



PRESS RELEASE

BARBADOS PRIVATE SECTOR TRADE TEAM AND THE CARICOM OFFICE OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS TO HOST BUSINESS DIALOGUE FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, February 10th, 2010 - The Barbados Private Sector Trade Team (PSTT) and the CARICOM Office of Trade Negotiations (OTN) are collaborating to host a Business Dialogue for the private sector which will take place at the Savannah Hotel on February 16th, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The event, which is entitled, "Trade Agreements 101" is intended to assess the impact of trade policy on the local private sector and to assist businesses in maximizing the benefits of free trade agreements. In addition, this forum presents an opportunity for the private sector to speak directly to negotiators to assist them in better understanding the sectors' needs and requests in the current CARICOM-Canada Trade Agreement negotiations.

The feature address will be delivered by the Hon. Maxine McLean, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and will be followed by presentations by Lincoln Price, Natallie Rochester-King and Vincent Atkins of the Office of Trade Negotiations.

Mr. Price will present a general introduction to trade agreements and how they impact business development. In addition, his presentation will provide an overview of Barbados' trade performance highlighting positive instances of trade dynamism. Mrs. Rochester-King, will focus on how services can be impacted by trade agreements, while Mr. Atkins will discuss the implications of trade agreements for agribusiness.

The afternoon segment of the event will feature a business roundtable, which will be chaired by Mrs. Lisa Gale, Executive Director of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry. This aspect of the event presents an opportune forum for private sector firms and organizations to exchange frank views on their experiences in engaging the international trade, the extent to which the current trade agreements are benefiting local exporters and to provide recommendations for future negotiations. Mrs. Liz Couples of Trinity Homes, Mr. Geoffrey Goddard of Chickmont Foods and Mr. Ian Hickling of Lenstec Barbados will be the featured panelists and it is anticipated that their experiences will serve to stimulate further discussion among participants.

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The BPSTT commenced its operations in March 2003 and was established to research, document and promote private sector interests which are likely to be affected as a result of international trade negotiations.

For further details, please contact the PSTT at 430-6541 or 228-8901 or tradeteam@caribsurf.com.