

# Caribbean Council Newsletter

25 September 2009  
Issue 92



*your window to the Caribbean*



## Participating in Cuba's Energy Revolution: A Seminar for the UK Energy Sector 26-27 November, 2009, Havana, Cuba

The Cuban Government has indicated that they would welcome entering into commercial discussions with UK firms in the renewable energy sector. They have expressed a particular interest in the following areas: Biomass from sugar cane; Forest biomass; biogas from organic residues from agriculture and cattle; Thermal; Solar; Wind power; Hydro energy. They are also interested in learning about possible financing solutions for renewable energy projects and about carbon trading and carbon emissions licensing.

To this end, the Cuba Initiative has agreed to organize a high-level renewable energy seminar in Havana at the end of November which will be an opportunity for UK companies to showcase their services / products to a high level audience in Cuba. The event is being supported by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and will be co-hosted with the Cuban Ministry of Basic Industries.

Participants from the Cuban side will be senior figures in the energy and renewable energy sectors who are members of the 15 National Working Groups which are responsible for developing Cuban energy policy.

Invitations and further information will be sent out shortly to members of the Cuba Initiative and companies operating in the energy sector. If you would be interested in participating, please contact Chris Bennett [chris.bennett@caribbean-council.org](mailto:chris.bennett@caribbean-council.org)

## International Fair of Havana (FIHAV) – UK Stand 2-7 November, Havana, Cuba

The British Embassy will be hosting a stand at the International Fair of Havana in November. FIHAV is the largest multi-sectoral trade fair in Cuba each year and last year secured attendance of over 1,200 exhibiting companies from 54 countries.

The British stand will have a section relating to the Cuba Initiative and there is an opportunity for members of the Cuba Initiative to display material in the stand about their company and its products or services.

If you would be interested in taking advantage of this exciting opportunity, please either contact Chris Bennett [chris.bennett@caribbean-council.org](mailto:chris.bennett@caribbean-council.org) or Carole Thompson at UKTI on [carole.thompson@ukti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:carole.thompson@ukti.gsi.gov.uk) for more information.

WEST INDIES RUM & SPIRITS  
PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

**WIRSPA**

## Caribbean Rum event in Brussels a huge success

The Board of Directors of the West Indies Rum and Spirits Producers (WIRSPA) with support from the Caribbean Council, held a reception in Brussels on 23 September for those in the European Commission, European Parliament and from EU Member states to enable them to learn

more about Caribbean rum and its success in developing its brands and aged products as a result of the support it has received from the EU.

The event provided an opportunity to taste different varieties of aged Caribbean rum and to learn more about Caribbean rum production and its history. The reception also offered an opportunity for discussion of some of the challenges facing industry in completing the EDF funded Integrated Development Programme which has been providing co-funding distillers in the region to modernise and develop new international markets.

## Events Diary

29 September, 2009  
The Economic Crisis in Cuba,  
London

5 October, 2009  
Cultura y Cubania Festival Launch,  
London

15 October, 2009  
IPA/EDA Networking Event, Jamaica  
High Commission, London

16-20 November, 2009  
Trade Mission to Jamaica

2-7 November, 2009  
Havana International Fair, Cuba

23-26 November, 2009  
Commonwealth Business Forum,  
Port of Spain, Trinidad

26-27 November, 2009  
Cuba's Energy Revolution Seminar,  
havana, 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 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](http://www.virgin-atlantic.com).

The reception was attended by the Caribbean Ambassadors in Brussels and representatives of CIRT DOM, the association that brings together the rum industry in the French DOM and with which WIRSPA has a strategic alliance in Europe and other friends of the industry.

The Caribbean Council has been working with WIRSPA for many years, providing consultancy and advisory services and assisting the association in its development of successful lobbying and advocacy campaigns. To find out how the Caribbean Council could support your association please contact David Jessop [david.jessop@caribbean-council.org](mailto:david.jessop@caribbean-council.org).



## Miami Conference on the Caribbean and Central America 30 November – 2 December, 2009, Miami

The Annual Miami Conference on the Caribbean and Central America will take place at the InterContinental Hotel in Miami, from 30 November to 2 December, 2009. The Miami Conference has been a leading forum for international discussion of issues related to business and trade policy for the Caribbean Basin region for the past three decades, bringing together heads of government, policy makers, business leaders, and civil society for town hall meetings, roundtable debates, and networking events. It usually attracts an audience of at least 500 delegates and is accompanied by a small exhibition.

Titled "Responding to Global Challenges: Surviving and Prospering in Today's Economy", the 2009 Conference will highlight how the governments and the private sector of the Caribbean and Central America are addressing the multiple economic and political events that have dominated the past year and how the region's international partners are working through the challenges with them.

The 2009 Miami Conference is laying out an ambitious agenda for participants that will draw upon the strengths that have made this forum the annual gathering place for regional leaders for the past 32 years. The conference will feature plenary events that will address issues that affect all who are involved in or with the region. There will be focus sessions on critical industry areas, as well as interactive roundtables that have become a hallmark of the Miami Conference. Special sessions will be held on Cuba and Haiti as those two countries look to navigate their way through turbulent times from two very distinct starting points. All sessions will feature expert speakers and moderators will ensure that participants have ample time to debate the issues.

The list of invited speakers includes leading members of the US Administration and Heads of Government and Ministers and private sector leaders from across the Caribbean and Central America.

The Caribbean Council is a collaborating organisation for this year's conference, and is pleased to announce a special rate for European companies that would like to participate in this event. Registration fees are usually \$800 USD however European Companies can take advantage of a special rate of \$600 USD for bookings made before 30 October.

For more information about this special rate please contact Stephanie Whittle [stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org](mailto:stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org). Further information including a draft agenda and details about how to become a sponsor of the event can be found at <http://www.c-caa.org/conferences/2009/index.html>



## The Economic Crisis in Cuba – Event Fully Booked! 29 September 2009, Canning House, London

Speaker: Emily Morris, author of the Economist Intelligence Unit's Cuba reports and Associate at the International Institute for the Study of Cuba

Chairman: David Jessop, Director of the Cuba Initiative

This next event in the Cuba Initiative seminar series is fully booked following a high level of interest from members of the Cuba Initiative and Canning House. Any Cuba Initiative Members who have not already responded should contact Stephanie Whittle to be added to the waitlist [stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org](mailto:stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org)

Canning House  
WHERE THE UK MEETS LATIN AMERICA & BEREA

## Commonwealth Business Forum to Feature Plenary on Doing Business in the Caribbean 8.30 am, 25 November, 2009, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

Taking place in Trinidad and Tobago during CHOGM, the Commonwealth Business Forum agenda features a plenary session titled 'Caribbean: A Place to do Business'. The session will focus on the main incentives, challenges and prospects for business and investment in the region and will include information about the experiences of investors currently doing business in this region.

The invited speakers for the session are Prof Compton Bourne, President, Caribbean Development Bank; HE Edwin W Carrington, Secretary General, Caribbean Community (CARICOM); Dr Juan José Daboub, Managing Director, World Bank; HE Leonel Fernandez, President, Dominican Republic; and Hon Dr Denzil Llewellyn Douglas, Prime Minister, St Christopher (St Kitts) & Nevis. To see a copy of the latest programme and to book your place, please click the links below. For further information please contact Vasundhara Puri [vasundhara.puri@cbcglobal.org](mailto:vasundhara.puri@cbcglobal.org).



## Caribbean High Commissioners foster deeper relationship with Scottish Parliament

A group of Caribbean High Commissioners in London this week paid a visit to the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood in Edinburgh, with the aim of fostering a deeper relationship with members of the Scottish Parliament with the proposed establishment of a Cross-Party Parliamentary Group.

The meeting follows an initial visit in June 2008 organised by the Caribbean Britain Business Council (CBBC), which was hosted by Lord Foulkes, who is a Scottish Member of Parliament and also President of the CBBC.

MSPs present hailed from the Labour, Conservative, Scottish National Party, Green, Parties, and all pledged their support to the convening of a Cross Party Group that would work together with Caribbean High Commissioners to strengthen relationships in a range of areas.

The group discussed potential educational and cultural exchanges between the Caribbean and Scotland, along with possible collaboration in the areas of trade, tourism and investment opportunities, renewable energy, and sports.

*(Photo L-R: Acting HC Trinidad and Tobago; HC Barbados; HC Grenada; MSP George Foulkes; HC Guyana; MSP Linda Fabiani; HC Antigua & Barbuda)*

### **Private Sector Hall Of Fame Banquet 7 pm, 26 October, 2009, Hilton Kingston, Jamaica**

Christopher Blackwell, Founder and Chairman of Island Outpost, will be the 17th outstanding business leader to be inducted into the PSOJ's Private Sector Hall of Fame. This will take place at a Banquet to be held on 26 October, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Ballroom of the Hilton Kingston Hotel.

Tickets will be available from the PSOJ Secretariat by the middle of September. For reservations please call Violet Vassell +1 868 927 6238, Ext. 2245.



### **Energy and Entrepreneurship Conference 25-27 January, 2009, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago**

The Trinidad & Tobago Energy Conference (formerly the Trinidad & Tobago Petroleum Conference), is organised by the South Trinidad Chamber of Industry and Commerce (STCIC), the representative association for the Trinidad & Tobago energy sector ([www.stcic.org](http://www.stcic.org)). The vision of the South Trinidad Chamber of Industry and Commerce is to steer the energy sector of Trinidad & Tobago and the wider Caribbean from mere hydrocarbon extraction to sustainable development.

The two-day Conference provides the forum for the private sector, Government and academia to sift through and discuss pressing energy sector issues, with a view to fostering positive change for the country, region and the world; and the setting for participants to forge new and strategic business relationships through networking.

For more information and to register your interest please visit: <http://www.ttenergyconference.org/>

### **CAIC Meeting & CARICOM-DR Business Forum October, 2009, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic**

The CAIC Meeting & CARICOM-DR Business Forum will be held in October, 2009 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. For further information contact: Alan Ramirez, Deputy Executive Director, Caribbean Export Development Agency [alan.ramirez@codetel.net.do](mailto:alan.ramirez@codetel.net.do)

### **Caribbean Export Regional Workshop on Intellectual Property as Marketing Tools for SMEs November, 2009, Various Locations**

Caribbean Export Regional Workshop on Intellectual Property as Marketing Tools for SMEs will be held in November 2009. The seminars will be held in Dominican Republic, Belize, Grenada and Trinidad & Tobago. For further information contact: Alan Ramirez, Deputy Executive Director, Caribbean Export Development Agency [alan.ramirez@codetel.net.do](mailto:alan.ramirez@codetel.net.do)

### **2nd Caribbean Design Network Meeting 4-5 November, 2009, Dominican Republic**

The 2nd Caribbean Design Network Meeting will be held on November 4-5, 2009 in the Dominican Republic. For further information contact: Veona Maloney, Manager, Core Services, Caribbean Export Development Agency [vmaloney@carib-export.com](mailto:vmaloney@carib-export.com)

**CUBA BRIEFING**  
separating fact from opinion

What is going on inside Cuba?  
How will Cuba change in the future?  
What impact will change have on international capital markets?  
How are Cuba's hemispheric and international relationships changing?

Since 1998, Cuba Briefing has been providing detailed and accurate news on economic, social and political developments inside Cuba.

For subscription details and a trial offer please visit [www.caribbean-council.org/consultancy/publications](http://www.caribbean-council.org/consultancy/publications)

The image is a promotional flyer for 'CUBA BRIEFING'. It features a dark background with a map of the Caribbean region. The title 'CUBA BRIEFING' is in large, bold, orange letters, with the tagline 'separating fact from opinion' in white below it. A list of key questions is presented in white text, followed by a yellow text box containing information about the publication's history and a website link.