



**CARIBBEAN  
REGIONAL NEGOTIATING MACHINERY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CRNM PLANS INCREASED DIALOGUE WITH PRIVATE SECTOR**

**Hastings, Christ Church, Barbados, January 20** -- The Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM) is stepping up its outreach to the Region's private sector this year.

The aim is to assist Caribbean companies to reap greater benefits from international trade by becoming better acquainted with trade agreements which Caribbean countries have signed, and also to contribute to the crafting of positions in current negotiations which support business goals.

"For the first quarter of this year, we are looking at several events in St Kitts, Guyana, Suriname, Antigua, Dominica, St Lucia, St Vincent, Grenada, Barbados and Jamaica," says Mr. Lincoln Price, the CRNM's Private Sector Liaison.

The packed schedule of events kicks off on Thursday, January 26, when a CRNM team hosts a 'Trade Power Dialogue' in St Kitts-Nevis. The St Kitts Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the Ministry of Trade, and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce are co-sponsoring the mid-morning event.

The two-hour-long session will provide the St Kitts-Nevis business community with a comprehensive update on the Caribbean's external trade negotiations. There will also be presentations by government and private sector representatives on specific issues which they think should be included in the negotiating agenda.

In some countries, the CRNM will host capacity building 'Business Tutorials on Trade' where experts will make presentations on specific issues of interest to the private sector. A good example is trade facilitation - the introduction of measures to reduce bureaucratic red tape to allow faster clearance of goods through Customs. Businesspersons throughout the Region expressed particular interest in this subject in a CRNM survey.

The CRNM's stepped-up outreach falls under a three-year project supported by the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) of the Inter American Development Bank (IDB). The project is entitled 'Strengthening the Private Sector's Role in the Caribbean Community's External Trade Negotiations'.

The CRNM was established by Caribbean Community (CARICOM) governments to provide technical advice on trade issues to member countries and to play a leading role in representing the Region in external trade negotiations.

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