
MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce is hosting its **Annual Business Luncheon on Thursday March 28 at the Hyatt Regency in Port of Spain**. *The theme for 2019 is "We Are Better Together: CSME Implementation and the Role of The Private Sector"*. The meeting will focus on achieving regional integration through stronger private sector engagement in the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME).

At the CARICOM Heads of Government Conference on December 3, 2018, Caribbean private sector leaders had the opportunity to comment on the CSME's implementation, pledge their commitment to various goals and help develop a prioritised frame of action, which includes setting up a new, formal mechanism for private sector engagement with CARICOM Councils.

The T&T Chamber believes that such collaboration is essential to continuing the conversation about the CSME – which is why our Annual Business Luncheon will feature an interactive panel comprising some of the region's most prominent and influential private sector representatives:

- Prior to his 2009 appointment as Executive Director of Massy Holdings and President and CEO of Massy Group, **Gervase Warner** served as Executive Chairman of the Group's Energy and Industrial Gases Business Unit. Before joining Massy, Mr. Warner was a Partner at the international management consulting firm McKinsey & Company, where he spent eleven years serving clients across a wide range of industries in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean.
- **Jeffrey Hall** joined Jamaica Producers Group in 2002 and has served as its CEO since July 2007. The company, which is listed on the Jamaica Stock Exchange, has its primary interests in manufacturing, agri-business and logistics across the Caribbean and Europe. Mr. Hall is credited with the Group's turnaround, leading an acquisition strategy that included Kingston Wharves (Jamaica's top multipurpose port operator and private investor in logistics), Hoogesteger (the leading fresh juice company in Northern Europe), Tortuga International (an established Caribbean rum-based food souvenir brand), Mavis Bank Coffee Factory (a since divested leader in Jamaica Blue Mountain Coffee) and Ram Shipping (a UK-based freight forwarder serving the English-speaking Caribbean).
- **Colin Soo Ping Chow** is the Executive Chairman of EY Caribbean, which has 44 Partners and Executive Directors and over 500 professional staff, with regional offices located in

Aruba, Barbados, Curacao, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. A Partner at EY Caribbean since 1990, Mr. Soo Ping Chow has over 35 years of accounting, auditing and financial services experience and has served large, diverse, regional public and private sector companies from a senior advisory capacity. Some of his clients include publicly listed and regulated entities.

- As Executive Chairman of Demerara Distillers Limited, one of the Caribbean's leading rum producers and the home of El Dorado Rum, **Komal Samaroo** has been instrumental in the company's development over the last 49 years. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the West Indies Rum & Spirits Producers' Association (WIRSPA), National Rums of Jamaica, Diamond Fire and General Insurance and Institute of Private Enterprise Development Limited (IPED), as well as a Director on the Board of Demerara Bank Limited.
- Before joining Barbados' Goddard Enterprises Limited (GEL) in 2013 as Managing Director and later becoming its CEO, **Anthony Ali** built his career in Canada, in the areas of operations, sales, marketing, customer allegiance and strategic planning for a number of North American Fortune 500 companies. Prior to GEL, his Caribbean-based experience lay with Trinidad-based S.M. Jaleel, the largest soft drink manufacturer in the English-speaking Caribbean, where he served as General Manager for three years.

Dr. Patrick Antoine will moderate as the panellists discuss pressing CSME-related issues like harmonisation of tax legislation, transport, contingent rights and free movement of people. Dr. Antoine is a renowned regional thought leader and economist, with over 30 years of experience working in the Caribbean, North America and Latin America. He has consulted with major multinational corporations and several regional governments on trade and macro-policy issues, has extensive technical and negotiation experience (much of it with a focus on agriculture), and serves as Director on various regional boards.

As we seek to improve the ease of doing business and make the region more competitive, governments need to work closely with their private sectors. Collaboration can help accelerate economic activity, generate investment, enhance delivery of goods and services and increase both employment and social capital. For these improvements to become a reality, it is essential to engage the regional business community.

Thank you to our platinum sponsors, First Citizens, EY, Bmobile, Guardian Group (Guardian Life of the Caribbean Limited) and gold sponsor, Trinidad and Tobago Unit Trust Corporation for partnering with us to make this event possible.

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FROM THE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT