



TRADE BULLETIN

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Dear Valued Member,

Thank you for your feedback on our first issue of the Trade Bulletin.

The content in this issue is very important and has direct impact and potential benefits for the private sector. We hope that you take the time to send us some responses based on the information presented below.

Happy Reading!

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TRADE ANALYSIS PROJECT

The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) is doing an Analysis of the Impact of Bilateral Agreements on manufacturers/ exporters of Trinidad and Tobago.

Particular focus is being placed on designing intervention strategies to increase penetration and sustainability of five (5) Bilateral Agreements viz **Venezuela, Cuba, Colombia, Dominican Republic, and Costa Rica.**

In this regard, we are asking you (exporters/manufacturers) to state in as much detail as possible the challenges you have experienced in relation to trading your goods and services to any of the five countries listed above.

For example, issues may arise in the following areas, but not limited to:

- Tariff - (tariff phased reduction time)
- Non-tariff Barriers to Trade such as:
 - Non-tariff charges
 - Import prohibitions, restrictions and Licensing
 - Technical regulations and standards (TBT)
 - Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPS)
 - Rules of Origin

If there is any additional information you wish to include, such as reasons you may have opted not to exploit particular signed agreements, please feel free to do so.

You may submit your comments to Mrs. Janette Cupid St. Hilaire at jst.hilaire@chamber.org.tt and Ms. Rianna E. Paul at rpaul@chamber.org.tt by Friday 7th October, 2011 for compilation and onward submission to the MTI.

AID FOR TRADE

The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), with support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is developing an Aid for Trade (AfT) Strategy for Trinidad and Tobago. This Strategy will identify and prioritize AfT needs, and define a monitoring mechanism to ensure more effective use and improved tracking of AfT resources at national level.

As part of the consultative process, the MTI held a High Level Working Group Meeting on August 4, 2011 at the Normandie Hotel in St. Ann's, facilitated by Dr. Elizabeth Parsan, Consultant.

The objective of the Meeting was to obtain input on challenges facing the trade sector that could be addressed using AfT resources. The Meeting also sought to discuss and obtain consensus on the pillars of an AfT Strategy for Trinidad and Tobago. The Meeting attracted participants representing private sector firms in goods and services; business support organisations (BSOs) in goods and services; Government Ministries; and implementing agencies of trade related policies.

Working groups were held on trade facilitation, competitiveness, export diversification and innovation. The objectives and areas of need as well as key indicators for success were identified for each and this information will form the basis of in-depth consultations with all the respondents, to be held at a subsequent date. Subsequent discussions will cover the implementation and monitoring mechanism.

Members are invited to submit programmes or proposals that may attract funding to either Ms. Aisha Stewart or Ms. Rianna Paul at astewart@chamber.org.tt or rpaul@chamber.org.tt respectively.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Food and Beverage Industry Development Committee will host an **“FDA Compliance Seminar”** on **Thursday 6th October, 2011** from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. For more information or to register please contact Farz Khan or Chavionne Richardson at the Sector Secretariat- Business Development Company at (868)623-5507 Ext 238/239 or via email at fkhan@bdc.co.tt .

The Business Development Company Ltd. and the Trinidad and Tobago Trade Facilitation Office in Cuba (TFO) invites you to participate in **“Havana International Fair 2011”** which takes place from **October 31 to November 5, 2011** in **Havana City, Cuba**. The TFO will assist in coordinating the Fair and if requested can set up matchmaking meetings with Cuban importers and participants prior to the event. The BDC proposes to cover the cost to participating companies as follows: ground transportation (airport-hotel-airport and hotel-fair-hotel), translation services for each participating company during the fair and for matchmaking meetings and booth space and décor. Participating companies will be responsible for all additional expenses.

Some of the opportunities for export into the Cuban Market include but are not limited to: disposable diapers, batteries, uniforms, air condition units, construction materials, raw materials for the agricultural sector (e.g. machinery, replacement parts, resin).

Please contact Mr. Dhanraj Harrypersad at 652-3973/8779 or dharrypersad@bdc.co.tt for further details.