



A Region Poised for  
**GROWTH**

# 31<sup>st</sup> Miami Conference ON THE CARIBBEAN BASIN



## CONFERENCE AT-A-GLANCE

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2007

7:00 pm–10:00 pm **CCAA BOARD OF TRUSTEES DINNER CRUISE** (private)

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2007

8:00 am–10:00 am **TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO / USA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

9:00 am–7:30 pm **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

9:00 am–11:00 am **CCAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** (private)

1:00 pm–3:00 pm **INTERNATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS MATCHMAKING CONCEPT PRESENTATION**

3:00 pm–5:00 pm **CCAA BOARD OF TRUSTEES** (private)

6:30 pm–8:00 pm **WELCOME RECEPTION & RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY**

FEATURING Barbados: The Perfect Place for Fashion and Music

Jose Perez-Jones, Chairman, CCAA & Senior Vice President, Seaboard Marine Limited

Mary Grossman, Consul General, Canada

Carlos Alvarez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County

8:00 pm–10:00 pm **OPENING DINNER**

Dan S. Sullivan, Assistant Secretary of State for Economics, Energy & Business Affairs

Pasquale Minicucci, Senior Vice President International Banking - Caribbean, Scotiabank

David Emerson, Minister of International Trade, Canada

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2007

7:30 am–7:30 pm **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

7:00 am–8:30 am **SCOTIABANK BREAKFAST BRIEFING GLOBAL SHOCK, EXCESSES AND ADJUSTMENT: THE DEVELOPING AMERICAS IN CONTEXT**

7:30 am–8:30 am **XELA-CANADA/CENTRAL AMERICA BREAKFAST BRIEFING** (private)

8:00 am–5:00 pm **US DEPARTMENT OF STATE BIOFUELS PARTNERSHIP: GOVERNMENTS OF THE US, BRAZIL, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EL SALVADOR, HAITI AND ST. KITTS AND NEVIS**

WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, UN FOUNDATION, AND OAS (private)

8:00 am–7:00 pm **MINI CONFERENCE ON HEALTH**

HOSTED BY JACKSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL INTERNATIONAL

8:30 am–9:30 am **OPENING PLENARY**

John Maisto, Director, The US Education Finance Group

Charles Shapiro, Special Coordinator, Free Trade Agreement Task Force, US Department of State

Markus H. Rodlauer, Deputy Director, Western Hemisphere, IMF

9:30 am–10:00 am **COFFEE BREAK**

Vertice Coffee: Beverage Excellence

10:00 am–12:30 pm **TOWN MEETINGS**

**A REGION POISED FOR GROWTH: REGIONAL BLOCS**

**FOCUS ON THE CARIBBEAN**

MODERATOR: Mark Palchick, Womble Carlyle

**FOCUS ON CENTRAL AMERICA/DR**

MODERATOR: Stephen Lande, Manchester Trade

12:30 pm–2:00 pm **PLENARY LUNCH**

Jose Cardenas, Deputy Assistant Administer for Latin America and the Caribbean, USAID

John P. de Jongh, Jr., Governor, US Virgin Islands

2:00 pm–4:30 pm **CONCURRENT ROUNDTABLES: INDUSTRY SECTORS**

**AGRIBUSINESS**

MODERATOR: Chelston W.D. Brathwaite, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture

**APPAREL & ASSEMBLY**

MODERATOR: Michael Fralix, TC2

**ENERGY: OIL, GAS & ALTERNATIVES**

MODERATOR: Anthony Bryan, Center for Strategic and International Studies

**FINANCIAL SERVICES**

MODERATOR: Daniel Nichols, Overseas Private Investment Corporation

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS/IT**

MODERATOR: Linda Wellstein, Wellstein Mora Rodriguez International

**TOURISM**

MODERATOR: TBD

**TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS**

MODERATOR: Jose Perez-Jones, Seaboard Marine

4:30 pm–6:00 pm **AFTERNOON PLENARY**

**MODERATORS' PANEL - INDUSTRY SECTORS**

Tuesday continued

6:00 pm–7:30 pm **COLLATERAL EVENTS: PRESENTATIONS**

**AMERICAS RELIEF TEAM**

**EVOLVING TECHNOLOGIES & ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT CO. LTD.**

**IIC/IDB PRESENTATION**

7:00 pm–8:00 pm **NETWORKING RECEPTION**

8:00 pm–10:00 pm **PLENARY DINNER**

Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General, OAS

Bruce Golding, Prime Minister, Jamaica

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2007

7:30 am–7:30 pm **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

7:30 am–8:30 am **LAC-CORE: RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE CARIBBEAN & LATIN AMERICA—KEYS TO SUCCESS**

7:30 am–8:30 am **BREAKFAST BRIEFING: SUCCESS WITH DEVELOPMENT FINANCE, BY JAGUAR DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

8:30 am–9:30 am **MORNING PLENARY**

Jerry Butler, Executive Director, Caribbean, IDB

Steven J. Puig, Vice President for Private Sector and Non-Sovereign Guaranteed Operations, IDB

9:30 am–10:00 am **COFFEE BREAK**

Vertice Coffee: Beverage Excellence

10:00 am–12:30 pm **CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS**

**REGIONAL STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES**

**EDUCATION**

MODERATOR: Auguste Rimpel, University of the Virgin Islands

**DISASTER RESPONSIVENESS**

MODERATOR: Jennifer Nugent-Hill, Tropical Shipping

**ENERGY SECURITY: BIOFUELS**

MODERATORS: Edward Glab & George Philippidis, Florida International University

**CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

MODERATOR: Graco Paredes, British American Tobacco

**TRANSPORTATION SECURITY**

MODERATOR: Fernando Rivera, Caribbean Shipping Association

12:00 pm–5:00 pm **COLLATERAL EVENTS** (private)

US DEPARTMENT OF STATE

US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

12:30 pm–2:00 pm **PLENARY LUNCH**

Jorge Arrizurieta, Chairman, IDB Miami 2008 Host Committee

Paul B. Dyck, Deputy Assistant Secretary, US Department of Commerce

Susan Schwab, United States Trade Representative (I)

2:00 pm–4:30 pm **CONCURRENT ROUNDTABLES-PUBLIC POLICY ENVIRONMENT**

MODERATOR: Ernesto Samayoa, World Environment Center

**CUBA**

MODERATOR: Andy S. Gomez, Institute for Cuban and Cuban American Studies

**CRIME**

MODERATOR: Susan Kaufman Purcell, University of Miami

**HAITI**

MODERATOR: Carolyn Rose-Avila, FAVACA

**SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESSES**

MODERATOR: James Morrison, Small Business Exporters Association

4:30 pm–6:00 pm **CLOSING PLENARY**

**MODERATORS' PANEL-PUBLIC POLICY**

7:00 pm–8:00 pm **NETWORKING RECEPTION**

8:00 pm–10:00 pm **PLENARY DINNER "STAR OF THE CARIBBEAN" AWARD PRESENTATION: "STAR OF THE CARIBBEAN"**

Bill Johnson, Port-of-Miami

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Hubert Alexander Ingraham, Prime Minister, The Bahamas

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2007

8:00 am–1:30 pm **MINI CONFERENCE ON HEALTH**

HOSTED BY JACKSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL INTERNATIONAL

Please Note: CCAA reserves the right to cancel or reschedule programs and to change speakers. Guest speakers are subject to professional commitments.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2007**

7:00 pm–10:00 pm Location: Bayside Dock  
**CCAA BOARD OF TRUSTEES DINNER CRUISE** (*private*)  
 Shuttle departure from hotel lobby 6:30–7:15 pm

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2007**

8:00 am–10:00 am Location: Sevilla (Lower)  
**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO/USA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

9:00 am–7:30 pm Location: Mezzanine (Upper)  
**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

9:00 am–11:00 am Location: Boardroom (Lower)  
**CCAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** (*private*)

1:00 pm–3:00 pm Location: Chopin (Upper)  
**INTERNATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS MATCHMAKING CONCEPT PRESENTATION**

3:00 pm–5:00 pm Location: Bayfront A (Lower)  
**CCAA BOARD OF TRUSTEES** (*private*)

6:30 pm–8:00 pm Location: Mezzanine (Upper)  
**WELCOME RECEPTION & HALL RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY**

FEATURING Barbados: The Perfect Place for Fashion and Music  
 WELCOME:

Jose Perez-Jones, Chairman, CCAA & Senior Vice President,  
 Seaboard Marine Limited

REMARKS:

Mary Grossman, Council General, Canada  
 Carlos Alvarez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County

8:00 pm–10:00 pm Location: Versailles (Upper)  
**OPENING DINNER**

REMARKS:

Dan S. Sullivan, Assistant Secretary of State for Economics,  
 Energy & Business Affairs

REMARKS & INTRODUCTION:

Pasquale Minicucci, Senior Vice President International  
 Banking - Caribbean, Scotiabank

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

David Emerson, Minister of International Trade, Canada

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2007**

7:30 am–7:30 pm Location: Mezzanine (Upper)  
**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

7:00 am–8:30 am Location: Sandringham/Windsor (Upper)  
**SCOTIABANK BREAKFAST BRIEFING GLOBAL SHOCK, EXCESSES AND ADJUSTMENT: THE DEVELOPING AMERICAS IN CONTEXT**

7:30 am–8:30 am Location: Bayfront (Upper)  
**XELA-CANADA/CENTRAL AMERICA BREAKFAST BRIEFING** (*private*)

8:00 am–5:00 pm Location: Trade  
**US DEPARTMENT OF STATE BIOFUELS PARTNERSHIP: GOVERNMENTS OF THE US, BRAZIL, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EL SALVADOR, HAITI AND ST. KITTS AND NEVIS** (*private*)  
 WITH The Inter-American Development Bank, UN Foundation, and OAS

8:00 am–7:00 pm Location: Sevilla  
**MINI CONFERENCE ON HEALTH**  
 HOSTED BY Jackson Memorial Hospital International

8:30 am–9:30 am Location: Trianon (Upper)  
**OPENING PLENARY THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

WELCOME:

Manuel A. Rosales, President & CEO, CCAA

SPEAKERS:

John Maisto, Director, The US Education Finance Group  
 Charles Shapiro, Special Coordinator, Free Trade Agreement  
 Task Force, US Department of State

Markus H. Rodlauer, Deputy Director, Western Hemisphere, IMF

9:30 am–10:00 am Location: Exhibit Hall  
**COFFEE BREAK**  
 Vertice Coffee: Beverage Excellence

10:00 am–12:30pm  
**TOWN MEETINGS**  
**A REGION POISED FOR GROWTH: REGIONAL BLOCS**

10:00 am–12:30 pm Location: Chopin (Upper)  
**FOCUS ON THE CARIBBEAN**  
 MODERATOR: Mark Palchick, Partner, Womble Carlyle  
 DISCUSSANTS:

Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Director,  
 Competitiveness, Trade & Tourism, OAS  
 Dora Currea, General Manager of the Caribbean Group,  
 Inter-American Development Bank

Velia De Pirro, Director,  
 Office of Caribbean Affairs, US Department of State

Johanna Hill, Vice Minister of the Economy,  
 El Salvador

Gordon Shirley, Pro Vice Chancellor & Principal,  
 University of the West Indies

Alan Slusher, Director,  
 Caribbean Development Bank

Gervase Warner, Executive Director,  
 Neal & Massy

10:00 am–12:30 pm Location: Bayfront (Lower)  
**FOCUS ON CENTRAL AMERICA/DR**  
 MODERATOR: Stephen Lande, President, Manchester Trade  
 DISCUSSANTS:

Arturo Cruz, Ambassador of Nicaragua to the U.S.

Pierre Dulin, Head of Client Relationships,  
 Banco Latinoamericano de Exportaciones

Daniel P. Erikson, Senior Associate, US Policy &  
 Director of Caribbean Programs,  
 Inter-American Dialogue

Pablo Amaury Espinal, Director,  
 Foreign Trade, Dominican Republic

Patricia Figueroa, Executive Director,  
 AMCHAM El Salvador

Stephen Flowers, President,  
 UPS Latin America & the Caribbean

Gina Montiel, General Manager of the Central America Group,  
 Inter-American Development Bank

12:30 pm–2:00 pm Location: Versailles (Upper)  
**PLENARY LUNCH**  
 REMARKS:  
 Jose Cardenas, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Latin  
 America and the Caribbean, USAID

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

John P. de Jongh, Jr., Governor of the US Virgin Islands

### CONCURRENT ROUNDTABLES INDUSTRY SECTORS

2:00 pm–4:30 pm Location: Sandringham (Upper)

#### AGRI-BUSINESS BALANCING FOOD SECURITY AND BIOFUELS

*The burgeoning biofuels industry presents the opportunity to move away from petroleum dependency and reduce the environmental impacts of fossil fuels. There is however, a growing debate that global food security is being threatened by the conversion of crops such as corn and sugar cane into biofuels, instead of remaining in the global food production chain as feedstock or to process for human consumption. This could result in higher food prices and scarcity of basic and commodity food items, a situation that will severely affect developing countries including those in our region. This session will therefore explore if a sustainable balance can be met. Is there enough production capacity to provide for food production and biofuels? In what circumstances does one concern trump the other? Are their other cultivable crops that can be used for biofuels instead of food staples? Are there environmental and socio-cultural considerations to be made? What is the role of technology in producing higher yielding crops for food and biofuels purposes?*

**MODERATOR:** Chelston W.D. Brathwaite, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture

**DISCUSSANTS:** Julio Cesar Arroyo, Asociación Azucarera de El Salvador; Brian Dean, Interamerican Ethanol Commission; Reginald Noel, Haitian Biofuel Industry; David Williams, TechnoServ; David Lewis, Manchester Trade

2:00 pm–4:30 pm Location: Windsor (Upper)

#### APPAREL & ASSEMBLY

*After years of decline, the rising cost of energy, transportation, less production capacity in Asia coupled with new trade and preferential agreements in the Caribbean Basin, should ideally position the region to be competitive in the apparel and manufacturing arena. Are governments providing the right incentives for the industry? How are the companies themselves taking advantage of the new opportunities? Do weak labor standards pose significant obstacles to being able to supply the US market? Are there opportunities for regional product in Europe?*

**MODERATOR:** Michael Fralix, TC2

**DISCUSSANTS:** Fernando Capellan, Asociación Dominicana de Zonas Francas (ADOZONA); Avedis Seferian, WRAP; Roberto Bonilla, Asociación de los Industriales de la Confección ASIC (I); Simon Feldman Edvabny, Cámara Nacional de la Industria del Vestido (I)

2:00 pm–4:30 pm Location: Bayfront A (Lower)

#### ENERGY: OIL, GAS & ALTERNATIVES FUTURE OUTLOOKS FOR THE REGION

*Continuously high oil prices in recent times has forced the region to critically assess its energy needs and supply dependency, and look inwardly for potential opportunities to optimize known oil and gas sources, make current supply and distribution systems more efficient and tap into alternatives such as solar and hydroelectric. While the region still remains a net importer of fuel it continues to show signs of promise in traditional oil and gas resources as well as significant potential for harnessing alternative energy sources. This session will therefore critically look at current energy investments and future opportunities at each stage of the energy business chain from identification of resources such as new oil and gas reserves to delivery of product to local and international markets. Are new resources economically feasible to bring to market? Is there a profitable business case to be made? How are regional governments ensuring that their energy resources are being harnessed effectively and maximized for the benefit of economic development?*

**MODERATOR:** Anthony Bryan, Center for Strategic International Studies (CSIS)

**DISCUSSANTS:** David Barrett, Finders International; Julian Nebreda, AES Corporation; Suzanne Etcheverry, Overseas Private Investment Corporation; Alfredo Fernandez-Sivori, Exxon Mobil; Carlos Figueredo, Embassy of Venezuela to US; Ernesto Gutierrez, Private Sector Forum of the Americas; Hector Infante, Chevron; James Husbands, Solar Dynamics; Mario Arana, Polaris Nicaragua; Robert Riley, BPTT

2:00 pm–4:30 pm Location: Dupont/Tuttle (Lower)

#### FINANCIAL SERVICES NEW GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

*As the regional financial services sector continues to grow and meet more sophisticated needs of the market there has been much interest in new facilities notably microfinance both by small indigenous banks, larger market leaders and financial institutions some who see microfinance as a vehicle for development. Is micro financing a boutique trend or is it a new niche market for the sector to become involved in? Does microfinance lead to tangible economic rewards for lenders and borrowers? Are there other important developments in finance for commercial enterprises?*

**MODERATOR:** Daniel Nichols, Overseas Private Investment Corporation

**DISCUSSANTS:** Jeremy Baker, FAVACA; Roberto Barragan, Valley Economic Development Center; Stephen Cozier, Scotiabank; Sandra Darville, Multilateral Investment Fund, Inter-American Development Bank; Prakash Dhanrajh, Microfin Caribbean Holdings Ltd.; Aileen Pisciotta, Jaguar Development Finance; Carl Ross, Bear Stearns

2:00 pm–4:30 pm Location: Balmoral (Upper)

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS/IT EMPOWERING LOCAL BUSINESS AND COMMUNITIES

*The regional telecommunications sector continues to evolve into a more dynamically structured industry. While a lot of work has been done on the regulatory regime to open the market, increase competition and attract investment, expansions based on enhanced internet capabilities still present implementation challenges. There is still little awareness building of business opportunities and applicability of new technologies to local activities. There are also relatively few local content providers to stimulate interest in communities and the local business sector. New technologies offer the opportunity to deliver new revenue enhancing services and innovations such as mobile banking transactions, e-government and e-learning applications but they must be accessible and appreciated by the market. How successful have governments been thus far in implementing new policies to encourage investment by the private sector in this area? How are countries addressing provision of local content? Are technology and service providers adequately marketing what they provide to highlight the potential economic gains that can be derived?*

**MODERATOR:** Linda Wellstein, Wellstein Mora Rodriguez International

**DISCUSSANTS:** Oscar Bazoberry, WorldData; Regenie Fraser, Caribbean Association of National Telecommunications Organizations; Bernadette Lewis, Caribbean Telecommunications Union; Jose Rizek, INDOTEL; David Zumwalt, UVI, Research & Technology Park; Jaime Herrera, ICE (I); Rafael Madriaga, COMTELCA (I); Paul Scott, Columbus Networks; Phillip Cross, ITU

2:00 pm–4:30 pm Location: Flagler (Lower)

#### TOURISM EXPLOITING NEW NICHES

*The Caribbean today faces a crisis as it determines the next step in the advancement of its number one industry. Trends show a leveling off of industry growth in traditional sun sea and sand tourism, predominant in the Caribbean. In Central America, several countries chose to invest heavily in eco and nature tourism which continues to be important but is no longer as unique an attraction as a decade ago.*

Where will new growth come from? What about small hotels? What are the unique market niches that our region can invest in that will showcase a differentiated product to visitors and investors and provide sustained competitive advantage in the global market place? Is the industry tapping into this and other potential of these and other niches by directing investment, training the labor force, creating investment incentives and adopting world quality standards?

**MODERATOR:** TBD

**DISCUSSANTS:** John Issa, SuperClubs (Jamaica); Jake Kheel, Grupo Punta Cana; Lucia Leonard, Leonard Gonzalez Enterprises, Inc.; Saji Pillai, Valutone Solutions Inc.; Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, CTO; Neil Duffy, Caravan Tours (I)

2:00 pm–4:30 pm Location: Escorial/Alhambra (Upper)  
**TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS**

It is widely accepted that modernization and standardization of customs technology and procedures are key components in facilitating and promoting trade in the region. With better technology and harmonization of procedures, it is expected that there will be an improvement in efficiency and a reduction in the costs associated with trade. Despite recently adopting new technology, some countries of the region still suffer from inefficiency and higher import and export costs. Is improvement in technology the only answer to better efficiency and reducing costs? What will be the effect of the increased standardization of customs procedures under the CARICOM single market and economy in terms of greater efficiency, reducing costs and improved trade with the US? Have customs procedures improved since the passing of CAFTA?

**MODERATOR:** Jose Perez-Jones, Seaboard Marine

**DISCUSSANTS:** Edwin Araque, Empresa Nacional Portuaria, Puerto Cortes; Jose Concepcion, Seaboard Marine; Maria Mendez, Alabama State Port Authority; Trevor Riley, Shipping Association of Jamaica

4:30 pm–6:00 pm Location: Trianon (Upper)

**AFTERNOON PLENARY  
 MODERATORS' PANEL - INDUSTRY SECTORS**

6:00 pm–7:30 pm  
**COLLATERAL EVENTS - PRESENTATIONS  
 AMERICA'S RELIEF TEAM** Location: Sandringham/Windsor

**EVOLVING TECHNOLOGIES & ENTERPRISE  
 DEVELOPMENT CO. LTD.** Location: Chopin (Upper)

**IIC/IDB PRESENTATION  
 FINANCIAL & NON-FINANCIAL PRODUCTS OF  
 THE INTER-AMERICAN INVESTMENT  
 CORPORATION** Location: Isles (Lower)

7:00 pm–8:00 pm Location: Mezzanine (Upper)  
**NETWORKING RECEPTION**

8:00 pm–10:00 pm Location: Versailles (Upper)  
**PLENARY DINNER**

**REMARKS:**

Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General, OAS

**INTRODUCTION:**

Glenn Johnson, Director, Latin America Global Marketing, Chevron

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS:**

Bruce Golding, Prime Minister, Jamaica

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2007**

7:30 am–7:30 pm Location: Mezzanine (Upper)  
**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

7:30 am–8:30 am Location: Balmoral  
**LAC-CORE: RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE  
 CARIBBEAN & LATIN AMERICA—KEYS TO SUCCESS**  
 (Refreshments Served)

7:30 am–8:30 am Location: Sandringham (Upper)

**BREAKFAST BRIEFING: SUCCESS WITH  
 DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

BY Jaguar Development Finance

8:30 am–9:30 am Location: Trianon (Upper)

**MORNING PLENARY  
 THE COMPETITIVENESS AGENDA**

**WELCOME:**

Anton Edmunds, Caribbean-Central American Action

**REMARKS:**

Jerry Butler, Executive Director, Caribbean, IDB

**SPEAKERS:**

Steven J. Puig, Vice President for Private Sector and Non-Sovereign Guaranteed Operations, IDB

9:30 am–10:00 am Location: Exhibit Hall

**COFFEE BREAK**

Vertice Coffee: Beverage Excellence

10:00 am–12:30 pm

**CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS  
 REGIONAL STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES**

10:00 am–12:30 pm Location: Flagler  
**EDUCATION**

In the developing countries of the Caribbean and Central America, recent studies show that the region is struggling to keep its most important asset, its people educated to meet the demands of the global marketplace. As a result, many argue that the region will fail to truly benefit from new opportunities brought about by DR-CAFTA & other regional treaties. According to the studies, most of the young workforce is not finishing grade school, and if so, many don't finish consecutively and vocational training remains important, although still impacting a small section of the workforce. What are governments doing to prepare its population and workforce to compete in the new regional economy? Is education a high enough priority in the regions bid to improve competitiveness? Are investors, local and foreign companies doing anything to improve the education opportunities and training of their labor force? Is it their duty to provide training and education?

**MODERATOR:** Auguste Rimpel, University of the Virgin Islands

**DISCUSSANTS:** Adriana Badilla, Aprender y Crecer, Price Charities; Jose F. Mendez, Ana G. Mendez University System; Valerie P. Veira, Jamaica Business Development Centre

10:00 am–12:30 pm Location: Dupont/Tuttle (Lower)

**DISASTER RESPONSIVENESS**

As we weather through another hurricane season, what has been accomplished in the region in disaster mitigation and relief? How is the region addressing the four pillars of disaster response: Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery? Have lessons learned since hurricanes Mitch, Gordon, and Katrina been implemented? Have local governments enforced mitigation policies? What steps has the private sector taken to protect supply chain and ensure business continuity? Has there been harmonization of policies and action plans in the Caribbean and in Central America? What best practices could be put forth as a potential standard to be implemented by the two regional disaster and emergency response agencies?

**MODERATOR:** Jennifer Nugent-Hill, Tropical Shipping

**DISCUSSANTS:** Teo Babun, Americas Relief; Jeremy Collymore, Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Response Agency; Daniel Gallardo, Comisión Nacional de Emergencia, Costa Rica; Leo Lobato, Boulder Inc.; Carolyn Rose-Avila, FAVACA; Lou Santamaria, Scotiabank

10:00 am–12:30 pm Location: Bayfront A

**ENERGY SECURITY: BIOFUELS  
ADVANCEMENTS AND REGIONAL COOPERATION**

Developing a regional biofuels industry can bring economic benefits by reducing dependency on petroleum imports and by creating jobs and economic opportunity. Within the region however, it is important to examine how and where biofuels investments will have the most impact. Which countries have the advantages of physical space for production, a skilled agrarian workforce, ability to adopt and develop cutting edge biofuels technology and breed the most productive bio resources for raw material? Do the conditions of some countries favor cane, jahtropha, palm oil, switch grass or others? There are also challenges. What infrastructure investment will be needed to increase the penetration of biofuels for the gasoline dependent regional transportation networks? How do we phase in flex fuel and other efficient vehicles? What are the consequences to agricultural product prices and food security when bio resources are converted to fuels instead of food? It is also important to examine if individual territories can become energy self sufficient by investments in biofuels and whether a regional approach of shared production, processing and intra regional biofuels trade agreements could be a solution. This session will also look at the US-Brazil biofuels agreement's focus on standards and codes, on research and development and its partnership with El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and St. Kitts and Nevis. What can we learn from the Brazilian and American feedstock and regulatory models? Can we look to regional cooperation to share technologies and best practices?

**MODERATORS:** Edward Glab & George Philippidis, Florida International University

**SPEAKERS:** Greg Manuel, Special Advisor to the Secretary of State; Rubens Gama, Government of Brazil; Aristides Zucco, DR National Energy Commission; Nigel Carty, Government of St. Kitts and Nevis; Salvador Rivas, Ministry of Finance, El Salvador; Jonas Gue, Secretary of State Haiti; Julio Arroyo, Asociación Azucarera de El Salvador; Moises Starkman, Government of Honduras; Omar Bros, Consorcio Tenco Deah DR; Hernan Chiriboga, IICA; Ross Good, Chrysler; Jeffrey Jacobs, Chevron Technology Ventures; Gael Pressoir, Centro Hispanola de Investigación; Helio Lobo, Brazilian Trade Promotion Agency

**DISCUSSANTS:** Marcos Zelaya, Government of Honduras; Mark Lambrides, Organization of American States; Al Binger, Caribbean Climate Change; Alejandro Perez, Ministry of Commerce Dominican Republic; Jorge Gage, Energy Systems of America Inc.; Gino Bettaglio, Corporacion Salvadorena de Inversiones, Onil; Abreau Tabar, National Energy Commission, Dominican Republic; Judy Siegel, Latin American and Caribbean Council On Renewable Energy; Ernesto Samayoa, World Environment Center; Ernesto Hayem, Ministry of Agriculture, El Salvador; Johanna Mendelson-Forman, Center for Strategic and International Studies

10:00 am–12:30 pm Location: Balmoral

**CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY  
BRINGING SMES INTO THE CSR CULTURE**

Businesses exhibit corporate social responsibility (CSR) by committing to ethical behavior, contributing to economic development and being respectful of communities, society and the natural environment, all while ensuring the satisfaction of their shareholders. Although not yet the norm, CSR is finding resonance with some of the large firms and multinational corporations in our region. They are beginning to understand that their actions can impact upon their productivity, permission to operate, market perceptions of them and ultimately their bottom line. There is still however a substantial deficiency in assimilation of CSR practices in the small and medium sector. This is problematic since SMEs comprise over 80% of regional businesses and their actions have the most impact on local communities. How can we encourage CSR in SMEs? What is the role of government and business development agencies? What have industry associations and business chambers been doing to promote CSR? Are there best practices to learn from in the

various goods and service sectors? What strategies have large companies employed to assist their SME suppliers and partners to integrate CSR in their own operations?

**MODERATOR:** Graco Paredes, British American Tobacco

**DISCUSSANTS:** Patricia Canessa de Rivera, Chevron; Donna Chung, Sandler Travis Rosenberg P.A.; Jacqueline Coke-Lloyd, Jamaican Employers Federation; Paul Fisher, Pan American Development Foundation; Natasha Mustapha-Scott, Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association; Roy Thomasson, Young Americas Business Trust

10:00 am–12:30 pm Location: Escorial/Alhambra

**TRANSPORTATION SECURITY**

The recent passing of the "scan-all" legislation, which requires the inspection and scanning of all air cargo and shipping containers entering the US by 2010 and 2012 respectively, will impose great challenges on the small economies of the Caribbean and Central America. What will be the consequences for those countries that are unable to fulfill this requirement? Given the importance of the US to the region as one of its largest trading partners, will non-compliance translate into a drastic decrease in trade between the US and the Caribbean Basin? Will this new legislation cause a delay in trade between the region and the US? What are the possible short-term solutions for the region?

**MODERATOR:** Fernando Rivera, Caribbean Shipping Association

**DISCUSSANTS:** Jay Brickman, Crowley Maritime Corporation; Daine Eisold, Cotecna Inspections; Mark Flynn, Associated Industries of Florida; David F. Long, US Department of Commerce; O'Neil Hamilton, Embassy of Jamaica, Washington, D.C.; Frank Santeiro, FedEx; Bill Johnson, Port of Miami Dade (I)

12:00 pm–5:00 pm Location: Sevilla

**US DEPARTMENT OF STATE (private)  
US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (private)**

12:30 pm–2:00 pm Location: Versailles (Upper)

**PLENARY LUNCH**

**WELCOME:**

Jorge Arrizurieta, Chairman, IDB Miami 2008 Host Committee

**REMARKS:**

Paul B. Dyck, Deputy Assistant Secretary,  
US Department of Commerce

**ADDRESS:**

Susan Schwab, United States Trade Representative (I)

2:00 pm–4:30 pm

**CONCURRENT ROUNDTABLES  
PUBLIC POLICY**

2:00 pm–4:30 pm Location: Bayfront A

**ENVIRONMENT  
COORDINATING PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR EFFORTS**

The natural environment is the basis of nearly every industry sector on which our regional economies depend. With the predictions of negative long term climate change effects and present degradation of natural resources, it is the general consensus that efforts to mitigate against and rehabilitate are required. While each country has national plans and some regional intergovernmental programs do exist there is little consensus on results being yielded from such efforts. There are also increasing efforts by the private sector on a company by company basis to incorporate environmental efforts within their realm of operations. Private sector environmental efforts however are often focused narrowly on improving company performance, compliance and public relations with programs developed in relative isolation. Can company by company efforts, resources and innovative practices be coordinated and integrated more effectively within the context of national and regional environmental management plans? Is it possible that these combined resources could be more effectively utilized? Do environmentally responsible companies have

incentives to join such efforts? Do they need them? What mechanisms do government organizations have in place to incorporate private sector efforts and on what issues can business specifically make the most positive impacts? Where should efforts lay—greenhouse gas emission reduction or re-forestation or both? Are there already case studies we can learn from?

MODERATOR: Ernesto Samayoa, World Environment Center

DISCUSSANTS: William Young, Triangle Clean Cities Coalition; Florencio Marin, Government of Belize; Loris Nathoo, Demerara Distillers Ltd.; Ginger Garte, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines

2:00 pm–4:30 pm Location: Sandringham (Upper)

**CUBA**

*It is anticipated that in a post-Castro Cuba the island's economy will possibly evolve and eventually migrate into a free market economic model offering numerous investment opportunities to Cubans and foreign nationals alike. As in other emerging markets these investment opportunities will be in infrastructure reconstruction, oil and natural gas, sugarcane ethanol, tourism, agriculture, consumer products and services, housing and real estate development, healthcare, and many other sectors and industries. Given the complex relationship of an emerging market coupled with a centrally planned economy transition the roundtable will explore economic transition and market entry scenarios, capitalization of state enterprises, the role of the military in the economy, property claims and land tenancy legislation, as well as the future impact of Cuba on the region.*

MODERATOR: Andy S. Gomez, Institute for Cuban and Cuban American Studies

DISCUSSANTS: Victor Cuesta, National Society for Hispanic MBA's; Pedro A. Freyre, Akerman Senterfitt; Jorge Piñon, University of Miami; Jaime Suchlicki, University of Miami

2:00 pm–4:30 pm Location: Dupont (Lower)

**CRIME**

*The crime pandemic is considered a key driver of “anti-development”, and its reasons, causes, and solutions are constantly debated. However, what is agreed upon is that the effects of crime are reflected in nearly all areas of the economy and it promises to affect to long term development of the Caribbean and Central American region. Some identified triggers to the increasing crime rates in the region are income inequality, chaotic urbanization, easy access to guns, a young underemployed and disenfranchised population, and a lack of law enforcement capacity. In addition, repatriation of criminals and unstable post-conflict environments are also believed to be factors that contribute to the problem. What is the evidence of the strain to economic development in the region? How is domestic investment and the tourism industry affected? How much foreign investment will be lost if the crime rates continue to grow at the same speed? Will the proliferation of private security companies in these countries make safety a luxury? What is the cost of violence in these countries and what type of support has the international community presented to the region? Have crime prevention strategies implemented in the regions been successful, or are harsher and stricter policies and actions needed?*

MODERATOR: Susan Kaufman Purcell, University of Miami

DISCUSSANTS: Brian Louisy, St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce; Diana Pardo, Newlink Political; Dennis Merchant, Government of St. Kitts and Nevis; Michael Scantlebury, University of Central Florida; Harold Sibaja, Creative Associates International Inc.; Curtis Ward, Curtis Ward Associates; Deborah Sigmund, Innocents at Risk

2:00 pm–4:30 pm Location: Escorial/Alhambra (Upper)

**HAITI**

*Improvements in overall security, port security, and the passage of bilateral legislation providing the apparel industries some trade preferences are key successes characterizing President Preval's second tenure as Head of State. However positive these improvements, and notwithstanding the need for long term infrastructure investments, what still remains to be accomplished? Have accompanying policy and legislation been addressed to ensure the continued*

*success marking the first half of the presidency? What has been done to facilitate trade and investment in Haiti? What policies have been implemented create a more dynamic investment climate? What is the process to set up and make operational businesses? What about free trade zones? Are there incentives to encourage trade promotion? As Haiti looks to implement anti-corruption principles, has Haiti addressed the legislative revisions needed to modernize the state's capacity to implement new policies?*

MODERATOR: Carolyn Rose-Avila, FAVACA

DISCUSSANTS: Paul Tuebner, Mission Director, USAID; Erick Deryce, Pan American Development Foundation; Keith Eischeid, USTDA; Colin Granderson, CARICOM; François Guillaume, HACCOF; Fabrizio Opertti, IADB; Maryse Robert, OAS; Munir Moura, Miami River Marine Group; Hedi Annabi, MINUSTAH (I); Charles Clermont, Entreprise Clermont (I)

2:00 pm–4:30 pm Location: Flagler (Lower)

**SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESSES**

**KEEPING THE COMPETITIVE EDGE**

*Small and medium businesses make up nearly 80% of the regional business community today. They are the single most important source of employment and contribute significantly to national economies. As markets open however, many SMEs face increasing pressures to compete and survive. Manufacturers face competition from larger producers as well as foreign encroachment into local and regional markets. In the services sectors such as tourism and financial services markets are becoming consolidated and more difficult to compete in. What mechanisms are governments and development agencies putting in place to ensure continued viability of SMEs? What is the role of business associations? This session will promote discussion on the difficulties SMEs face in accessing finance, minimizing costs while ensuring quality, tapping into new markets for growth and expansion and making the leap into foreign export. These questions become more pertinent as the region considers new trade agreements with the US and other trading partners.*

MODERATOR: James Morrison, Small Business Exporters Association

DISCUSSANTS: Lisa Bell, Jamaica Trade and Invest (JAMPRO); John Beckham, Inter-American Investment Corp, IADB; Jerry Cartwright, Small Business Development Centers; Lynette Holder, Barbados Small Business Association; Sandro Murtas, Puerto Rico Small Business & Technology Development Center; Ludwig Ouenniche, Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce; Liaquat A. Shah, Caribbean Industrial Research Institute; Carmen Gisela Vergara, Government of Panama

4:30 pm–6:00 pm Location: Trianon (Upper)

**CLOSING PLENARY**

**MODERATORS' PANEL - PUBLIC POLICY**

7:00 pm–8:00 pm Location: Grand Ballroom

**NETWORKING RECEPTION**

8:00 pm–10:00 pm Location: Versailles

**PLENARY DINNER**

**“STAR OF THE CARIBBEAN” AWARD**

WELCOME:

Bill Johnson, Port Director, Port-of-Miami

RECIPIENT & KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Hubert Alexander Ingraham, Prime Minister, The Bahamas

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2007**

8:00 am–1:30 pm Location: Trianon (Upper)

**MINI CONFERENCE ON HEALTH**

HOSTED BY Jackson Memorial Hospital International