

Caribbean Council Newsletter

7 March 2008

Issue 61



your window to the Caribbean



Cuba Initiative Announces New Chairman

The Cuba Initiative is delighted to announce that Ian Taylor MP (pictured), the Conservative MP for Esher and Walton, has accepted an invitation to take on the role of UK Chairman of the organisation, in succession to Lord Moynihan. His counterpart in Havana is Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz, Minister of State in the office of the President.

As Minister for Trade and then Science and Technology at the Department of Trade and Industry (1994-97) in the last Conservative government, Ian Taylor played a central role in founding the Cuba Initiative. He was the first UK Minister to go to Havana for 20 years and in his two visits held extensive discussions with the then Cuban President Fidel Castro, as well as with the now President Raul Castro and many leading members of the Cuban Government. Since that time he has maintained a keen interest in Cuba and the UK/Cuba relationship, meeting with visiting Cuban Ministers and with those associated with the Cuba Initiative to discuss Cuban Issues.

Ian Taylor now chairs the Conservative Party's Policy Task-force on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and is also chairman of the Conservative Group for Europe.

Prior to entering Parliament, he was involved in providing corporate finance and management advice to companies in the UK, France and USA. In addition to being a Member of Parliament, he is a non-executive director of several companies, including Next Fifteen Group Plc and AXA Framlington Group Limited, and is on the advisory committee of AXA Investment Managers in Paris.

Ian Taylor will take over from Lord Moynihan, Chairman of the Initiative since 2002, who now retires because of his extensive commitments as Chairman of the British Olympic Association. Lord Moynihan will continue to remain involved in the Cuba Initiative especially in the field of sporting cooperation.

Following Ian Taylor's appointment as Chairman, it is likely that the Cuba Initiative will organize a business mission to Havana in June 2008. For more information or to register your interest in attending the business mission, please contact Chris Bennett chris.bennett@caribbean-council.org. Further information on the Cuba Initiative can be found at www.cuba-initiative.org.

Caribbean States in 2020: Sinking, Surviving or Prospering?

Thursday 28 February - Saturday 1 March 2008

A high quality line-up of speakers from the region, including four Ministers and a former Minister, spoke about their growing sense of optimism for the future of the region at the two day conference organised by Wilton Park an agency of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in collaboration with the Caribbean Council and supported by Virgin Atlantic



Events Diary

28 February – 1 March 2008

Caribbean states in 2020: Sinking, Surviving or Prospering? Wilton Park, UK

11 March 2008

Future Trends in the Caribbean Tourism Industry, CBBC /British Expertise Event, London

12 March 2008

The gaze atrás: Screen Memories in Cuban Cinema, IISC, London

02 April 2008

Caribbean Council Parliamentary Reception, House of Lords, London

06-08 May 2008

Caribbean Hotel Tourism Investment Conference, Trinidad

21-25 June 2008

Annual Caribbean Tourism Summit, Washington DC

28-29 June 2008

Carnival de Cuba, Southwark Park, London

For a full events listing and further details please see www.caribbean-council.org/events

This newsletter is sponsored by:



In 2008, Virgin Atlantic celebrates 10 years of flying to the Caribbean. In this time it has become the largest scheduled airline between Europe and the Caribbean, carrying 735,000 passengers on its ten Caribbean routes last year. Virgin Atlantic's initial services to Barbados, St Lucia and Antigua have been supplemented by Grenada, Tobago, Havana, Montego Bay and Kingston flights from London Gatwick, and by Barbados and St Lucia flights from Manchester.

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

The conference was opened by Ausbert D'Auvergne, Minister of Economic Affairs and Planning, Investment and National Development, St Lucia (pictured above) and Baroness Scotland of Asthal, the British Attorney General.

David Jessop, Executive Director of the Caribbean Council, Chaired key sessions on Tourism and Agriculture and Energy.

A full report will be available shortly on the Wilton Park web site www.wiltonpark.org.uk. For further details about the conference please contact Stephanie Whittle stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org



Future Trends in the Caribbean Tourism Industry: Limited Places Still Available, 3.30 p.m. Tuesday 11th March

British Expertise, One Westminster Palace Gardens, Artillery Row, London SW1P 1RJ

British Expertise and the Caribbean-Britain Business Council are delighted to welcome Peter Odle, President of the Caribbean Hotel Association and Owner of Mango Bay Resorts; Alec Sanguinetti, Director General of the Caribbean Hotel Association; and Julia Hendry (pictured), Director of Marketing UK and Europe, Caribbean Tourism Organisation, to speak about future trends in Caribbean Tourism.

This is an excellent opportunity for members to hear from industry leaders about tourism trends, the opportunities for new business and the challenges the industry in the region faces.

The event is free of charge to CBBC and British Expertise Members. There is a charge of £75.00 for non members that wish to attend. For more information about CBBC membership or to reserve a place please contact Eileen Phillips elp@britishexpertise.org

Excellent attendance expected at House of Lords Reception 6.30 – 8.30, 2 April 2008

Around two hundred Members of Parliament, Peers, members of the Caribbean diplomatic corps, corporate members and their guests are expected to attend the Caribbean Council Annual reception at the House of Lords is on target for success. Guest speakers are Douglas Alexander MP, Secretary of State for Development, and Dr Floella Benjamin, Chancellor of the University of Exeter, and well known television personality.



Those attending the reception must have an official entry card in order to pass through security. Any members who have not yet returned their forms are urged to do so in order that tickets can be posted in good time.

All attendees will be entered for the free prize draw, with this year's top prize being a holiday for two to the Caribbean. A limited number of tickets are available for sale to non members at a price of £100.00 each. To book your place at the reception please contact Eileen Molloy Eileen.molloy@caribbean-council.org

The Business Partners for the Reception are: De La Rue; Kier Group; Rex Resorts; and Geest Lines. Entertainment has kindly been sponsored by Cable and Wireless. Supporting Sponsors are: Nectar Group; Cambridge University Press; and Booker Tate. The top prize holiday has kindly been provided by Virgin Atlantic and Sandals resorts, and Rum cocktails have been supported by the West Indies Rum and Spirits Producers Association (WIRSPA).

The 2008 Caribbean Council Reception has generously been sponsored by:

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Group of British MPs visiting Eastern Caribbean

2 Belgrave Square London SW1X 8PJ Tel: 0207 235 9484 Fax: 0207 823 1370 Email: admin@caribbean-council.org Web: www.caribbean-council.org

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An official Commonwealth Parliamentary Association delegation of UK Members of Parliament will be visiting sister Parliaments in the Caribbean from the 13th-20th April. Their itinerary will include meetings with Parliamentary colleagues in Dominica and Montserrat. The Parliamentarians in the group are: Harry Cohen MP, Anthony Steen MP, Sharon Hodgson MP and Lord Harrison. The delegation will be led by the Rt Hon Kevin Barron MP.

The CBBC will be briefing the British MPs in advance of their visit on relevant business issues and if there any points which members would like us to raise with the delegation, they should please contact Chris Bennett (chris.bennett@caribbean-council.org).

Cuba Initiative Seminar – The Labour Movement in Cuba and Economic Reform 15th April, 6.15pm

Dr Steve Ludlam has kindly agreed to lead a Cuba Initiative seminar looking at the labour movement in Cuba and its approach to economic reform making use of the process known as "*perfeccionamiento empresarial*". This topic is of special relevance as the Cuban Government indicated in 2007 that this would be the economic model (previously military led) that they intend extending across the Cuban economy as a whole.

Steve is a Senior Lecturer in Politics at Sheffield University. He recently undertook a Nuffield Foundation funded research project looking at the reform of Cuba's 'Codigo de Trabajo', a reform which has been going on some years and provides key indicators of the character of economic relations as Cuba recovers from the Special Period.

The event is only open to members of the Cuba Initiative. Invitations will be sent out shortly. *For more information please contact Chris Bennett* (chris.bennett@caribbean-council.org)

The European Development Fund 10 2008-2013 – A briefing by EuropeAid 11.30 a.m., 15 May 2008, British Expertise, London

EDF 10 will start in 2008 and run until 2013. It is the largest of the EuropeAid external aid programmes, with a budget of €22.7 billion for this period. The Africa, Caribbean & Pacific (ACP) countries are the beneficiaries, with €17.8 billion allocated for national and regional indicative programmes; €2.7 billion to intra-ACP and inter-regional cooperation; and €1.5 billion in investment facilities.

The sector focus will include; economic growth; health & education; governance; agriculture; natural resources; and infrastructure.

A senior EuropeAid official, Raul Mateus, Head of Centralised Operations for the ACP countries will provide a detailed briefing on EDF 10 and the opportunities that this will bring for consultants.

The CBBC has negotiated a reduced rate for attendance at the meeting, which will be held at the offices of British Expertise in London. CBBC, Cuba Initiative and Anglo Dominican Trade Council Members can attend for a rate of £35.25 including VAT. For more information please contact Eileen Phillips elp@britishexpertise.org.

List of business opportunities in Barbados

The British High Commission in Barbados has published a list of private and public sector projects in sports, leisure, tourism, health, housing, education, security, social, urban renewal and agriculture. The report has been updated recently to include all of the new projects announced by the new Government following the election in Barbados on the 15th January.

The report is priced at £225 and can be obtained by contacting the UKTI team in London, on 0207 234 3000 or by email info@uktilondon.org.uk

New member of staff

The Caribbean Council is pleased to announce that a new member of staff, Eileen Molloy, joined the organisation at the beginning of March. Eileen holds the position of Executive Assistant and can be contacted on eileen.molloy@caribbean-council.org.