

Commonwealth Business Forum 2009
Partnering for a More Equitable and Sustainable Future
The Commonwealth and the Americas
23rd-26th November 2009
Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago



DRAFT PROGRAMME



Themes

- **Partnering for a Sustainable Future - The Commonwealth and the Americas**
- **Energy for Growth: Managing Climate Change**
- **New Global Financial Structure: Instruments of Growth**
- **The Innovation Mantra: Technology- The Key to Growth and Development**
- **Skills Challenge of the 21st Century**
- **Trading for a More Equitable and Sustainable Future**

Organised by the Commonwealth Business Council in collaboration with the Government of Trinidad & Tobago in conjunction with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting



**Message for the Commonwealth Business Forum 2009
from Honourable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of the
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**

I am delighted that Trinidad and Tobago will be hosting the Commonwealth Business Forum in Port of Spain from 24-26 November 2009 as one of the pre-events associated with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. I look forward to welcoming leaders and senior business executives from across the Commonwealth and beyond, focusing on the theme "Partnering for a More Equitable and Sustainable Future: the Commonwealth and the Americas".

The Forum will highlight new global economic partnership arrangements to promote trade and investment in key sectors across the Commonwealth and beyond, particularly in the Americas. The CBF as a unique gathering of business leaders from developed and emerging markets will focus on building the new economic and financial architecture in the global economy and ensure that it is inclusive and beneficial to all. This important business Meeting will present a useful platform for fostering such partnerships and new relationships.

Building on the successful fora held since 1997, I believe that this year's CBF will yield practical ideas on enhancing trade, mobilising investment, and strengthening economic links between the countries of the Commonwealth and with our global partners. I am also confident that the opportunities for commercial networking through the Forum will be highly valuable.

I therefore urge you to make every effort to ensure you are able to participate in this important meeting.

Hon. Patrick Manning
Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

14:00 - 19:00 Registration [Delegates and Media]
One to One Meetings (by prior appointment only)

17:00 - 19:00 Reception and Briefing: Speakers and Chairs

09:00 - 11:00 **Opening Ceremony:**

“Challenges of the Global Economy- Partnering for Sustainable Future”

This session will examine the challenges of the global economy with a special focus on the great economic collapse that began in 2008 and will aim to explore new partnerships for a sustainable future.

Chairman, Commonwealth Business Forum Steering Committee 2009

Dr Mohan Kaul, Director General, Commonwealth Business Council

Paul Skinner, Chairman, Commonwealth Business Council

HE Kamallesh Sharma, Commonwealth Secretary General

Hon. Patrick Manning, Prime Minister, Trinidad & Tobago

11:00 - 11:30 Refreshments and Networking Break

11:30 - 13:00 **The Commonwealth and the Americas**

This session will examine the role of the Caribbean in bridging the gap between the Commonwealth and the Americas and in developing relationships with the African and Asian private companies.

13:00 - 14:30 Networking Lunches

14:30 - 16:00 **Energy for Growth**

This panel will examine the world's energy infrastructure for development and growth. It will seek to see how growing nations will get their energy in the future, especially in times of economic and financial crisis. How can countries which see rapid population growth meet the subsequent energy demand growth? What are the best routes for meeting this need in a sustainable manner? Can distributed generation technologies carry the load? What other technologies and policies are needed? To what extent will developed nations contribute to the process?

- Shift the debate on energy and development in times of economic and financial crisis beyond generalities and identify specific courses of action
- Initiate and advance regional and international co-operation in dedicated result-oriented working sessions

16:00 - 16:30 Refreshments and Networking Break

16:30 - 18:00 **Interactive Theme Sessions**

- Renewable and Alternative Energy
- Energy Service Industry
- Enabling Growth- Improving the Investment Climate
- Public Private Partnerships: Accelerating Infrastructure Development
- Investment Window

19:00 - 22:00 **Reception and Gala Dinner: *The Commonwealth and the Americas***

Keynote Speakers:

Hon. Patrick Manning, Prime Minister, Trinidad & Tobago

07:30 - 08:25 **CBC Members Breakfast (By Invitation Only)**

08:30 - 09:25 **Caribbean: A Place to do Business**

A wealth of natural resources, a dynamic literate workforce, stable industrial and political environment have been marking the Caribbean for the past few years. What are the main incentives, challenges, and prospects for business and investment in the region? This session will also focus on the experiences of the existing investors in doing business with this region.

09:30 - 11:00 **Interactive Theme Sessions**

- Telecoms and Services
- E-Health
- Investment in Agribusiness
- Travel and Tourism
- Enhancing Manufacturing Capacity
- Investment Window

11:00 - 11:30 Refreshments and Networking Break

11:30 - 13:00 **Managing Climate Change: Promoting Renewable and Alternative Energy**

The economic and environmental costs of inaction continue to accrue for a battered world economy. This session will examine the best, worst and likely scenarios to emerge in the global race to mitigate the impact of climate change.

13:00 - 14:30 Networking Lunches

14:30 - 16:00 **New Global Financial Structure: Instruments of Growth**

The most dangerous shock to global economy today has proven to be financial, given the toxic mixture of integrated capital markets, complex financial engineering and fragmented regulatory oversight. This session will examine the economic impact on the developing countries with a special focus on access to finance, SMEs development and financial regulation.

16:00 - 16:30 Refreshments and Networking Break

16:30 - 18:00 **Interactive Theme Sessions**

- Capital Markets
- Pensions and Insurance
- Increasing Investment Flows through New Financial Instruments
- Micro Finance
- Investment Window

19:00 **Reception and Gala Dinner: "Partnering for a More Equitable and Sustainable Future"**
Keynote Addresses: Head of States

07:30 - 08:25 **Vision 2015- The CBC Perspective (Breakfast Meeting)**

08:30 - 09:25 **The Innovation Mantra: Technology- The Key to Growth and Development**

Globalisation is both driving and being driven by the current period of rapid advancement in information and communications technologies but at present not all nations are utilising the advantages that stem from these developments. How can technological progress assist the developing economies to benefit from globalisation, and where are the main challenges? Can new technologies be used to reduce the digital divisions within and between nations?

- 09:30 - 11:00 **Skills Challenge of the 21st Century**
A talented workforce is a prerequisite for getting through cyclical and structural shocks, but finding and retaining talent remain difficult around the world, even during a major global slowdown. The session will focus on employment, training, skills and capacity development.
- How have globalization, changing demographics, and new technology influenced talent-management practices at leading-edge companies?
 - What innovative processes and technologies have companies developed to support their talent management strategy?
- 11:00 - 11:30 Refreshments and Networking Break
- 11:30 - 13:00 **Interactive Theme Sessions**
- Learning from the Young Leaders
 - ICT and Knowledge Industry
 - Emerging Caribbean Global Players
 - Corporate Social Innovations
 - Creative Industries
 - Investment Windows
- 13:00 - 14:25 **Gala Lunch: New Approaches for Sustainable Development**
Keynote Addresses: Head of States
- 14:30 - 16:00 **Concluding Session: Trading for a More Equitable and Sustainable Future**
This session will provide an opportunity for political and business dialogue on how the global trading system can play a stronger role in addressing global issues, including poverty reduction, climate change, food security, quality jobs and the sustainability of natural resources.
- 16:00 - 17:30 **Prime Minister's Roundtable (By Invitation Only)**