



CBBC Seminar Series: The Future of Air Travel in the Caribbean

Benjamin Leon, Vice-President Commercial (Ag), at Caribbean Airlines led a CBBC seminar about the current challenges facing the Caribbean air industry and the future trends which are emerging. The event looked in detail at the particular logistical and management challenges which Caribbean Airlines faced in setting up a new operation following the close of BWIA at the beginning of this year. It also identified what the airline has achieved, in terms of delivery of on-time arrival and

baggage handling to standards far higher than those generally achieved by other major global airlines, and the likelihood that the airline will meet the financial forecasts in its business plan.

The group discussed the potential to increase the number of multi-destination holidays in the Caribbean thereby increasing the demand for inter-regional airlift and bringing new customers to tourism industries across the region.

Caribbean Airlines noted that it has recently launched a dual destination programme with the Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana inbound tourism associations, and will be working with other regional associations to encourage multi-destination holidays.

The airline also discussed how in the future a single regional airline, properly resourced and structured, might compete and partner more effectively with international carriers while delivering a more efficient service than the current mix of loss making national airlines.



The event was chaired by the Chairman of the Caribbean Council, John Bowers, Bowers Consulting.

For further information about the CBBC Seminar Series, please contact Chris Bennett Chris.bennett@caribbean-council.org

Cuba Initiative Annual Reception, 9 October 2007, House of Lords, London

The annual reception of the Cuba Initiative will take place at the House of Lords in the Cholmondeley room from 7pm-9pm on 9 October. Invitations have been sent out to members of the Cuba Initiative this week. Members of the Caribbean-Britain Business Council and the Anglo Dominican Trade Council may purchase tickets to attend. CBBC Premier Members will all receive complimentary tickets.

The reception has proved a great success in the past with an excellent turn out by members of both Houses of Parliament, as well as a broad range of guests from government, the private sector and well-known public figures with interest in Cuba.

This reception has been kindly supported by Standard Bank and Nectar. Those who regularly attend the reception will know that one of the highlights (besides the rum punch) is the prize draw. This year the top prize in the draw is a one week holiday to the Caribbean. Virgin Atlantic have kindly donated return flights and 7 nights accommodation has been provided at the Occidental Miramar Hotel courtesy of Explorecuba.com. In addition to the holiday, there are a number of prizes donated by Havana Holdings and Tropical Ltd. The celebrated rum punch will make a welcome return, courtesy of Havana Club and Tropical.

There are still some advertising opportunities available in relation to the reception. *If you would like to discuss the sponsorship and advertising opportunities that are available in connection with the reception please contact Stephanie Whittle Stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org.*

Any members of the Cuba Initiative who have not received their emailed invitation, or those members of the CBBC or Anglo Dominican Trade Council wishing to attend should contact Daisy Kenward daisy.kenward@caribbean-council.org.

Events Diary

25 September 2007

Cuba Initiative screening of documentary film ¡Salud!, London

27-30 September 2007

Caribbean Gift & Craft Show (CGCS) 2007

4-7 October 2007

Building & Interiors Trade Show (BITS), Trinidad

8-13 October 2007

Tourism – Harvesting Wealth Through Tourism, Jamaica

9 October 2007

Cuba Initiative Annual Parliamentary Reception, London

17-18 October 2007

Whisky Extravaganza, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

5-10 November 2007

International Fair of Havana (FIHAV), Havana, Cuba

12-15 November 2007

World Travel Market, London

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

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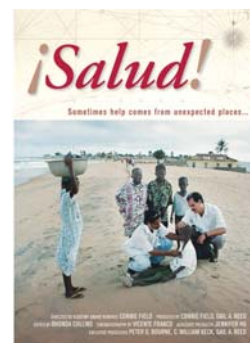


Following Air Jamaica's decision to cease loss-making services between Jamaica and the UK, from the end of October Virgin Atlantic will operate two new frequencies per week between London Gatwick and Kingston. This is in addition to Virgin Atlantic's current twice-weekly operation to Montego Bay. Kingston will be Virgin Atlantic's eighth destination in the Caribbean and its 30th globally. All Caribbean routes are operated with Boeing 747-400s and include Virgin's award winning onboard service. In addition to Jamaica, Virgin Atlantic also serves Barbados, St. Lucia, Antigua, Grenada, Tobago and Havana.

Cuba Initiative Film Screening: ¡SALUD!, 25 September 2007, 6pm

¡SALUD! is a thought-provoking documentary which highlights the Cuban health system and its successes, and looks at examples of the work which Cuban health professionals are currently carrying out around the world with particular focus on the Gambia, South Africa, Central America, and Venezuela. The documentary confronts vital issues about the continuing absence of accessible healthcare in the developing world, in spite of huge global wealth, and shows the inspiring efforts Cuba is making to provide access to healthcare where it can; both by training foreign doctors in Cuba and by sending teams of doctors to practise abroad.

The film will be introduced by one of its Executive Producers, Peter Bourne, who is also Chairman of the Board for Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba (MEDICC). The film will be followed by an informal reception kindly sponsored by Havana Club.



If you would like to attend the film screening, please contact Daisy Kenward Daisy.Kenward@Caribbean-council.org for more information and to register.

Fidel Castro: Life and Legacy, 10 October 2007, 7pm, London Metropolitan University

Speaker: Ignacio Ramonet, editor of *Le Monde Diplomatique* and co-author with Fidel Castro of *My Life*. Ignacio Ramonet has been editor-in-chief of *Le Monde Diplomatique* since 1991. In addition, he is one of the founders of the NGO Media Watch Global, and is currently its president. Mr Ramonet frequently contributes to the Spanish Daily newspaper *El País* and participates in an advisory council to Telesur, the new alternative TV channel for Latin America. Mr Ramonet will be a guest at the Cuba Initiative Annual Reception of the House of Lords on 9th October.

This seminar will be in Spanish with English interpretation. *For further details please contact admin@cupastudies.org*

Spanish Hotel Investors Come to the Table with Caribbean Tourism Industry

Spanish hotel interests have steadily expanded their presence beyond successful ventures in Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba, and are now investing across the English speaking Caribbean. Recognising the role Spanish investors are now playing in the development of Caribbean tourism, Peter Odle, President of the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA), and the Hon. Edison Briesen, Vice Chairman of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), led a delegation from the Caribbean hotel and tourism sector that met Mallorca on September 14th with the Presidents of the main Spanish hotel chains operating in the Caribbean. The meeting was facilitated by Enrique De Marchena, President-Elect of CHA.

Global competitiveness, Spanish investment, the United States passport requirement, and global warming and the areas in which strategic alliance might be created between the two industries were amongst the issues discussed at the meeting that was attended by around thirty of Spain's most powerful hotel investors, including Sol Meliá, Grupo Iberostar and Barceló Enterprises.

Amongst those participating was the Director of the Caribbean Council, David Jessop, in his role as European policy adviser to CHA.

The Caribbean-Britain Business Council has a special negotiated rate for Allied Membership of the CHA. The standard rate is £450.00 per annum but CBBC members can sign up for £100.00 per year. *For further details about this member benefit please contact Stephanie Whittle Stephanie.whittle@caribbean-council.org.*

Cubanismo – Exhibition of Cuban black and white photography, spanning the 1930's, the revolutionary era and recent years.

A major perspective of Cuban black and white photography, spanning the 1930's, the revolutionary era and recent years will be exhibited from 27 September to 3 November at Capital Culture in Covent Garden. The exhibition includes work by: Arturo Martinez Illa (1930's Cuba), Ernesto Fernandez (1950's-1970's), and work by two contemporary photographers, Laura Portilla Arias and James Sparshott. Ernesto Fernandez is well known as one of the great photographers of the Revolutionary period of Cuba photographing Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and other important figures in the new system.

The exhibition is being held at Capital Culture, 3 Bedfordbury, Covent Garden, London WC2N 4BP. More information can be found at their website: <http://capitalculture.eu>.



Exhibition of Batik at Trinidad and Tobago High Commission

Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner to the UK H.E. Glenda Morean Phillip, is hosting an exhibition of Batik material designed by Ms Althea Bastien. The exhibition will be officially launched on Thursday 18 October 2007 (6.30pm - 8.30pm) and will also be open for viewing until Thursday 25 October 2007 between the hours of 10.00am and 2.00pm. *For further details please contact Romaine Maharaj tthc.rmaharaj@btconnect.com.*