



Historic Visit By Caribbean Community Heads Of Government to Commence in New York Via

“New York Conference on the Caribbean Community”

CARIBBEAN LEADERS SEEK TO STRENGTHEN COLLABORATIVE TIES TO THE UNITED STATES TO BOOST FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT AND TRADE

NEW YORK, NY, May 19, 2008 - The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Consular Corps of New York announces the arrival of “The New York Conference on the Caribbean Community,” an historic and prestigious summit that will examine the growth and development of the Caribbean Community from a regional perspective. The Conference will be held June 19-20, 2008 in New York City and will feature Heads of State and Government from fourteen Member States and Overseas Territories of CARICOM, policy makers, members of International Organizations and Financial Agencies, the academic community and the private sector.

The two-day summit will include trade presentations, roundtable discussions and meetings on such core issues as trade, investment, education and the Diaspora’s role in regional development. During the Conference the Heads of Government of CARICOM will meet with Congressman Charles Rangel, New York Governor David Paterson, New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and other elected officials.

“The CARICOM Government Heads and Consular Corps of New York are delighted to bring this unprecedented conference to New York to reinforce and capitalize on the relations between the Caribbean and New York, which serves as the financial center of the world and residence to a large group of the Caribbean Diaspora,” Consul General of Antigua and Barbuda and Chairman of the New Conference on the Caribbean Community, McChesney Emanuel said. “Through this conference, we hope to once again direct the attention of the people of the United States—one of the Caribbean’s major trading partners and the home of the largest number of migrants from the region—to the future of the Caribbean and its peoples.”

Key Conference Highlights:

- **Conference Opening** - The New York Conference on the Caribbean Community will be officially opened and the CARICOM Heads of Government welcomed to New York at a breakfast reception at Brooklyn Borough Hall, hosted by Brooklyn Borough President, Marty Markowitz and joined by Congressman Charles Rangel and Congresswoman Yvette Clark.
- **Education Symposium** - The CARICOM Consular Corps of New York City and Medgar Evers College, CUNY jointly present this event, which will feature a gathering of CARICOM Heads of Government and Ministers along with leading educational authorities for an education symposium focused on strengthening the collaborative ties between CARICOM and North American institutions of higher learning. The symposium will highlight benefits of existing collaborative models and discuss the role of the Diaspora in expanding ties between educational institutions in the CARICOM region and North America. The symposium will be held at the Brooklyn Marriott on Adams Street in Brooklyn.
- **Lunch with Governor Paterson** - Governor David Paterson and New York State Comptroller Bill Thompson will join the CARICOM Heads of Government and invited guests for a luncheon and discussion of trade and investment opportunities co-sponsored by the CARICOM Consular Corps of New York and by *Carib News*.

- **Trade Presentations & Networking:** The trade networking activity gives CARICOM public and private sector enterprises a platform to interface with the New York State Development Corporation. New York provides immense opportunities for CARICOM businesses to market their products and services since millions of CARICOM nationals and North Americans are consumers of Caribbean grown and manufactured products. The region is also a thriving destination for tourism and outsourcing of services therefore participants will learn about opportunities for trade and investment in these areas.
- **Dinner with Mayor Bloomberg:** This private dinner will give CARICOM Government Heads an opportunity to connect with Mayor Bloomberg and discuss the presence of Caribbean nationals in New York City.
- **Press Conference at the New York Stock Exchange** - The CARICOM Heads of Government will participate in a press conference at the New York Stock Exchange. Details of an anticipated announcement are forthcoming.
- **Tour of Harlem:** The CARICOM Heads of Government will participate in an official tour of Harlem, hosted by the Harlem Chamber of Commerce, to reconnect with the historical and present day importance of this area as well as Caribbean constituents living there. The CARICOM Heads of Government will participate in a brief reception and press opportunity at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture of The New York Public Library at 515 Malcolm X Boulevard.
- **Diaspora Forum** - Presented by the CARICOM Consular Corps of New York in conjunction with York College, CUNY, this event will examine investment and Diaspora engagement with home countries. CARICOM Heads of Government will discuss specific steps they have taken to increase the Diaspora participation in the development of the CARICOM region, as well as investment opportunities available to Caribbean nationals abroad under the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). The forum, which will be held at the York College Performing Arts Center, 94-45 Guy R. Brewer Boulevard, Jamaica, Queens, is open to the public at 5:45pm and will include an interactive Q&A session.

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