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35th Annual Conference on the Caribbean & Central America

NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 2, 2011

New Orleans Marriott • New Orleans, LA



Co-hosted by:



WORLD TRADE CENTER
NEW ORLEANS

PRELIMINARY AGENDA*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2011

12:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Location:

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Location:

CCAA BOARD MEETINGS (PRIVATE)

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Location:

WELCOME RECEPTION AND RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

WELCOME:

Cornelius B. Prior, Jr., Chairman, CCAA & Chairman, Atlantic Tele-Network, Inc. (C)

Bobby C. Brannon, President, World Trade Center of New Orleans, Executive VP & Treasurer, Ochsner Health System (C)

KEYNOTE REMARKS:

Mitch Landrieu, Mayor, City of New Orleans (C)

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Location:

OPENING DINNER

INTRODUCTION:

Michael J. Olivier, Chief Executive Officer, Louisiana Committee of 100 (C)

REMARKS:

Carlos Mickan, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Pan-American Life Insurance Group (C)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2011

7:30 am – 5:00 pm

Location:

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

7:30 am – 8:20 am

Location:

NETWORKING BREAKFAST

8:20 am – 8:25 am

Location:

WELCOME

REMARKS:

Senator Conrad Appel (R), State Senator, Louisiana (C)

8:25 am – 8:40 am

POLICY PLENARY

Location:

US POLICY PRIORITIES IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

KEYNOTE REMARKS:

Roberta S. Jacobson, Acting Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, U.S. Department of State (TBC)

8:40 am – 10:00 am	POLICY PLENARY	Location:
ECONOMIC GROWTH AND THE SECURITY CHALLENGE IN CENTRAL AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN		
The security challenge in the Caribbean and Central America is a local, regional, and international issue. The international community is committed to helping the region face the problem head-on, with significant funding being specifically targeted to this area. This panel will bring together leaders to take a close look at the economic repercussions of the insecurity and efforts underway to combat the problem.		
<u>PLENARY CHAIR:</u> Eric Farnsworth, Vice President, Council of the Americas (C)		
<u>PART 1 - KEYNOTE REMARKS:</u> Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General, Organization of American States (C)		
<u>PART 2 - DISCUSSION:</u> Francisco Campbell, Ambassador of Nicaragua to the United States (C) Jose Perez-Jones, Sr. Vice President, Seaboard Marine Ltd. (C)		

10:00 am – 10:15 am	COFFEE BREAK	Location: Exhibit Area
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10:15 am – 11:45 am	CONCURRENT ROUNDTABLES	
A. TRADE POLICY IN CENTRAL AMERICA	B. TRADE POLICY IN THE CARIBBEAN	
Location:	Location:	
Five years after the passage of DR-CAFTA, and with Panama on the path to a Free Trade Agreement with the US, experts will come together on this panel to discuss US trade policy in Central America and the changing face of trade in the region.	The Caribbean's trade relations have been evolving since the passage of the Caribbean Basin Initiative almost 3 decades ago. Bi-lateral and multi-lateral arrangements are being negotiated, and new players are entering the arena. This session will look at the impact and future of trade policy on Caribbean economic development.	
<u>EXPERT FACILITATOR:</u> David Lewis, Vice President, Manchester Trade Ltd. (C)	<u>EXPERT FACILITATOR:</u> Raquel Artecona, Economics Affairs Officer, Washington Office, UN-ECLAC (C)	
<u>PRESENTERS:</u> John T. Hyatt, Vice President, The Irwin Brown Co. (C) Jose Carlos Quirce, Director at Ministry of Foreign Trade Government of the Republic of Costa Rica (C) Leroy Sheffer, Chief Executive Partner, International Trade Advisory Services (C)	<u>PRESENTERS:</u> Walter Bastian, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Western Hemisphere, US Dept. of Commerce (C) Abdul Nasser El Hakim, Minister of Economic Development, Curaçao (C) Stephen Lande, President, Manchester Trade Ltd. (C) Sancia Bennett-Templer, President, Jamaica Promotions Corporation	

12:00 pm – 12:45 pm	POLICY PLENARY	Location:
THE PANAMA CANAL EXPANSION AND THE IMPACT ON TRADE		
97 years after it changed the face of global shipping, the Panama Canal is undergoing an expansion which will once again revolutionize trade. The expansion will double capacity, and will allow longer, wider ships to pass through starting in 2014. This plenary will give the current status of the expansion project and the expected impact it will have on trade, shipping, and port development in the region.		
<u>PLENARY CHAIR:</u> Gary LaGrange, President and CEO, Port of New Orleans (C)		
<u>KEYNOTE REMARKS:</u> Alberto Aleman Z., Administrator, Panama Canal Authority (C) René Hernandez Osegueda, President, Maritime & Ports Authority of El Salvador (C)		

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	PLENARY LUNCH	Location:
<u>REMARKS:</u> Kenneth D. McClintock, Secretary of State, Government of Puerto Rico (C)		
<u>KEYNOTE ADDRESS:</u> Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne (R-LA)(C)		

2:30 pm – 3:15 pm	POLICY PLENARY	Location:
MAKING BUSINESS WORK IN SMALLER ECONOMIES		
<p>When there are economies around the globe that are expanding rapidly, what are the benefits to investing in the smaller economies of the Caribbean Basin? Is it the relative stability of the region; the proximity to the United States; the variety of opportunities available; or other factors? This panel will feature a range of opinions as to why, in today's economy, investing in Central America and the Caribbean makes sense.</p> <p>PLENARY CHAIR: Harold E. Doley, III, Principal, The Lugano Group Incorporated (C)</p> <p>KEYNOTE REMARKS: Gerard S. Johnson, Manager, Caribbean Country Department, Inter-American Development Bank (C) Suzanne Etcheverry, Director – Insurance, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (C) Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, Minister of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Culture, Aruba (C)</p>		

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm	Location: Exhibit Area
COFFEE BREAK	

3:30 pm – 5:30 pm		
CONCURRENT ROUNDTABLES		
A. FINANCING TRADE & INVESTMENT	B. REGIONAL TRENDS IN TRADE & INVESTMENT	C. MAKING TECHNOLOGY WORK FOR GROWTH
Location:	Location:	Location:
<p>Access to capital can be a challenge, and in an uncertain global economic environment this is true for all types of businesses. This session will look at some of the existing and emerging tools that are available for companies that are doing business in, or with, Central America and the Caribbean.</p> <p>SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Richard McCorkindale, Director of Structured Finance: International Corporate & Commercial Banking, Scotiabank (C)</p> <p>EXPERT FACILITATOR: Linda Wellstein, Partner & Chair, Wellstein Mora Rodriguez Int'l (C)</p> <p>PRESENTERS: Kip Thompson, Managing Director, Portland Private Equity (C) Bruce Sim, Head-Capital Markets & Wealth Management, RBC Financial (Caribbean) Limited (C) Teresa Nizzola, Regional Manager, Export Development Canada (C) Chief Richard Hampton, Jr. CEO, New Orleans Firefighters' Pension and Relief Fund (C)</p>	<p>This session will look at some of the industries that have traditionally led growth in the Caribbean Basin, and will bring together some of the people who are watching – and setting - the trends in those industries.</p> <p>SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: Michael Hecht, President and CEO of Greater New Orleans, Inc. (C) Carlos Mickan, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Pan-American Life Insurance Group (C)</p> <p>EXPERT FACILITATOR: Anton Edmunds, President & CEO, The Edmunds Group (C)</p> <p>PRESENTERS: Eddy Martinez, Executive Director, Center for Export & Investment of the Dominican Republic (C) Josef Forstmayr, President, Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (C) Richard Kleiner, Director, International Market Development, Southern Forest Products Association (C) Jerry C. Butler, CEO, Global Equity Consultants Ltd. (C)</p>	<p>The effective application of technology can have a profound impact on a company's or country's ability to compete. This session will look at some of the current and emerging technologies that can push growth, and how investing in them can open markets and opportunities.</p> <p>EXPERT FACILITATOR: Mike Fralix, President/CEO, [TC]² (C)</p> <p>PRESENTERS: Himmat Singh, Senior Director-Business Development, CrimsonLogic (C) Oscar Bazoberry, President & CEO, World Data Inc. (C) Darryl D. d'Aquin, President, CommTech Industries, Inc. Vinicio Mella, Vice President-Chamber of Commerce, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (C)</p>

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Location: Exhibit Area
NETWORKING RECEPTION	
<i>SPONSORED BY: ATLANTIC TELE-NETWORK</i>	
REMARKS: Paul Bowersock, President – International Operations, Atlantic Tele-Network (C)	

DINNER (OPEN)
<p>Participants are invited to go out for a taste of New Orleans. For information on restaurants, please click here to visit the New Orleans Visitors Convention Bureau (CVB) restaurant guide.</p> <p>Representatives of the CVB will be on-site to assist with reservations, questions and much more.</p>

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2011

7:30 am – 12:00 pm

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Location:

7:30 am – 8:20 am

NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Location:

8:20 am – 8:40 am

**OPENING PRESENTATION: DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PRIORITIES
IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Location:

KEYNOTE REMARKS:

Mark Feierstein, Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean, USAID

8:40 am – 10:00 am

**POLICY PLENARY
SPECIAL DISCUSSION ON INTEGRATION AND TRADE**

Location:

Uncertainty about the economic health of advanced economies has spurred a renewed emphasis on South-South economic links. In the current context integration goes well beyond trade: it needs to be an engine for economic development, public goods, and sound macroeconomic governance. How are Caribbean and Central American regional institutions addressing this challenge? What proposals and actions are emerging to address the multiple economic and social challenges confronting both regions? What sort of integration is needed in the Caribbean and Central America?

INTRODUCTION:

Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General, Organization of American States (C)

REMARKS:

Jose Raul Perales, Executive Director- AACCLA and Director-Americas, U.S. Chamber of Commerce (C)

Alberto Padilla, President, The Padilla Group; Editor, www.economiayfinanzas.net (C)

Neil Parsan, Ambassador of Trinidad & Tobago to the United States (C)

10:00 am – 10:15am

COFFEE BREAK

Location: Exhibit Area

10:15 am – 12:00 noon

CONCURRENT ROUNDTABLES

A. FOCUS ON ENERGY SECURITY

Location:

What is the future for regional energy security? Countries are looking at the options, including inter-connection, renewable sources, fossil fuel exploration, and simple energy efficiency programs. This panel will discuss the outlook, the opportunities, and the challenges.

MODERATOR:

Gary Ward, Director of American Affairs, US Department of Energy (C)

PRESENTERS:

Tom Whipple, Editor, Peak Oil Review & Peak Oil News (C)

Albert Nahas, Vice President, International Government Affairs, Cheniere Energy Inc. (C)

B. FOCUS ON TRANSPORTATION

Location:

Whether goods are moving by air, sea, or over land, the efficient transfer of cargo is critical to economic development. This panel will look at how transportation infrastructure is being modernized to facilitate regional and international trade and whether institutional capacity is keeping pace.

MODERATOR:

Anton Edmunds, President & CEO, The Edmunds Group (C)

PRESENTERS:

Lawrence R. Taylor, Business Development, Aziotics LLC (C)

Edouard Baussan, President, AGEMAR, Haiti (C)

Jay Brickman, Vice President, Crowley Maritime Corp. (C)

Kristiann App, VP-Business Development, J.W. Allen Co. (C)

C. FOCUS ON RISK REDUCTION & BUSINESS RESILIENCE

Location:

No industry operating in the region is immune from the effects of a man-made or natural disaster. This session will look at how the private sector can work to reduce losses, build resilience, and get people and communities back to work.

MODERATOR:

Jennifer Nugent-Hill, Strategic Management Consultant, The Hill Group, USVI (C)

PRESENTERS:

Andres Calderon, Associate Director, Stevenson Disaster Management Institute, Louisiana State University (C)

Lisa Samson, Director, Partnering (J9) United States Southern Command (C)

Patrick J. Quinlan, M.D., CEO, Ochsner Health System (C)

Johanna Mendelson Forman, Senior Associate, Americas Program, Center for Strategic & International Studies (C)

12:15 pm – 2:00 pm	PLENARY LUNCH	Location:
<p>INTRODUCTION: David Kearney, President-Elect, World Trade Center of New Orleans (C)</p> <p>REMARKS: Jerry Cook, Vice President, Government & Trade Relations, Hanesbrands Inc. (C)</p> <p>Address: Jose W. Fernandez, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy, & Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State (C)</p>		

CONCURRENT EVENTS	<p>GULF TRADE</p> <p>IMPORT & EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES</p> <p><i>Hosted by: World Trade Center of New Orleans</i></p>	Location:
	<p>This session will focus on businesses that have a history of trading with the Caribbean Central-American region, their experiences, and where they see opportunities for growth, both in importing and exporting. The panel will feature speakers from the areas of finance, manufacturing, infrastructure and port development, and commodities and agriculture trade. The goal of the session is to connect practical, “hands-on” experience with the larger picture of doing business in both the Gulf South and the Caribbean/Central American region.</p> <p>MODERATOR: Dominik Knoll, CEO, World Trade Center of New Orleans (C)</p> <p>SPEAKERS: Rodrick Miller, CEO, New Orleans Business Alliance (C) Sandro Murtas, Regional Manager, Export Solutions Group, US Small Business Administration (C) Robert Wetta, President, DSC Dredge, LLC (C)</p>	
	<p>MOBILE WORKSHOP 1</p> <p>PORT OF NEW ORLEANS</p>	
	<p>Located at the mouth of the Mississippi River, the Port of New Orleans is the world's 8th busiest port, and is the only deepwater port in the United States served by six class one railroads - linking its users directly and economically to the rest of the country. With over \$400 million invested over the past 10 years, the Port of New Orleans is home to state-of-the-art facilities. Participants in this workshop can expect an up-close look at what makes the Port of New Orleans a logistical leader. The port tour will be followed by a question and answer session with port management. RSVP to sybaker@c-cao.org.</p>	
2:15 PM – 5:00 PM	<p>MOBILE WORKSHOP 2</p> <p>ARCHITECTURE</p>	
	<p>Led by the Friends of the Cabildo, this visit will weave together history, culture, and reconstruction. Participants will first be given an introduction to some of the most significant landmarks in New Orleans. The Cabildo, Presbytere, St. Louis Cathedral, Pontalba, and the Mississippi River will be discussed against the backdrop of their role in history and development. The tour will then go to the 9th Ward - the area most devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The tour will visit two innovative and important reconstruction efforts: the Habitat for Humanity Musician's Village and Make It Right Homes. Sustainability, community and disaster resistance are the hallmarks of these developments. The tour will underscore the architectural and cultural similarities between New Orleans and the Caribbean Basin, and their shared vulnerability to disaster. RSVP to sybaker@c-cao.org.</p>	

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	CLOSING RECEPTION	Location: TBA
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