



CBBC to Welcome Jamaican Ministers in February

The Caribbean-Britain Business Council is holding a working business dinner on the occasion of the visit to the UK of three Ministers from Jamaica. Barry Humphreys, Chairman of the CBBC and Director of External Affairs and Route Development at Virgin Atlantic will host the dinner, which is being attended by Dr Kenneth Baugh (pictured), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Karl Samuda, Minister of Investment, Industry and Commerce, Minister Don Wehby, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service and High Commissioner Burchell Whiteman. The CBBC is also delighted that Gareth Thomas MP, Minister of State for the Department of International Development in the UK will attend. The Business dinner is open to Premier members of the CBBC and Board members of the Caribbean Council.

The private dinner precedes a one day investment conference being held in London on 5th February that will explore the opportunities for investment in Jamaica.

The visiting Ministers will speak at the conference, along with Caribbean businessmen including Erwin Burton, CEO of Grace Foods.

Key themes that will be explored in the conference are as follows: the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA); Investing in Jamaica; and Jamaica's improving economy. The conference will be followed by a gala networking reception that will focus on the creative industries.

The Caribbean Council has provided support with the conference, which is being organised by DMA Consultants and Jamaica Trade and Invest. CBBC Members are invited to attend the conference free of charge. Anyone interested in attending should contact Stephanie Whittle stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org

Save the Date: Caribbean Council Annual Reception at the House of Lords: 21 April, 2009

The Caribbean Council will once again be hosting its annual reception at the House of Lords for members, friends and distinguished guests. The event will take place on 21 April at the House of Lords, London. The 2008 reception, the largest to date, attracted over 200 guests, who heard from guest speakers Douglas Alexander MP and Floella Benjamin. This year's event which will have many guests from politics and the region will again be supported by sponsors and include a free prize draw.

Anyone who would like information about the business partnership and exhibition opportunities available in relation to the event should contact Stephanie Whittle Stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org



Flavours of Jamaica Campaign Emphasises 'Quality' and 'Uniqueness' of Jamaican Brand

Jamaica is mounting a 'Flavours of Jamaica' campaign across the United Kingdom in time for Spring. The campaign will emphasize the 'quality uniqueness' of the Jamaican Brand.

Jamaica Trade and Invest (JTI) will be launching 'Flavours of Jamaica' at the International Food and Drink Expo in London at the ExCel Convention Centre between 15 and 18 March, 2009.

The campaign will target major distributors and retailers such as Sainsbury's, Somerfield, Tesco, Asda and Morrisons; and will spread to the Midlands with a trade seminar in Birmingham to facilitate business matchmaking between Jamaican foods and drinks processors and wholesalers and independent grocers.

Laurence Jones, European Regional Manager for JTI, believes that the "Flavours of Jamaica" campaign will continue to facilitate growth of Jamaican food and drinks in the European market. Consumer trade statistics point to heightened interest in Europe for Jamaican food and drink. "Interest has never been higher, and, as a direct result, we are seeing steady growth in the sales of Jamaican products across Europe, primarily because the average consumer is constantly looking for

Events Diary

29-30 January, 2009
Caribbean Energy Conference:
Mitigating Fuel Prices, Santo Domingo,
Dominican Republic

5 February, 2009
Jamaica-UK Investment Forum,
London

5 February, 2009
Cuban Baseball and National Identity,
London

9-13 February, 2009
International E-Commerce
Workshop, Havana, Cuba

9-13 February, 2009
Informatica 2009, Havana, Cuba

12-22 February, 2009
Havana International Book Fair,
Havana, Cuba

18 March, 2009
Business Roundtable on Global
Economic Crisis, Santo Domingo,
Dominican Republic

17-18 April, 2009
Fifth Summit of the Americas

21 April, 2009 Reception, House of
Lords, London

19 June, 2009
Canada and the Cuban Revolution,
London

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

This newsletter is sponsored by:



In 2009, Virgin Atlantic celebrates 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 last year.

Virgin Atlantic flies to Antigua, Barbados, Grenada, Havana, Kingston, Montego Bay, St Lucia 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.

new taste experiences and Jamaican foods provide an exciting alternative to others from around the world”, said Jones.

Jamaican jerk sauces are particularly popular and are expanding beyond the ethnic market to the main street British market, especially well known brands like Walkerswood and new and upcoming entrants like Levi Roots’ (pictured) “Reggae Reggae” jerk brand, which generated £1.4 million in sales (2007-08). *For further information please contact Jamaica Trade and Invest, 0207 584 8894*



Business Roundtable in the Dominican Republic: Responding to the Global Economic Crisis

18 March 2009, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

The Economist Conferences Unit is organising a Conference in Santo Domingo which will look at the difficult external conditions the Dominican Republic faces as a result of the global economic downturn. The conference will consider the particular challenges which lay ahead for the country including EPA and DR-CAFTA implementation, energy reform, infrastructure development and greater government efficiency. It will also look at the prospects for the different parts of the Dominican economy including technology, real-estate and telecommunications, exports and tourism.

President Leonel Fernández (pictured) has confirmed his participation as speaker at the conference. Other speakers will include:

Marco Cruz, Managing Director, Central America and the Caribbean, Odebrecht
José Luis Corripio Estrada, President, Grupo Corripio
David Lewis, Vice-president, Manchester Trade
Jerry Haar, Associate Dean, College of Business Administration, Florida International University
Darys Estrella, General Director, Stock Exchange of the Dominican Republic
Jorge Castañeda, Global Distinguished Professor of Politics and Latin American Studies, New York University
Anna Szterenfeld, Latin America Editor, Economist Intelligence Unit

For more information about the Roundtable please visit

<http://quest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=1465422a-d4e5-4e1c-8401-388fa833dc23>

Havana International Book Fair

12-22 February, Havana, Cuba

The 18th International Book Fair in Havana will take place between February 12th and 22nd under the motto “Leer es crecer” (Reading is Growing). It will be dedicated to Fina Garcia-Marruz, National Literature Award, and to Jorge Ibarra, National Social Sciences Award. For the first time, the Fair will be dedicated to a Cuban institution: Casa de las Americas, in its 50th Anniversary. The Republic of Chile will be the country Guest of Honour.

Publishers, writers and book salesmen from over thirty countries are expected to attend the traditional Fair Grounds at the Fortaleza de San Carlos de la Cabaña. The fair’s artistic program includes music concerts, drama plays, film and visual arts exhibits and dance performances, as well as presentations in factories, schools, and cultural and recreational institutions in the capital city and the provinces.

The Caribbean Book Company (CBC), a CBBC Member, recommends the fair. The 2009 event will be CBC’s eleventh year exhibiting in Havana.

Those interested in taking part as exhibitors or professionals should contact the FIL Organizing Committee E-mail: feria@ccl.cult.cu; mirtha@ccl.cult.cu or by telephone +(537) 832 9526



IISC Book Launch and Seminar: Cuban Baseball and National Identity: A Nation of Peloteros. Dr. Thomas F. Carter, University of Brighton **6.30 pm, 5 February, 2009, London Metropolitan University**

In this seminar, Dr Carter (Pictured) introduces his new book on how baseball has played a significant role since the nineteenth century in Cuban society and in the formation of Cuban national identity and how it continues to resonate with everyday life and politics to this day.

This evening’s seminar will provide an overview of the historical trajectories of baseball in Cuba and its inherently Cuban values associated with the playing and watching of the sport.

Dr Thomas F Carter is a cultural anthropologist who earned his doctorate in anthropology in the desert southwest of the United States at the University of New Mexico.

Wine will be served after this seminar and Dr Carter will be available to sign copies of his book. *Entrance to this seminar is free but please register your intention to attend by email: admin@cupastudies.org*

Canada and the Cuban Revolution

On the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution the Canadian Studies Programme and the Caribbean Studies Programme at the Institute for the Study of the Americas (part of the School of Advanced Studies at the University of London) are holding a symposium on 'Canada and the Cuban Revolution'.

The symposium will be held on 19 June at the Institute for the Study of the Americas (which should then be located in its new home in the University of London's Senate House).

If you would be interested in participating or simply in attending please contact Kate Quinn at kate.quinn@sas.ac.uk and Phillip Buckner at phillipbuckner@hotmail.com.