests are addressed. The majority felt that, if it did exist at all, the 'special relationship' between the UK and the Caribbean was at best weak in comparison to the past, and that a new kind of relationship founded on equality should be pursued.

A full review of Caribbean Question Time, including the questions submitted to the panel and an overview of the discussion, can be found at <http://www.jnbs.com/Review%20of%20Event%20Series.pdf>

Air Passenger Duty

More recently, a committee of activists from the Caribbean community have coordinated a series of meetings to specifically discuss Air Passenger Duty, the changed structure of the tax and the 1 November 2009 increases which mean that flights to the Caribbean are now taxed more heavily than those to destinations further afield such as Los Angeles and Hawaii. Passionate about the issue, that many feel is discriminatory, the community has already organised two events in London and Birmingham, with a third scheduled to take place in Reading on 30 April, 2010. These events have provided a forum for discussion about the changes that have taken place; what they mean to the Caribbean community in the UK; the policies of the three main political parties; and what the community can do to make their views known to parliamentary candidates.

There is a wealth of information about APD, including a list of marginal constituencies with larger Caribbean communities, on the Caribbean Tourism Organisations UK web site <http://www.caribbean.co.uk/apd/Update.aspx>



CBBC Member Honoured on Queen's Birthday

Kestrel Liner Agencies has been awarded the UK's most prestigious award for business performance, the coveted Queen's award for Enterprise International Trade.

Kestrel is an independent liner agent and provides freight management services to a global client base. The company has a strong presence in the Caribbean, where it has been providing services for the past sixteen years. With an office in London and another in Miami, Kestrel employs over thirty people.

The Award is for Continuous Achievement in International Trade, resulting in substantial overseas earnings with growth and commercial success that more than doubles export earnings against strong international competition. The award also takes account of services concerned and the size of the applicant's operations", said the Queen's Awards Office.

In response Andy Thorne, Chairman (Pictured right) said, "The Awards are only granted to business units that maintain the highest standards of propriety and we feel that the Award echoes all the sentiments that Kestrel values in terms of Quality of Service. I am absolutely thrilled to receive this award on behalf of everyone at Kestrel who has worked so hard to achieve these very high standards".



Kestrel is a member of the Caribbean Britain Business Council and has been working in the Caribbean for over fifteen years.



New Jamaican High Commissioner to London is Announced

Ambassador Anthony Johnson (pictured left), former Ambassador to the USA, and a former Senator, Member of Parliament and University Lecturer, is to be the new Jamaican High Commissioner in London. Ambassador Johnson is replacing HE Burchell Whiteman, who retired earlier this year. The new High Commissioner is expected to take up his post in May.

Ambassador Johnson took up his posting in Washington in January 2008 succeeding Professor Gordon Shirley, Principal of the University of the West Indies. He has pursued a career path embracing a number of different fields, including being a politician with the ruling Jamaica Labour Party, serving as Minister of State in the 80s with the Ministries of Industry and Commerce, and Agriculture during his stint as a member of Parliament in 1983-1993. Previously he had been Opposition spokesman on a variety of subjects including Education, Agriculture, Mining, Energy and Technology. From 1980 to 1983 and 1993 to 2007, he was a Senator serving as Minority Leader from 1991 to 1995. He has also been a member of the Jamaican Electoral Advisory Committee, a senior economist, journalist and civil servant.

Actively involved in business, Ambassador Johnson has previously been an Executive Director of the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica and an executive of a number of business concerns.

Winner of a number of awards in the fields of business, academia and journalism, Mr. Johnson is a graduate of the University of California with a M.A. degree in International Trade and Finance, and a B.A. in Economics.

Trinidad and Tobago High Commission Food and Beverage Event

7pm, 29 April, 2010, London

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in London is holding a networking event for investors and stakeholders in the food and beverage industry. At the reception there will be a showcase of Trinidad and Tobago brands and a menu by Trinidad and Tobago's International Chef Tricia Jadoonanan. The event will take place at the High Commission in London. All members of the Caribbean Britain Business Council are invited. For further details please contact Claudia Cupid ccupid@tthclondon.org or 0207 245 9351



THE
ANTHONY N. SABGA
CARIBBEAN AWARDS
FOR EXCELLENCE

Ansa Caribbean Award for Excellence

Guyanese environmental and community activist, Sydney Allicock; Kathleen Coard, professor of anatomical pathology at the University of the West Indies; and Adrian Augier, a poet, playwright and Carnival artist from St Lucia have received the Ansa Caribbean Award for Excellence at a ceremony held in Trinidad on Saturday 17 April.

Each laureate received a gold medal, a citation, and a cheque for TT\$500,000. This is the third presentation ceremony hosted by the Anthony N. Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence. Since 2006, awards in Science & Technology, Arts & Letters, and Public & Civic Contributions have been given to outstanding Caribbean people.

The laureates are nominated by Country Nominating Committees, comprising leading academics, professionals, and respected persons from Jamaica, Guyana, Barbados, the OECS and Trinidad and Tobago. The nominees are then adjudicated and selected by a regional Eminent Persons Panel, after research is done into their achievements and status among their peers, and potential for future work.

For more information on the awards please visit www.ansacaribbeanawards.com



West Midlands Market Visit to the Caribbean Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, 12 – 24 May, 2010

The West Midlands Ethnic Minority Business Forum, with support from UKTI and Advantage West Midlands, is organising a twelve day market visit to Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados in May. The visit is open to businesses based in the West Midlands. The itinerary is as follows:

- May 12 – Group Briefing in Jamaica
- May 13 – Reception and One to One Meetings
- May 14 – 15 – Individual Delegate Programme
- May 16 – Travel to Trinidad
- May 17 – Group Briefing in Trinidad and Reception
- May 18 – Individual Delegate Programme
- May 19 – Participation at www.tic.tt.com and one to one meetings
- May 20 – Travel to Barbados
- May 21 – 23 – Group Briefing in Barbados, Participation at www.bmex.bb and one to one meetings
- May 24 – Travel back to the U.K

This programme is funded by ERDF, there is an available £1000.00 intervention towards a minimum spend of £2000.00 towards the cost of: Travel, Accommodation, Marketing, Training and Subsistence.

For more information please contact Ajay Desai on 07889 807476 or email ajayd@cw-chamber.co.uk



Trinidad and Tobago Trade & Investment Convention (TIC) 19-22 May, 2010, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

TIC is a multi-sectoral tradeshow that brings together local, regional and international businesses. Exhibitors at TIC expect to meet large numbers of buyers seeking new suppliers, goods and services. TIC offers structured networking events, a business education programme and help from an experienced team on hand to provide guidance and matchmaking services.

Over the last ten years according to the conference organisers, TIC has facilitated more than US\$400 million in trade deals, hosted thousands of international buyers and exhibitors and earned a reputation as the Caribbean's biggest business-to-business event.

In Port of Spain the British High Commission is hosting an exhibition stand offering UK companies the opportunity to have a presence.

For £500, UKTI will:

- Include your company's logo/name in a printed banner for the booth.
- Co-ordinate receipt of your company's marketing material
- Display & distribute your business cards, brochures, promotional items etc.
- Collect & issue business cards of interested customers' etc.
- Prepare & issue visitor feedback forms to ascertain leads for follow up
- Prepare a market report customised for your firm based on the above

The deadline for UKTI bookings is Friday 30th April, 2010. For more information on the UKTI offer please contact Natalie Dookie Natalie.dookie@fco.gov.uk. For information about TIC please visit <http://www.tic-tt.com/>



Brand Jamaica to the World: EXPO Jamaica 17-20 June, Kingston, Jamaica

The Jamaica Manufacturers' Association (JMA) and the Jamaica Exporters' Association (JEA) have partnered to host a trade exposition to promote the products and services that Jamaica has to offer

Expo Jamaica provides an opportunity to UK and other companies to join other European importers and investors who have partnerships with Jamaican businesses as well as to consider the island's high value and innovative products and services.

At the event it is expected that over 200 Jamaican firms will exhibit some 2,000 products and services in the areas of Food, and Beverage; Textile and Apparel; Cosmetics; Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals; Printing and Packaging; Furniture and Bedding; Minerals and Metals; Services; Building and Construction; ICT; and Electronics.

Jamaica Trade and Invest is offering registered buyers:

- One night free hotel accommodation for the first 60 registered buyers
- Business matchmaking to suit their needs
- Special networking sessions
- Ground transportation from hotel to Expo venue
- Access to Exporter Directory Online
- Cultural Tour of Kingston

At the vent buyers will be able to meet producers and visit their manufacturing plants.

Visit the Expo Jamaica website at www.expojamaica.com.jm or do not hesitate to contact Laurence Jones, European Regional Manager, JTI/JAMPRO at ljones@jti.org.jm for further information and to discuss your interest.



Black Britain Decides: Event on the UK General Election

6.30pm 28 April, 2010, The Methodist Church, Westminster, London, SW1H 9NH

A coalition of Black leaders including church leaders, business leaders, activists, faith groups, Operation Black Vote, The Peace Alliance, 1990 Trust, Just West Yorkshire, Equanomics UK, The Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), BEN TV, OHTV and many others will be hosting a political rally which then organisers hope will be the largest seen in the UK for a generation.

The event is intended to press the political leaders and their parties on matters concerning black and minority ethnic groups (BME) today. In an anticipated closely fought election battle, the organisers state that the BME vote has become crucial. All three party leaders (Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat) have been invited along as well as other prominent speakers.

To register and for further information please visit <http://www.blackbritaindecides.com/>

ICC World Twenty20: Fixtures

Date	Country	Match
Fri 30 April	Guyana	Sri Lanka v New Zealand (13:00 local) West Indies v Ireland (17:00 local)
Sat 1 May	St Lucia	India v Afghanistan (09:30 local) Pakistan v Bangladesh (13:30 local)
Sun 2 May	St Lucia	South Africa v India (09:30 local) Pakistan v Australia (13:30 local)
Mon 3 May	Guyana	Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe (09:30 local) West Indies v England (13:30 local)
Tue 4 May	Guyana	New Zealand v Zimbabwe (09:30 local) England v Ireland (13:30 local)
Wed 5 May	Barbados	Bangladesh v Australia (13:00 local) South Africa v Afghanistan (17:00 local)
Wed 5 May	St Kitts	West Indies v South Africa (10.00 local) England v Australia (14.00 local)
Thu 6 May	Barbados	A1 v D2 (09:30 local) C1 v B2 (13:30 local)
Thu 6 May	St Kitts	Sri Lanka v Pakistan (10.00 local) New Zealand v India (14.00 local)
Fri 7 May	Barbados	A2 v C2 (09:30 local) B1 v D1 (13:30 local)
Fri 7 May	St Kitts	Australia v South Africa (10.00 local) England v West Indies (14.00 local)

Date	Country	Match
Sat 8 May	Barbados	A1 v B2 (09:30 local) D2 v C1 (13:30 local)
Sat 8 May	St Kitts	India v Pakistan (10.00 local) New Zealand v Sri Lanka (14.00 local)
Sun 9 May	Barbados	C2 v D1 (09:30 local) B1 v A2 (13:30 local)
Sun 9 May	St Kitts	England v South Africa (10.00 local) Australia v West Indies(14.00 local)
Mon 10 May	St Lucia	A1 v C1(09:30 local) B2 v D2(13:30 local)
Mon 10 May	St Kitts	New Zealand v Pakistan (10.00 local) India v Sri Lanka (14.00 local)
Tue 11 May	St Lucia	B1 v C2(13:00 local) D1 v A2(17:00 local)
Thu 13 May	St Lucia	Men's Semi (11:30 local) Women's Semi (16:00 local)
Fri 14 May	St Lucia	Men's Semi (11:30 local) Women's Semi(16:00 local)
Sun 16 May	Barbados	Men's Final (11:30 local) Women's Final (16:00 local)