

Guatemala Partial Scope Agreement

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) has begun its preparations for the commencement of negotiations with the Government of Guatemala with a view to concluding a Partial Scope Agreement within the shortest possible time. This action is in fulfillment of its campaign promise to pursue a more aggressive trade strategy with Central and South America and create greater market access with that region. This agreement is the second partial scope agreement that GORTT has embarked upon this year. The Government recently concluded discussions with Panama on a Partial Scope Agreement.

The Chamber is in the midst of preparing its position on the agreement to present to the GORTT on the negotiation. If anyone has any interest in obtaining more information on either the Guatemala or the Panama Partial Scope Agreement please contact astewart@chamber.org.tt or by telephone 637-6966 ext 246.

Guatemala Trade Mission

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce organized a trade mission to Guatemala from 21st- 24th June, 2011. The delegates attended the InduExpo, the largest manufacturing expo in Central America, hosted by the Guatemala Chamber of Industry and Commerce. This was a return mission to our “Connecting the Caribbean and Central America Conference” which took place in October 2010. The trade mission focused on the following sectors: food and beverage, construction and building, distribution, furniture, chemicals, shipping, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and real estate. The private sector on this mission was accompanied by the Minister of Trade and Industry, Stephen Cadiz who attended on behalf of the Honourable Prime Minister.

Participants were given an opportunity to develop business opportunities with Central American businessmen via targeted matchmaking which was organized by the Guatemalan Chamber of Commerce. Whilst it is too soon to determine whether any new business has resulted from this mission, this initiative led to the building of valuable relationships.

The Chamber President maintains, “This is the beginning of a very valuable relationship between the businessmen of Trinidad and Tobago and their Guatemalan and Central American counterparts. Our country responded to an invitation received from the President of Guatemala to the Honourable Prime Minister, Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar. Minister Cadiz, who represented the Prime Minister, took part in a series of Government-2-Government meetings which included meetings with the Guatemalan President and the Minister of the Economy. He also took the opportunity to participate in sessions with the Guatemalan Private Sector Organisations. We are confident that our Government’s presence would go a long way in paving the way for future business.

Caribbean Export Development Agency – Direct Assistance Grant Scheme

Caribbean Export will launch their new **Direct Assistance Grant Scheme (DAGS)** with funding under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) on 12th October in Barbados. Already 170 firms from across the region are benefitting from the last DAGS with funding under the 9th EDF.

CEDA also intends to host workshops in all 15 Member States of CARIFORUM.

Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

- i. Legally registered firm/individual operating in a CARIFORUM member state; or
- ii. A legally registered Business Support Organization (BSOs) in a CARIFORUM member state such as trade association, chamber of commerce, industrial development corporation, other business support organizations which is undertaking an activity in partnership with at least two (2) private sector firms;
- iii. Trading in the following Sectors: ***Alternative Energy, Agriculture, Agro-Processing, Creative Industries, Health & Wellness, Information Communication Technology, Manufacturing, Professional Services, Tourism.***
- iv. Exporting or potential to export goods and services
- v. Operational for at least two (2) years supported by last two years financial statements/accounts; and
- vi. Able to finance and sustain their projects fully; that is 100% financing is available.

For further information please visit Caribbean Export's website – www.carib-export.com .

Trade and Business Development Unit

Interested in joining our Trade Database?

As a Chamber member you are aware that we like to keep our members abreast with the latest information. In an effort to create maximum value kindly indicate the relevant person in your organization that should be receiving and/or would like to receive our Trade Bulletins.

Via email to rpaul@chamber.org.tt , kindly provide us with the following information:

- (1) NAME
- (2) ORGANISATION
- (3) POSITION
- (4) TEL
- (5) FAX
- (6) EMAIL

Certificate of Origin

The Chamber is one of three bodies in Trinidad and Tobago that is authorized to issue and sign Certificates of Origin, which is a signed export statement attesting that goods in a particular export shipment are wholly obtained, produced, manufactured or processed in a particular country (country of origin).

The country of origin is not the country from where the products are shipped. It is the country where the product was manufactured or last underwent a substantial change or modification.

A Certificate of Origin may be required by exporters to either (a) comply with letters of Credit, (b) to fulfill foreign Customs requirements or (C) on a buyer's request.

The Chamber issues "non preferential" Certificates of Origin for goods to be exported to countries not covered by a trade agreement, these include Asia, China, USA, India, Australia, Russia, Middle East Countries, Africa etc.

For further information on the Certificates of Origin please contact Ms. Rianna E. Paul at rpaul@chamber.org.tt or 637-6966 Ext 288.