

July / August 2008

July 2008

Dear Caribbean Colleagues,



It gives me great pleasure to forward you our second edition of the Caribbean Business Opportunities electronic bulletin. We appreciate the contributions and input we received for this issue from a number of our readers.

This edition includes articles relating to some of the key themes in the upcoming **Americas Competitiveness Forum**, being held in Atlanta August 17-19, 2008 – Renewable Energy (Jamaica); and Alliances in Business & Education (Trinidad & Tobago).

Please also note the description of the upcoming **Caribbean American Franchise Forum**, being held in Santo Domingo October 23 & 24, 2008. This will be a program that combines two key elements for Caribbean investors interested in franchising: 1) presentations by franchise experts about the subject of franchising and how to develop a successful franchise system in the Caribbean; and 2) U.S. franchises will present their concepts that are available for development in the Caribbean region.

This issue also highlights the **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)**, which has been an important partner for many U.S. small businesses as they initiate and develop their operations. The development of a vibrant and successful small business sector is a major objective for all of the countries throughout the Caribbean region, and SBA can prove to be a valuable resource and source of information to assist in that very important effort.

Once again, we would appreciate receiving information about any of your programs or events which would be of interest to our readers throughout the Caribbean, so that we can assist in promoting those activities in order to contribute to regional synergies and business development.

With warm Caribbean wishes,

Robert Jones Commercial Counselor for the Caribbean U.S. Embassy, Santo Domingo



Promoting Prosperity and Economic Opportunity

The second annual <u>Americas Competitiveness Forum</u> (ACF) is quickly approaching (August 17-19, 2008). This event will facilitate an interactive discussion between the public and private sectors on the drivers to innovation and economic growth related to:

- Alliances in Business and Education
- Market Opportunities in Renewable Energy
- Travel and Tourism in the Americas
- Trade Logistics

In keeping with the spirit of this event, the second edition of *Caribbean Business Opportunities* highlights organizations, events and programs that promote prosperity and economic opportunity in the Caribbean region related to these topics.

Please forward any contributions you may have for future editions of the CBO Bulletin to: ines.gerez@mail.doc.gov

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Agency Profile

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

The U.S. <u>Small Business Administration</u> (SBA) was created in 1953 as an independent agency of the federal government to help start, build and grow U.S. businesses by providing financial and federal contract procurement assistance, management assistance, and loans to U.S. exporters and victims of natural disasters. Nearly 20 million small businesses have received direct or indirect help from SBA programs.

In the Caribbean, SBA has provided guidance on best practices in small business development to government officials, local chambers and the private sector in Jamaica and the Bahamas. SBA officials held video conferences and organized meetings in Washington, D.C. with local officials to exchange ideas on how to foster entrepreneurial activity and create incentives and resources for micro businesses.

During these presentations, SBA officials highlighted the Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) located in all 50 states, which provide counseling, training and technical assistance in all aspects of small business management. The SBDCs not only counsel small businesses, but also provide loans and other financial assistance.

To learn more about SBA's programs, please contact Luz Hopewell, Director of International Trade, at luz.hopewell@sba.gov

SBA's Resources for Caribbean Companies

Although SBA is focused on assisting small businesses in the U.S., the online resources listed below can be used by small business owners and entrepreneurs in the Caribbean as well:

FREE ONLINE BUSINESS TRAINING COURSES

http://www.sba.gov/services/training/onlinecourses/index.html

FREE SMALL BUSINESS PLANNER

http://www.sba.gov/smallbusinessplanner/index.html



U.S. Small Business Administration

Trinidad & Tobago Alliances in Business and Education



Education is an instrumental tool in developing future leaders who have the potential to do great things for their country. Since its creation over sixty years ago, the <u>Fulbright Program</u> has offered over 225,000 participants around the globe the opportunity to learn about the political and economic institutions and cultures of another country, exchange ideas, and conduct joint projects that serve the public good.

Already eight years in existence, the <u>Fulbright 2000 Program</u> was developed by former U.S. Ambassador Edward E. Shumaker, III, to assist qualified students in Trinidad and Tobago by giving them an opportunity to further their graduate studies at U.S. universities.

Unlike the traditional Fulbright scholarships that are paid for entirely by the U.S. government, Fulbright 2000 scholarships are funded by local and multinational corporations and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. Matching funds are provided by the U.S. Embassy in the form of tuition waivers from U.S. universities, negotiated by LASPAU (Academic and Professional Programs for the Americas, affiliated to Harvard University). To date, nineteen corporations have participated in this program enabling thirty-four nationals of Trinidad and Tobago to pursue two-year master's degree programs in the United States.

A key supporter of the Fulbright 2000 program is EOG Resources, a U.S. based oil and natural gas company. EOG Resources has been involved with the program since its inception and has demonstrated a keen interest in the students and their professional development. In fact, EOG has even hired two of the students that they sponsored after they graduated even though they were not obliged to do so.

According to EOG Trinidad's Managing Director, Mr. Sammy G. Pickering, "EOG Trinidad has been involved in the Fulbright Program since its inception in 2000 and we have found it a tremendous resource for identifying and refining top talent. The Program provides status reports on our scholars' academic performance, allowing us to gauge their progress. We have recruited some of these scholars, confident that they would be able to competently function in the workplace. The Fulbright Program offers the unique opportunity for organizations to partner with other key stakeholders in developing the country's human resource base. With an objective such as this, EOG Resources Trinidad will continue to be a supporter for the coming year."

The Fulbright 2000 program is an excellent example of the commitment needed by businesses, governments, non-profits and educational institutions to cultivate human capital that is capable of increasing the economic prosperity and standard of living in the Caribbean Region.



Renewable Energy Opportunities



Request for Project Proposals in Jamaica

In November 2006, the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ) established the <u>Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy</u> (CERE), in order to bring the requisite technical skills and focus to the development of renewable energy in Jamaica. The specific mission of CERE is to enhance the contribution of renewables to Jamaica's energy mix.

In accordance with the <u>Jamaica Energy Policy Green Paper 2006 – 2020</u>, the CERE is working to meet the renewable energy policy goals of 10% of energy supply by 2010 and 15% by 2020 (current RE supply is 5.6%). PCJ estimates investment opportunities of approximately US\$ 1.187 B over the period 2008-2015 to achieve these targets. To this end, Jamaica's <u>Office of Utilities Regulation</u> has recently issued **requests for project proposals for renewable energy** to the extent of 640,000 MWh. The date for the submission of proposals is **July 24, 2008.**

The solicitation for new renewable energy is on a Build, Own and Operate basis; hence it is expected that successful bidders will have to obtain a license to generate electricity and negotiate a Power Purchase Agreement with the Jamaica Public Service company, which is the sole integrated electricity company for the island. The successful proponents will join a number of other Independent Power Producers that now sell bulk electricity to the national grid.

The bid process also provides opportunities for Waste-to-Energy conversion proposals which when implemented will be another solution to Jamaica's energy needs. In addition, given the abundance of sunshine in Jamaica, the market is also attractive for investment to establish a solar manufacturing plant to manufacture finished Solar Water Heaters and / or Photo Voltaic systems.

For more information, please download the Request for Proposals Documentation, or contact the Office of Utilities Regulation.

Trade Events in the Caribbean

Business Roundtable:

Opportunities in the Caribbean Renewable Energy Sector

Organizer: United States Embassy of Nassau

Country: Nassau, Bahamas Dates: July 24, 2008

Hosted by US Ambassador Siegel and the US Embassy in Nassau, Business Roundtable will be held on **July 24, 2008, at the Sheraton Cable Beach, in Nassau Bahamas** and will follow the Organization of American States (OAS) Caribbean Regional Sustainable Energy Seminar taking place on July 23, 2008. The OAS meeting will bring together Ministers, high level government decision makers and the leaders from the donor community from across the region to discuss sustainable energy projects in the region.

The purpose of the Business Roundtable is to complement the activities of the OAS meeting and aims to catalyze the development of renewable energy and biofuels and foster a discussion on trade and investment opportunities in the Caribbean. The event will bring together business leaders and regional officials to discuss themes such as public-private sector partnerships, latest technology options and selecting the right solution, along with information on attracting financing. Click Here to learn more and register for the event

IX Business Forum of the Greater Caribbean

Organizer: Association of Caribbean States
Location: Renaissance Aruba Resort and Casino

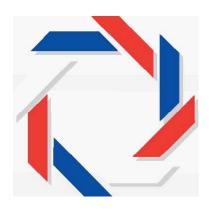
Dates: September 23-25, 2008

The Association of Caribbean States (ACS) was founded in 1994 to promote cooperation and trade between the countries of the Greater Caribbean. Today, the ACS consists of 25 Member States and 3 Associated Members. One of the major events of the ACS is the annual Business Forum of the Greater Caribbean, which is being held this year in Aruba. This forum, like its predecessors is meant to foster business relationships and strengthen regional integration.

The Business Forum will kick-off with a conference where presentations will be given by local and international experts on various trade related topics that affect the region. An expo will be held on the second and third days, where participants can exhibit their products/services to prospective clients. Matchmaking assistance will be provided to those interested. The Business Forum is a great opportunity to meet key business executives and government officials in the Greater Caribbean region.

For more details: please visit the ACS website at www.9acsbusinessforum-aruba.com, or contact Laureen Dix at (297) 582-1566 ext. 42 or businessinfo@arubanchamber.com





AMERICAN FRANCHISE FORUM IN THE CARIBBEAN

October 23-24, 2008
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

The "American Franchise Forum" will provide a unique opportunity for investors from throughout the Caribbean region to learn about the subject of franchising from leading experts, as well as to hear from successful U.S. franchise companies about concrete investment opportunities in the Caribbean.

Franchising has boomed worldwide due to its success in reducing investor risk, based on the replication of successful business formats in different markets around the globe.

Caribbean investors who attend the "American Franchise Forum" will learn the details of how to make a successful franchise investment, including How to Evaluate a Franchise Opportunity; Legal Considerations in a Franchise Agreement; How to Finance a U.S. franchise investment; and Reasons for the Global Success of Franchising.

Investor attendees will also hear presentations about a variety of successful U.S. franchise concepts that are available for the Caribbean market. This program will be the most cost-effective means of learning about the subject of franchising, while also meeting with American Franchisors to discuss exciting investment opportunities.

For more information regarding registration for the Forum, as well as details about hotel reservations, please contact:

Ms. Ilka Gómez
American Chamber of Commerce
of the Dominican Republic
E-mail: ilgomez@amcham.org.do
Phone: (809) 332-7777 ext. 7232
Fax: (809) 381-0286







Trade Events in the U.S.

La Cumbre de Turismo

Location: Miami Beach Convention Center

City, State: Miami, Florida

Dates: September 3-5, 2008

La Cumbre de Turismo is the premier trade event for travel professionals from throughout the Americas. Approximately 1200 delegates including suppliers, exhibitors, buyers, the travel press, principals of Visit USA Committees in Latin America, leading air carriers and general sales agents will be in attendance. More than 30 countries are represented and activities include three days of pre-scheduled business appointments, seminars and networking opportunities

For more information, visit the following website: http://www.lacumbre.com

Or, contact: Rosalinda Thomas with Thomas Tours at (809)

472-0815 or ThomasR@codetel.net.do

Maria Elena Portorreal with the Commercial Service Santo Domingo at (809) 227-2121 ext. 225 or maria.elenaportorreal@mail.doc.gov



International Manufacturing Technology Show

Location: McCormick Place City, State: Chicago, IL

Dates: September 8-13, 2008

The International Manufacturing Technology (IMTS) 2008 is the 27th edition of the premier manufacturing technology show in North America, which is held every even-numbered year in Chicago and attracts more than 91,000 buyers and sellers from 119 countries. More than 1,500 exhibiting companies will occupy 1.2 million net square feet of exhibit space at the McCormick Place complex in Chicago, Illinois with 15,000 new machine tools, controls, computers, software, components, systems and processes that can improve your efficiency.

You'll find that IMTS is the best place to see the latest in manufacturing technology, network with business colleagues, and find solutions to your current and future needs

For more information, please visit the following website: http://www.imts.com/index.html

To gain the benefits of attending this show as part of our <u>International Buyer Program</u>, please contact Yira Roa with the Commercial Service in Santo Domingo at <u>yira.roa@mail.doc.gov</u> or (809) 227-2121 ext. 227





Commercial Service - Caribbean Regional Office

Our Services for Caribbean Companies



Trade Leads

Need to find local U.S. product/service providers? Our Trade Leads program is a highly effective method to search for U.S. Suppliers of goods and services. Through this program you will be able to identify potential U.S. providers in a fast and effective way, and **it's totally free!**

If you are interested in taking advantage of this service, please click on the following link: http://www.buyusa.gov/caribbean/en/trade leads.html

Virtual Business Information Center

Need to find an answer to your questions on importing U.S. goods and services? Through our Virtual Business Information Center we can answer your questions on importing goods and services from the U.S. and help you locate U.S. trade shows and product/service providers. **It's all free!**

If you are interested in taking advantage of this service, please click on the following link: http://www.buyusa.gov/caribbean/en/virtual_business_info.html

International Buyer Program

Want to develop new business relationships in the United States by participating in the biggest Trade Shows in the U.S.? Through our International Buyer Program (IBP), we take the hassle out of visiting major trade shows in the United States by working closely with major airlines, travel agents and hotel groups to put together travel itineraries tailored to the individual, and at very affordable prices. Other benefits of the IBP include:

- Free show pass delivered to your hotel (thus saving money and time)
- Free access to business lounges
- Invitations to evening networking events, and access to matchmaking services at the show.

Learn more about our International Buyer Program.

We are currently recruiting local companies for our International Buyer Program for the following trade show:

Automotive Aftermarket Industry Week – Las Vegas, Nevada – November 4-7, 2008



- Meet over 4,000 innovative U.S. and international exhibitors from all parts of the world.
- Be a part of the 100,000+ industry professionals who come to Las Vegas every year to exchange ideas and build their businesses.
- Preview over 7,500 new products that will set trends for tomorrow.
- Learn about tomorrow's aftermarket at more than 100 educational seminars, workshops and product demonstration clinics.

For more information, please contact Isolda Frias with the Commercial Service in Santo Domingo at isolda.frias@mail.doc.gov or (809) 227-2121 ext. 226.



US Government Contacts & Business Chambers in the Caribbean

Dominican Republic

US Commercial Service in Santo Domingo

Contact: Robert O. Jones, Jr., Commercial Counselor

Phone: (809) 227-2121 Fax: (809) 920-0181

Website: www.buyusa.gov/caribbean/en Email: robert.o.jones@mail.doc.gov

Foreign Agricultural Service in Santo Domingo

Contact: Jaime Rothschild, Agricultural Attaché

Phone: (809) 227-0112 Fax: (809) 732-9454

Website: www.usemb.gov.do/FAS/fasindex.htm

E-mail: agsantodomingo@usda.gov

AmCham Santo Domingo

Contact: William Malamud, Executive Director

Phone: (809) 381-0777 Fax: (809) 381-0286

Website: www.amcham.org.do Email: wmalamud@amcham.org.do

Santo Domingo Chamber of Commerce

Contact: Milagros Puello, Executive Vice President

Phone: (809) 682-2688 Fax: (809) 685-2228 Website: www.ccpsd.org.do

Email: mpuello@camarasantodomingo.org.do

Santiago Chamber of Commerce

Contact: Ivan Reynoso, Executive Director

Phone: (809) 582-2856 Fax: (809) 241-4546

Website: www.camarasantiago.com Email: director@camarasantiago.com



Barbados

US Embassy in Barbados

Contact: Jake Aller, Economic Officer

Phone: (246) 436-4950 Fax: (246) 227-4174

Website: barbados.usembassy.gov

Email: AllerJC2@state.gov

Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Contact: Magnus Whitehead, Executive Director

Phone: (246) 620-4750 Fax: (246) 620-2907

Website: www.bdscham.com

E-mail: magnus.whitehead@bdscham.com

AmCham Barbados

Contact: Jim McCormick, President

Phone: (246) 427-8880

Email: jim_mccormick@admworld.com

Trinidad & Tobago

US Embassy in Trinidad & Tobago

Contact: Stephanie Hutchison Phone: (868) 622-6371 Fax: (868) 822-5918

Website: trinidad.usembassy.gov Email: hutchisonsj@state.gov

AmCham Trinidad & Tobago

Contact: Sonelle Gibson, acting Executive Director

Phone: (868) 622-4466 Fax: (868) 628-9428

Website: www.amchamtt.com Email: execd@amchamtt.com

Trinidad & Tobago Chamber of Commerce

Contact: Ms. Camille Sears-Carter Wells

Phone: (868) 637-6966 Fax: (868) 637-7425

Website: www.chamber.org.tt E-mail: csearswells@chamber.org.tt



Jamaica

US Embassy in Jamaica

Contact: Nathan Carter, Economic Officer

Phone: (876) 702-6000 Fax: (876) 920-2580

Website: kingston.usembassy.gov Email: CarterNC@state.gov

AmCham Jamaica

Contact: Becky Stockhausen, Executive Director Phone: (876) 929-7866 and (876) 929-7867

Fax: (876) 929-8597

Website: www.amchamjamaica.org E-mail: becky amcham@cwjamaica.com

Jamaica Chamber of Commerce (JCC)

Contact: Mark Myers, President

Phone: (876) 922-0150 Fax: (876) 924-9056

Website: www.jamaicachamber.org.jm

E-mail: markm@kasnet.com

Montego Bay Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Contact: Pauline Reid. President

Phone: (876) 952-6045 Fax: (876) 952-2784

Website: www.mobaychamber.com E-mail: paulinereid@gmail.com

The Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica

Contact: Sandra Glasgow, Chief Executive Officer

Phone: (876) 927-6238 Fax: (876) 927-5137 Website: www.psoj.org E-mail: psojinfo@psoj.org

Bahamas

US Embassy in Nassau

Contact: Ann Marie Bain, Economic/Commercial

Specialist

Phone: 242/323-7180 Fax: 242/328-3495

Website: nassau.usembassy.gov

Email: baina@state.gov

The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce

Contact: Dionisio D'Aguilar, President

Phone: (242) 322-2145 Fax: (242) 322-4649

Website: www.thebahamaschamber.com Email: presidente@thebahamaschamber.com

Other Caribbean Islands

Antiqua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce

chamcom@candw.ag

Aruba Chamber of Commerce

www.arubachamber.com

Bermuda Chamber of Commerce

www.bermudacommerce.com

Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce

www.daic.dm

Grenada Chamber of Commerce

www.grenadachamber.org

AmCham Haiti

www.haitianamericanchamber.com

Haitian Chamber of Commerce & Industry

mjeanclaude@ccih.gt



Grand Bahamas Chamber of Commerce

www.thegrandbahamachamberofcommerce.com

Curação Chamber of Commerce

www.curacao-chamber.an

St. Kitts-Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce

www.stkittsnevischamber.org

St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce Industry & **Agriculture**

www.stluciachamber.org

St. Vincent & the Grenadines Chamber of Industry & Commerce

www.svg-cic.com



US Government Agencies in the United States

Export-Import Bank of the United States

Contact: Xiomara Creque-Bromberg, Senior Business Development Officer

Tel: (202) 565-3477 Fax: (202) 565-3961 Webpage: www.exim.gov

Email: xiomara.creque@exim.gov

Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC)

Contact: Allison Germak, Public Information Officer

OPIC Info Line: 202-336-8799 Webpage: www.opic.gov Email: info@opic.gov

United States Small Business Administration (SBA)

Contact: Luz Hopewell, Director of International Trade

Phone: (202) 205-6463 Fax: (202) 481-0558 Webpage: www.sba.gov Email: luz.hopewell@sba.gov

United States Trade & Development Agency

Contact: Jorge E. Esteban, Country Manager Latin America and the Caribbean

Phone: 703) 875-4357 Fax: (703) 875-4009 Webpage: www.ustda.gov Email: jesteban@ustda.gov

Atlanta U.S. Export Assistance Center

Contact: Thomas Strauss, Network Director

Phone: (404) 897-6080 Fax: (404) 897-6085

Email: thomas.strauss@mail.doc.gov

Fort Lauderdale U.S. Export Assistance Center

Contact: John McCartney, Director Phone: (954) 356-6640 ext. 12

Fax: (954) 356-6644

Email: john.mccartney@mail.doc.gov

Miami U.S. Export Assistance Center

Contact: Lesa Forbes, International Trade Specialist

Phone: (305) 526-7425 Fax: (305) 526-7434

Email: lesa.forbes@mail.doc.gov

South Carolina U.S. Export Assistance Center

Contact: Phil Minard, International Trade Specialist

Phone: (843) 746-3404 Fax: (843) 529-0305

Email: phil.minard@mail.doc.gov





www.buyusa.gov/home/us.html

^{*} To contact other U.S. Export Assistance Centers located in over 100 cities across the United States go to: