



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 4th August, 2017

The TTMA meets with Business Organisations in Jamaica

Following a visit by a Jamaican delegation, led by Mr. P.B. Scott, President of the PSOJ, in June, 2017 the President of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association (TTMA) Mr. Christopher Alcazar visited Jamaica in July 2017 to further the vision of building and strengthening relationships within CARICOM. These talks were seen to be essential between the business communities of both countries in removing the perceived misconceptions that may exist among their respective populations. Emerging from these discussions, it was clear that there is a greater appreciation for the valuable contribution of the TTMA and its commitment to playing an integral role in furthering trade relations between Trinidad and Tobago and the Jamaican business community.

Mr. Alcazar was also accompanied on his visit to Jamaica by Dr. Mahindra Ramdeen CEO, TTMA. They met with several Jamaican organisations such as JamPro, the Jamaican Manufacturers' Association, the Jamaica Exporters' Association and the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica as well as other prominent members of the Jamaican business fraternity. Apart from strengthening ties between both countries, the TTMA believes these discussions will be the catalyst to enable the business community in the region to raise its voices within CARICOM.

Deepening of ties between the business communities of countries within the Caribbean region continues to be priority on the agenda of the TTMA. This strengthening of relationships was evident when the TTMA hosted a Cuban delegation at our Trade and Investment Convention (TIC) in June of this year and sought to bring together local manufacturers with Cuban counterparts (19 representatives) to explore business opportunities, which may exist between both countries. The visit by the Cuban delegation follows a TTMA-led trade mission to Cuba, which took place in March, 2016 and the participation of several local manufacturers (96) in the Havana International Fair (FIHAV) in October, 2016. The TTMA anticipates that further participation by the TTMA membership will take place for FIHAV 2017, taking place on 30th October – 3rd November, 2017.

The TTMA believes, following the successful discussions with the business community in Jamaica and further expanding the discussions with the business communities in other CARICOM countries, this will result in the private sector having a greater influence on the decisions made within CARICOM to the benefit of the economies of the respective countries. Such influence will be pivotal to ensuring the enabling environment required for business within the region.

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