

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

*** TTCSI Secretariat on the move!**

TTCSI Secretariat welcomes Hemawatie Son Son as our Accounting and Administrative Assistant. Sherry Hassanali will now be responsible for Membership Relations, Administration and Events while Florence Louis Edouard now assumes the role of Senior Trade Specialist.

*** TTCSI facilitates architects meeting with the Minister of Trade**

Following a request to TTCSI for assistance from local architects to represent their position to the Government, President of the T&T Institute of Architects Gary Turton, President of the Association of Commonwealth Societies of Architects of the Caribbean and TTCSI CEO, Nirad Tewarie met with the Minister of Trade and Industry Senator Mariano Browne earlier this week. At the conclusion of the meeting, both Minister Browne and the Architects agreed to set up a mechanism to further the dialogue. TTCSI will continue to facilitate.

*** BDC breakfast meeting: "Getting it right in a Challenging Economy"**

BDC conducted a recent breakfast meeting to connect and network with its partners and organizations of interest to provide information and solutions that can develop the efficiency the business sector in Trinidad and Tobago. The meeting was a successful event as ideas were shared and linkages were fostered to create a more vibrant business sector. TTCSI would continue to partner with the BDC to promote export in the services industries.

*** Local exporters explain concerns to Dominican Republic Ambassador**

As a member of the Cabinet- appointed, private-sector-led Standing Committee on Trade and Related Matters, TTCSI requested a meeting with the Ambassador of Dominican Republic to T&T, His Excellency Dr. Jose Serulle Ramia to explain the difficulties which local companies are experiencing in trading with the DR. At the conclusion of the meeting, Ambassador Serulle undertook to advocate for the resolution of the issues raised through letters from the Embassy and personal interviews from him when he returns to the DR within the next two months.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

* Trinidad and Tobago's Participation in Shanghai 2010 World Exposition, May 1-October 31, 2010, Shanghai, China. Themes include, blending of diverse cultures in the city, economic prosperity in the city, innovation of science and technology in the city, remodelling of communities in the city and rural-urban interaction. Contact TTCSI or Mrs. Shurla Henry-Gibson at E-teck 675-1939 ext 2168.

* Caribbean Export Development agency launches its 3rd call for proposals under the Direct Grant Assistance Scheme on March 8th 2010. Applications at www.carib-export.com Contact Kirk Brown at 1-246-436-0578

* Following a meeting between TTCSI, CEO and EXIM Bank, the bank confirmed its willingness to extend credit to service providers. Contact Lindsay and Dileena at 628-2762.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * Financial Sector Conference: T & T Financial Sector-Creating the Future We Want". Marriott Hotel, March 12th 2010. Info: events@ttcsi.org
- * Optometrists Association of Trinidad and Tobago walk around the Savannah to highlight World Glaucoma Day. March 14th, 2010 at 7.00am. Cost \$100.00 per participant and all proceeds go towards Haiti. Contact: ttoptoma@gmail.com
- * President of International Confederation of Midwives to address TTCSI and Trinidad and Tobago Association of Midwives educational conference. "Midwives...Embracing the Future" on Friday 16th April, 2010. Info: events@ttcsi.org

SPECIAL OFFERS

- * Costa Rica Investment World Conference would be held in Costa Rica on April 15-15 2010. The main sectors targeted are electronics, medical devices, industrial goods and green technologies. Special offers including accommodation are available through TTCSI. Contact events@ttcsi.org for more info.
- * Hilton Trinidad newly renovated rooms. Contact Darlene McDonald 624-3211 or darlene.mcdonald@hilton.com