



Caribbean Business Opportunities



May 2008

Dear Colleagues:

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the first edition of our bi-monthly electronic bulletin, "**Caribbean Business Opportunities.**" The objective of the CBO Bulletin is to inform key organizations involved in Caribbean business development activities about the various programs, events, projects and initiatives that can support their efforts. The goal of the Bulletin is to create synergies between our organizations in order to facilitate business development opportunities between US firms and companies throughout the Caribbean region.

The value of the Bulletin will depend on the participation of all of you in contributing to its content. I would greatly appreciate receiving your input about upcoming trade events or trade facilitation programs that you would like to have highlighted in the Bulletin, as well as details about items such as major projects or new trade policy initiatives.

The recipients of this Bulletin include chambers of commerce across the Caribbean; U.S. Government trade related agencies in the United States; and Commercial and Economic sections at U.S. Embassies throughout the Caribbean. By sharing information between our various organizations, we will be able to create the synergies which will facilitate increased U.S. - Caribbean business development activities.

Please forward any contributions you may have for the CBO Bulletin to: Inés Gerez at ines.gerez@mail.doc.gov

With warm Caribbean wishes,

Robert O. Jones, Jr.
Commercial Counselor for the Caribbean Region
U.S. Commercial Service in Santo Domingo

Agency Profile



OPIC - Supporting U.S. Businesses

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) is the primary U.S. government agency focused on supporting private sector investment in the developing world. OPIC helps U.S. businesses invest overseas, fosters economic development in new and emerging markets, complements the private sector in managing risks associated with foreign direct investment, and supports U.S. foreign policy.



OPIC's political risk insurance and financing help U.S. businesses of all sizes invest in more than 150 emerging markets and developing nations worldwide, including in the Caribbean region. Because OPIC charges market-based fees for its products, it operates on a self-sustaining basis at no net cost to taxpayers.

For more information about OPIC, please visit our website, www.opic.gov

Contact Us:

Alison Germak, Public Information Officer
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OPIC Info Line: 202-336-8799
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Join Us and Visit a US Trade Show !

US Commercial Service in Santo Domingo recruits foreign buyers throughout the Caribbean region under the International Buyer Program to attend major U.S. trade shows. We organize meetings and provide matchmaking services and business counseling on site to assist foreign delegates to maximize the productivity of their participation.

Date	Event
<p>May 17-20, 2008 McCormick Place, Chicago Illinois</p>	<p>The National Restaurant Association / Restaurant, Hotel-Motel Show. The NRA Show is the largest foodservice and hospitality event. No matter what type of operation you run, the NRA Show 2008 has what you need. Major areas of focus include food, beverage, equipment, small wares, apparel, tabletop, furnishings, design, technology, and services.</p> <p>For more information on this event please contact Ms. Maria Elena Portorreal at (809) 227-2121 ext 225 or via e-mail: maria.elenaportorreal@mail.doc.gov</p>
<p>July 13-15, 2008 Las Vegas, Mandalay Bay</p>	<p>Cosmoprof North America - Is an exclusive business-to-business cosmetic trade show. The show is not open to general public. If you are one of the following you are strongly encouraged to attend this show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salon / Spa Management - Specialty Store - OTC Beauty Store - Chain Salon - Cosmetology School - Importers / Exporters - Manufacturers - Product Developers - Buyers <p>For more information on this event please contact the following persons:</p> <p>Dominican companies: Ms. Yira Roa at (809) 227-2121 Ext. 227 or via e-mail: yira.roa@mail.doc.gov</p> <p>Other Caribbean countries: Ms. Maria Elena Portorreal at (809) 227-2121 ext 225 or via e-mail: maria.elenaportorreal@mail.doc.gov</p>

Trade Events in the Caribbean

Caribbean Shipping Executives Conference

Location: Sonesta Maho Beach Resort
Country: St. Maarten
Dates: May 19-21, 2008
Industry: Shipping

Caribbean-Central American Action would like to inform of the upcoming Caribbean Shipping Executives Conference, to be held from May 19-21, 2008 at the Sonesta Maho Beach Resort in St. Maarten.

The Caribbean Shipping Association in collaboration with St. Maarten Harbor Group of Companies invites all corporate executives and professionals involved in the Caribbean shipping industry to a three-day conference to deal with issues, trends, and other information pertaining to growth, expansion and good management of companies and resources employed in the industry.

For more details and registration: please visit the CSA website at www.caribeanshipping.org

Business Future of the Americas (BFA) Conference

Organizer: AmCham Trinidad & Tobago
Country: Trinidad & Tobago
Dates: June 25-29, 2008

AmCham Trinidad and Tobago is pleased to host the American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America's (AACCLA's) Business Future of the Americas (BFA) Conference June 25-29, 2008. This prestigious event will be held for the first time in the English Speaking Caribbean since the 1980s when it was held in Jamaica. The BFA Conference 2008 will offer a mix of social and cultural events, business tours, matchmaking and other private meetings and expert speakers on topics such as Global Energy Trends, Sustainable Development, Energy Security, Alternative Energy, Investment, Trade and Competitiveness.

For more information please contact:

Sonelle Gibson, Services & Events Coordinator
E-mail: members@amchamtt.com
Melissa Pierre, Trade & Communications Officer
E-mail: trade@amchamtt.com

American Franchise Forum in the Caribbean

Location: Renaissance Jaragua Hotel & Resorts
Country: Dominican Republic
Dates: October 23-24, 2008
Industry: Franshisors

U.S. Franchisors will have a very unique opportunity to develop markets in Dominican Republic and the Caribbean by participating in this forum.

The U.S. Commercial Service and the American Chamber of Commerce of the Dominican Republic are cosponsoring this event, with promotion in regional markets to attract high-level investors interested in U.S. franchise investments in their countries.

U.S. Franchisors will make a presentation about their concepts to the investor attendees. The Franchisors will also have a literature table in order to promote networking opportunities. Individual appointments with investors will be coordinated on-site at the Forum. The investor attendees will learn about the subject of franchising from franchise experts, as well as about concrete opportunities to develop US franchise concepts in the Caribbean region.

For more information please contact:
Ms. Maria Elena Portorreal at (809) 227-2121 ext. 225
or via email: maria.elenaportorreal@mail.doc.gov

Ms. Ilka Gomez at (809) 381-0777 ext 232 or via email:
ilgomez@amcham.org.do



Strengthening Industry Competitiveness



The second annual **Americas Competitiveness Forum (ACF)** will be held on August 17-19, 2008, in Atlanta, Georgia. The Forum will provide an opportunity for governments, the business community, and representatives from academia and non-governmental organizations to discuss actions that can be taken to improve competitiveness and economic prosperity in the Americas.

The 2008 Americas Competitiveness Forum event Web site is www.CompetitivenessForum.com

The 2008 ACF will be held in partnership with the City of Atlanta and the International Training Center for Government Authorities (CIFAL Atlanta), a not-for profit organization created by the United Nations. Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin is the Chair of CIFAL Atlanta's Board of Trustees, and she will co-host the ACF with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez.

The forum will provide a platform to discuss how best to enhance the region's ability to compete more successfully in the global marketplace at a time when we are facing ever-growing competition. The ACF is expected to bring to Atlanta more than 1000 government officials and private sector leaders from the 34 nations of the Western Hemisphere as well as representatives from civil society, media, academia, and non-governmental organizations. During the two days of this unique dialogue US Cabinet members will meet with their counterparts, Ministers from Latin America, the Caribbean and Canada. In addition to the government-to-government meetings, other high level meetings between participants will be scheduled to discuss public policy and its impact on competitiveness and the generation of jobs in the region.

Why Atlanta?

The City of Atlanta serves as a great model with its tremendously successful public-private partnerships that foster innovation and business development. The City's reputation on competitiveness and logistics, the excellence of its academic institutions and its diplomatic relations with all nations in the Americas was taken in consideration when selected for the second year in a row to host this historical meeting.



CS Caribbean Programs

Purchase Service Program

The **Purchase Service 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 download and fill out the form at: www.buyUSA.com/caribbean and send it to Ms. Maria Elena Portorreal at: maria.elenaportorreal@mail.doc.gov

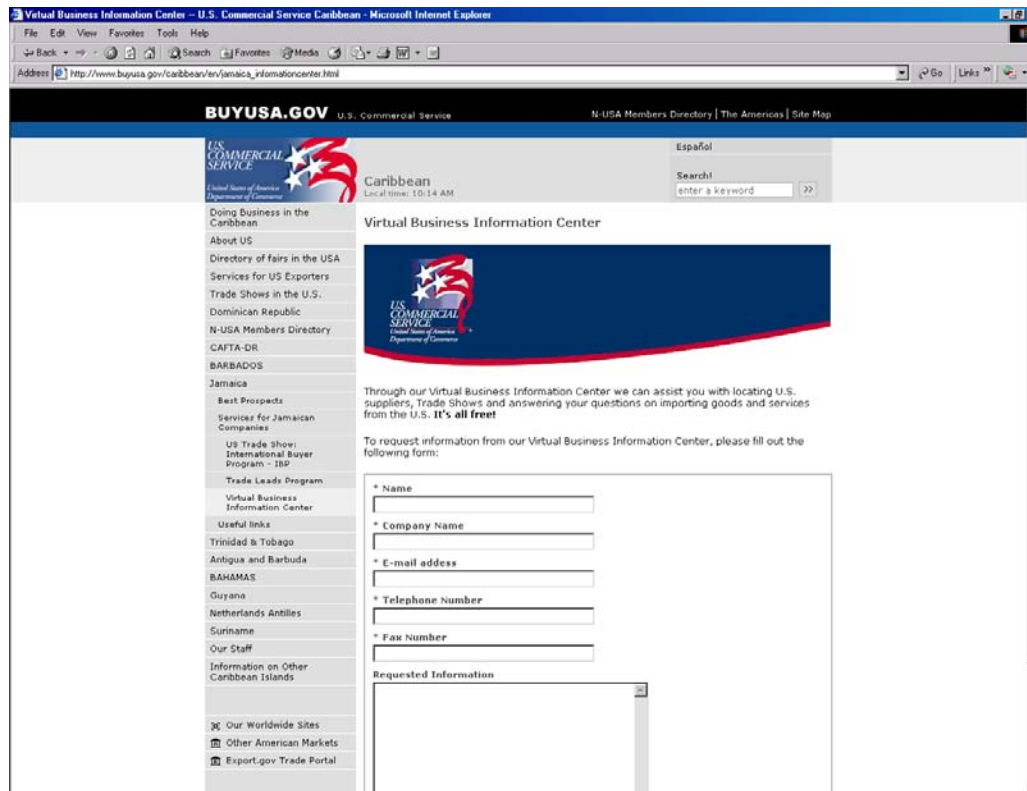
We will contact you within 48 hours after submission of the information.

Virtual Business Information Center

Through our Virtual Business Information Center we can also assist you with locating U.S. suppliers, trade shows and answer your questions regarding importing goods and services from the U.S.

It's all free!

If you are interested in taking advantage of this service please go to www.buyUSA.gov/caribbean and fill out the online form.



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Virtual Business Information Center' page. The page features a navigation menu on the left with categories like 'Doing Business in the Caribbean', 'About US', and 'Trade Shows in the U.S.'. The main content area includes a search bar, a description of the center's services, and a form for requesting information. The form fields are: Name, Company Name, E-mail address, Telephone Number, and Fax Number. Below these is a 'Requested Information' text area.

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
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Website: www.buyusa.gov/caribbean/en
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Santo Domingo Chamber of Commerce

Contact: Milagros Puello, Executive Vice President
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Fax: (809) 685-2228
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AmCham Santo Domingo

Contact: William Malamud, Executive Director
Phone: (809) 381-0777
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Santiago Chamber of Commerce

Contact: Ivan Reynoso, Executive Director
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Website: www.camarasantiago.com
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Barbados

US Embassy in Barbados

Contact: Jake Aller, Economic Officer
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Fax: (246) 227-4174
Website: barbados.usembassy.gov
Email: AllerJC2@state.gov

Trinidad & Tobago

US Embassy in Trinidad & Tobago

Contact: Stephanie Hutchison
Phone: (868) 622-6371
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Email: hutchisonsj@state.gov

Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Contact: Magnus Whitehead, Executive Director
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AmCham Trinidad & Tobago

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AmCham Barbados

Contact: Jim McCormick, President
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Email: jim_mccormick@admworld.com

Trinidad & Tobago Chamber of Commerce

Contact: Ms. Camille Sears-Carter Wells
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E-mail: csearswells@chamber.org.tt



Jamaica

US Embassy in Jamaica

Contact: Nathan Carter, Economic Officer
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AmCham Jamaica

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E-mail: becky_amcham@cwjamaica.com

Jamaica Chamber of Commerce (JCC)

Contact: Mark Myers, President
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E-mail: markm@kasnet.com

Montego Bay Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Contact: Pauline Reid, President
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The Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica

Contact: Sandra Glasgow, Chief Executive Officer
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Antigua 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

Bahamas

US Embassy in Nassau

Contact: Ann Marie Bain, Economic/Commercial Specialist
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The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce

Contact: Dionisio D'Aguilar, President
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Grand Bahamas Chamber of Commerce

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Email: info@thegrandbahamachamberofcommerce.com



Haitian Chamber of Commerce & Industry
mjeanclaude@ccih.gt

Curaçao 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
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Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC)

Contact: Allison Germak, Public Information Officer
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United States Trade & Development Agency

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Atlanta U.S. Export Assistance Center

Contact: Thomas Strauss, Network Director
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Fort Lauderdale U.S. Export Assistance Center

Contact: John McCartney, Director
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Miami U.S. Export Assistance Center

Contact: Lesa Forbes, International Trade Specialist
Phone: (305) 526-7425
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Email: lesa.forbes@mail.doc.gov



To contact other U.S. Export Assistance Centers located in over 100 cities across the United States go to www.buyUSA.gov