



The

Consular Courier



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SCOTIABANK SPONSORS EXPO 2011

Minister Ken Baugh gives full support



From left; Mr. Robert Scott, Secretary CCOJ, The Hon. Arnold Foote OJ, Dean CCOJ, Deputy Prime Minister And Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Dr. the Hon. Ken Baugh, Mr. Michael Thompson, Scotiabank, Mr. Grantley Stephenson, Vice Dean CCOJ

The International Trade Expo 2011 offers business opportunities - Minister Ken Baugh



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Dr. the Hon. Kenneth Baugh launches CCOJ's International Trade EXPO.

Minister Ken Baugh in his address said:

It is my distinct honour to welcome you all here today to participate in the launch of the International Trade Expo which will be held from 9th-11th October 2011. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the Consular Corps, which under the leadership of its Dean, Mr. Arnold Foote, has revived the Expo after some five years of dormancy. The Consular Corps must be commended for its efforts.

Trade Expos continue to be key components of trade facilitation and trade promotion serving as real market places for buyers and sellers. Opportunities are also provided for cultural exchange providing information about the customs, products and business practices of other countries.

Jamaica's sustained growth and development are dependent on its ability to increase production, to expand exports in goods and services, and to create jobs. In this context, the Government is seeking to create the environment for stimulating business initiatives. We are also placing greater

emphasis on economic/commercial diplomacy through our interactions at the bilateral, regional and international levels, to be better able to reap economic benefits.

Jamaica is clearly focused on implementing the National Development Plan – Vision 2030 Jamaica, and our National Export Strategy. To ensure that we have a firm foundation for trade, we are currently working on our National Aid for Trade Strategy with the IDB which will be completed shortly. We are aiming to have it completed in time for the Third WTO Global Aid for Trade Review to be held in July in Geneva. In addition, in April, Cabinet approved the revision of our National Trade Policy and work is expected to commence this year on that project with emphasis on further integrating trade into Jamaica's National Development Plan.

The International Trade Expo was an anticipated event on the business calendar in Jamaica when it was previously held. I welcome its return as a platform for the display of Jamaican

goods and services as well as those of our trading partners. I hope that this Expo will become again a regular event on the business calendar in Jamaica. Events such as these provide real opportunities for doing business through the purchase and sale of goods and services, and for networking which can lead to investments and job creation. I hope to see strong participation from our private sector.

The Diplomatic and Consular Corps play a vital role in developing and strengthening trade relations amongst nations. The Corps can help to identify those products that would be of interest to their consumers and facilitate the initial contacts that would foster trade.

I am confident that Trade Expo 2011 will be a resounding success rewarding the tremendous effort being put into its organization by your Dean, Mr. Arnold Foote, and the members of the Consular Corp. I look forward to attending the Trade Expo in October and encourage my fellow Jamaicans, particularly the business community, to support it. I offer you my full support.

Scotiabank Congratulates Consular Corps Of Jamaica



Mr. Michael Thompson of Scotiabank addresses Diplomats and Consuls at the launch of the International Trade Expo. Also in picture are Mr. Robert Scott, Secretary CCOJ, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Hon. Ken Baugh, The Hon. Arnold Foote OJ, Dean CCOJ, Mr. Grantley Stephenson, Vice Dean CCOJ.

Mr. Thompson in his address said: Scotiabank has a long relationship with the Consular Corp in Jamaica and by extension the International Trade Expo.

We are pleased, therefore, with the return of the expo and have given the Consular Corp our full support with our sponsorship of US \$12,000.

For us at Scotiabank, the creation, promotion and expansion of trade in very important. In fact, it was through trade that the Bank of Nova Scotia opened its first branch here in Jamaica in 1889.

Our history notes that 'a barter trade had long existed between Nova Scotia and Jamaica, involving salted cod, lumber, and potatoes in exchange for rum and molasses. As trade expanded during the middle of the 19th century, however, the limitations of

the barter system became increasingly apparent. For the Halifax merchants, the establishment of the Bank of Nova Scotia in Kingston offered the best means of placing the trade on a monetary basis.

Other factors also suggested that it was time for the Bank to set up a presence in Jamaica. By the 1880's new steamship connections were in place and Jamaica was beginning to develop a tourist industry. Interest in close trade relations between Canada and Jamaica was also on the rise. As part of this trend, trade commissioners from Jamaica visited Canada in 1884 and 1885. By 1889, about nine percent of Jamaica's imports came from Canada whilst just over two percent of exports went there.'

I share this with you to underscore the importance of trade between countries

and nations in the creation of industries and economies. We can all attest to the contribution salted cod has made to our tourism product as Ackee and Salt fish is a major dish wherever you find Jamaicans and you know we are all over the world; Jamaican rum is known world wide and is matched by no other. Of course, the Bank of Nova Scotia is not just here in Jamaica, but is now in 50 countries worldwide and is continuing to make a significant contribution to businesses and economies.

That's the power of trade.

So I wish to congratulate the Consular Corp for once again hosting this expo and we look forward to long lasting benefits as a result.

Thank you.

Development of Trade is one of the Main Functions of the Consul- Arnold Foote



From the left: Mrs. Indera Persaud, Mr. Michael Thompson, Mrs. Lois Sherwood, Minister Ken Baugh, Mr. Grantley Stephenson and the Hon. Arnold Foote.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you here to this press conference to launch the Consular Corps of Jamaica's International Trade Expo 2011.

The Consular Corps of Jamaica first created and launched our International Trade Expo in 2003. I am pleased to tell you that by 2005, the programme was adopted by the World Federation of Consuls, and is being organized in several countries worldwide.

One of the main functions of the Consul is the development of trade, and the Consular Corps of Jamaica introduced the Expo in order to encourage trade between the Sending and the Receiving States.

The main objectives of the annual International Trade Expo are to develop international cooperation through trade and to assist in re-establishing Kingston as another tourism destination.

This is the only expo in the world where the Sending State sells directly to the Receiving State. This creates an environment for the countries represented in Jamaica to develop trade with Jamaican companies and to expose not only products manufactured for export, but also the products they import, which gives

Jamaican companies vital information for new product development.

We have organized an event which will provide the right environment for bilateral and multilateral trade and information.

There are over 120 countries represented in Jamaica, and our participation in the promotion of commercial links between the countries represented here and Jamaica is of vital importance.

This expo offers countries an opportunity to do business without having to deal with large budgets and large participation costs.

All the members of the Consular Corps of Jamaica will have the opportunity to prove to their Sending States, their capacity to promote trade which is part of the job responsibility given to them by the countries that they have the honour to represent.

I would like to, at this time, pay tribute to the Diplomatic Corps of Jamaica for the great support given to our International Trade Expo annually. I am pleased to report that prior to today's launch, 24 countries have already indicated their intention to participate this year, which is an excellent start for Expo 2011.

There is no limit or theme established

by our International Trade Expo. Each country is free to display whatever it considers to be important to its national interest.

Our International Trade Expo will take place on 9th, 10th and 11th October in the beautiful ballroom of the Pegasus Hotel. It will include a Best Booth contest, entertainment and a special seminar to discuss important areas of international trade including export financing.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my honor to announce that the organization that sponsored our International Trade Expo from its inception, has once again decided to sponsor our programme and partner with us in developing international cooperation through trade and continuing to assist in the establishing of Kingston as another tourism destination.

I speak of one of the finest corporate citizens of Jamaica, the Scotiabank Group, and we greatly appreciate their continued support for the development of trade between the countries with Diplomatic relations with Jamaica and the people of Jamaica.

It now gives me great pleasure to invite Mr. Michael Thompson, Senior Vice President, Corporate and Commercial Banking Centre of Scotiabank to address us.

Address by H.E. Ambassador Mr. Frederic Meurice at CCOJ's Education Seminar May 22, 2011



From the left: Mr. Robert Scott, Mrs. Irena Cousins, the Hon. Arnold Foote presenting H.E. Mr. Fredric Meurice with the CCOJ's award of appreciation - Mrs. Indera Persaud

At the beginning of his address, Ambassador Meurice congratulated the Bureau of the Honorary Corps of Jamaica for their initiative of the day.

Ambassador Meurice highlighted the fact that the Honorary Consular Corps is of particular relevance and importance in a country such as Jamaica where the number of Diplomatic Missions is significant but limited. Honorary Consuls are also of particular interest to Belgium which has a limited diplomatic network throughout the world and often needs to rely on Honorary Consuls. This is particularly true in the jurisdiction covered by the Belgian Embassy in Kingston: 10 independent countries and 4 dependent territories. The Head of Mission relies on the support he can get from the 4 Honorary Consuls of Belgium appointed in the region.

Support from the Honorary Consuls: it can go well beyond consular assistance

In the main part of his speech, Ambassador Meurice emphasized the fact that, besides consular assistance – which

is the most important aspect of the work of Honorary Consuls – Heads of Mission or Capitals often expected contributions in other areas from the Honorary Consuls. Ambassador Meurice chose to emphasize two aspects: commercial/economic development – political contributions.

Role of Honorary Consuls in trade/ economic promotion

Honorary Consuls are often selected among prominent members of the business community. This must be used as an asset. Honorary Consuls must report on business and trade/investment opportunities. For their contribution to be relevant, they must have a good knowledge of the strong points of the economic fabric of the country they represent. They must encourage local businessmen to investigate the possibility to look for partners in the country they represent.

Honorary Consuls must, however, avoid conflicts of interest. If there is no reason why their own business could not benefit from interaction with businesses in the home country, the sole purpose

cannot be that the Honorary Consul is the only one to benefit from such contacts.

Role of Honorary Consuls on political matters

Ambassador Meurice encouraged the Honorary Consuls not to be shy about reporting to their Ambassadors or Capitals about political developments in the country where they are established; specially when the Consul can report about confidential information he/she has gathered based on his special contacts in this country.

The Consul can also be called upon to help make some political bilateral interests progress. A good example is the promotion of requests for support to national candidacies.

In order to preserve his/her good position and his/her access to relevant political actors, it is important that Honorary Consuls keep at all time the necessary neutrality that will allow them to survive regime and government changes.

Review of Vienna Convention on Consular Revelations 1963 needed - Arnold Foote



From the left: Hon. Arnold Foote, Mrs. Irena Cousins, Mr. Herman Lamont Director Diaspora & Consular Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Mrs. Madai Hernandez and Mr. Robert Scott.

Mr. Herman Lamont, Head of the Consular Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Mr. Ricardo Allicock, Director of Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chairman of the Education Committee, Hon. Irena Cousins,

Secretary, Hon. Robert Scott, Colleague members of the Consular Corps of Jamaica, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like, on behalf of the Organizing Committee and the Board of Directors of the Consular Corps of Jamaica, to welcome you all here today to our Education Seminar. I would like also to take this opportunity to congratulate the Chairperson of our Education Committee, Hon. Irena Cousins, and the members of her Committee for the excellent work done in organizing this seminar.

I would like to give you some information about the World Federation of Consuls and then tell you about some of the work we are doing in order to convince the United Nations to review the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963.

The World Federation of Consuls was established in Copenhagen in October 1982. FICAC was born out of the necessity to bring together Consular Corps and Consular Associations to

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share experiences and coordinate efforts to enhance the effectiveness and status of the Consul, the oldest institution serving international bilateral relations.

The World Federation of Consuls is incorporated in Belgium by Royal Decree as an International Non-Profit Organization, and our Federation's permanent secretariat is located in Brussels Belgium at 246 Avenue de Tervuren.

In 2006, when I was elected President of the World Federation of Consuls for the first time, I made a pledge to change the centre of influence of our Federation from Europe to be more inclusive towards Asia, Africa and the Americas. I am pleased to tell you that I have kept that promise, and today our Federation has organizations in every region of the world.

The membership has increased from 24 countries in 2006 to 92 countries in 2010.

Our Federation will always strive to preserve, protect and develop the established and well functioning Consular system, operating and acting for the benefit of the Sending and Receiving States.

The Consular Corps of Jamaica has played the leading role in the development of the World Federation of Consuls, and I urge you to participate fully in the programmes that our Federation offers and start to network with our Consular colleagues around the world. I assure you that your efforts in this area will bring great benefit to the people of Jamaica and the Sending State that you have the honour to serve.

Mutual respect and adherence to the principles recognized in the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963 will continue to be used to promote Consular Cooperation in each member country.

It is in this area that I would like to spend a few minutes giving you some important information as we have found that there is a great need for a review of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963.

Please permit me, at the outset, to remove a mis-perception about the designation of 'Honorary Consul'. 'Honorary' has two meanings : an unpaid office and an office of honour. It is the second meaning which is more apt in the case of 'Honorary Consul'. Honorary Consul is an appointment of honour, and we must remember that when we are in meetings of the Consular Corps of Jamaica, we speak as representatives of the Sending State that we have the honour to represent and not at a personal level.

The first consular institution was born in 8th century. The first legal framework for consular institutions was provided by Vienna Convention on Consular Relations in 1963 . It came into force on 19 March 1967. To date, the Convention has been ratified by over 130 countries.

As you know, there are two categories of consuls – career consuls and honorary consuls. Career consuls are government employees of the sending States and for them it is a paid position; but, for the honorary consul, it is a voluntary assignment of honour. Honorary consuls do exactly the same work as career diplomats of the same rank.

Being cost-free for sending States, honorary consuls are more and more sought after and more and more honorary consuls are being appointed. Honorary consuls now exist in almost every country in the world.

It is good to note at this stage that more Career Consuls are joining our Federation worldwide as there is common ground on which we can work together for the benefit of the Consular Community of the world.

A study of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963 brings out that there is inequality between the career consuls and honorary consuls in the matter of privileges.

There are 30 Articles in the Vienna convention which deal with privileges of Consuls. There are 14 Articles (No.s 28, 29,30,31,35,36,37,38,39,42,43,45,53 & 55) under which privileges of career consuls and honorary consuls are the same. There are 11 Articles

(No.s 33, 41, 44, 46, 47, 48, 51, 52, 54,

56 & 57) under which privileges of career consuls and honorary consuls are different. But the disparity under these Articles is well-founded and is not discriminatory. There are, however, five Articles (No.s 34, 60, 62, 64, 66) which smack of discrimination against honorary consuls. This discrimination is unjustified.

Let us examine these 5 areas one by one.

1. Respect, freedom and dignity

Article 40 of Vienna Convention enjoins upon the receiving State "to treat (career) consular officers with due respect and to take all appropriate steps to prevent any attack on their person, freedom or dignity." But under Article 64, the honorary consul is entitled to receive from the receiving State, "only such protection as may be required by reason of his official position." It is not clear why honorary consuls have been denied the same "respect" and the same "freedom and dignity" as guaranteed to career consuls. Can there be any justification to deny them equal respect, dignity and freedom? This discrimination against honorary consuls is untenable.

2. Freedom of movement:

Article 34 of Vienna Convention grants the privilege of freedom of movement and travel to both categories of consuls. But this equality in the matter of free movement is only on paper; it is not there in practice.

Career consuls enjoy the privilege of free movement on the strength of CC/CD number plates on their vehicles. But, for lack of CC/CD number plates, honorary consuls' cars cannot move about freely even though Article 34 provides for free movement of both categories of consuls.

We are fortunate in Jamaica to have a Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade that is regarded as one of the finest in the Caribbean and Latin America.

We are one of the few States that have issued distinctive CC plates for vehicles of Honorary Consuls.

However in a large number of States, honorary consuls are not issued distinctive number plates and their cars are subject to all restrictions including random search and access to official parking. Such restrictions on movement handicap them in the discharge of their official functions.

3. Tax on Consular premises

Article 32 (relating to career consuls) and Article 60 (relating to honorary consuls) make identical provisions and exempt the consular premises of both categories of consuls from all national, regional and municipal dues and taxes. But, in actual practice, the exemption is not available to honorary consuls because of a catch in these Articles. Both the Articles say that consular premises are exempt from taxes only if they are owned or hired by the sending States. Consular premises of honorary consuls are rarely owned or hired by sending States. Consequently, consular premises of honorary consuls, though entitled to exemption, do not get exemption in actual practice.

When both categories of premises are used for serving the sending States, is it fair to tax one and exempt the other? This discrimination is unjustified.

4. Exemption of imported office equipment from customs duty

Under Article 50 of Vienna Convention, articles imported for the official use of a consular post headed by career consuls are exempt from customs duty. But similar articles imported for official use of consular posts headed by honorary consuls are not exempt from customs duty unless, as provided in Article 62, these articles are supplied by or at the instance of the sending States.

Sending States rarely supply office equipment to honorary consuls. Honorary consuls procure all office equipment for their consulates themselves at their own cost, locally or from abroad. The so-called

exemption from customs duty referred to in Article 62 is thus illusory in so far as honorary consuls are concerned.

When office equipment is procured for the same purpose, why should the equipment imported by honorary consuls be taxed and that imported by career consuls be exempted? Why this discrimination?

5. Taxes on locally purchased articles for official use of Consulates

Under Article 66, honorary consuls' remuneration and emoluments received from the Sending State are exempt from taxes. Under Article 49, career consuls are exempt from ALL taxes, personal or real, national, regional or municipal. Thus, career consuls and their families are exempt from tax, not only on personal income but also on any article whether purchased for official use or for private use.

When both categories of consuls do similar work in the interest of sending States, both of them deserve to be treated at par in the matter of indirect taxes on locally purchased articles for office use.

Article 36 (CONTACT WITH NATIONALS OF THE SENDING STATE)

One of the most important responsibilities of a consul is to protect the nationals of the state which he or she represents. Article 36 gives certain rights to nationals of a State to communicate with consular officials of his State and grants consular officials the right to access the nationals.

In recent years, the right to consular access provided in Article 36 has been questioned in a number of States. It appears that Article 36 lacks strength. There could be other Articles in the Vienna Convention which may be equally controversial and unenforceable.

The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963 was framed over 48 years

ago. Times have changed. Expectations have changed. Values have changed. It is high time that the Vienna Convention is reviewed to remove discrimination against honorary consuls, strengthen Article 36 and to remedy other shortcomings.

Your Federation is actively working in this area. We have written to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of every country asking them for their support. We have received 47 replies so far.

We have also written to the United Nations International Law Commission to make them aware of our request for a review of the Vienna Convention.

Federation representatives have been in New York up to this week working on this important matter on behalf of the Consular Community of the world. I hope that we will be able to achieve positive results from our efforts in this area and I will keep you informed.

Thank you very much.



Seminar Report

- Mrs. Irena Cousins



From left: Mr. Robert Scott, Secretary CCOJ, Mr. Herman Lamont, Director of Diaspora and Consular Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H. E. Mr. Frederic Meurice, Ambassador of Belgium, Mrs. Irena Cousins, CCOJ's Director and Chair - Education Committee, Mr. Ricardo Allicock, Director of Protocol in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“Mr. Herman Lamont and Mr. Ricardo Allicock, both directors in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs led the first session.

Mr. Lamont spoke in detail on the scope of the work of consuls, both honorary and career. He covered the work in relation to trade as well as in relation to work with nationals covering the responsibility for the welfare of nationals, trade and also the conduct of consuls.

Mr. Allicock covered the very important points of protocol in Jamaica which is mainly British based. It was of great interest not only to honorary consuls who normally receive no formal training in protocol but also to career consuls who would have received general training in protocol but would not have been familiar with the specifics of the Jamaican protocol. His presentation included titles, methods of addressing officials formally, and the official order of precedence.

The second session chaired by Mrs. Cousins, the Honorary Consul of Poland took the form of a brief presentation by the chairman after which she called on various consuls to relate their experiences. The topics she covered included procedures on marriages, birth and illnesses and deaths of nationals, authentication of documents, procedure in relation to official book of condolences, emergencies, arrests of nations etc. A lively discussion followed in which almost all present participated. “

NEWS IN PICTURES



Hon. Irena Cousins, Consul of Poland in Jamaica and a Director of the Consular Corps of Jamaica, in discussion with Mrs. Patricia Foote and Mrs. Roma Chin at the launch of Expo 2011.

A section of the audience at the launch of CCOJ's International Trade Expo 2011. Seen in foreground: H.E. Mario Pino, Ambassador of Argentina, and H. E. Alfredo Garcia, Ambassador of Chile.



Vice Dean of CCOJ and Consul General of Norway, Mr. Grantley Stephenson, welcomes Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Hon. Ken Baugh, to the launch of CCOJ's Expo 2011.

NEWS IN PICTURES



From left: Minister Ken Baugh congratulates Mr. Michael Thompson of Scotiabank on the bank's sponsorship of CCOJ's International Trade Expo 2011. Also in the picture are Mr. Grantley Stephenson, Vice Dean CCOJ, Mrs. Indera Persaud, Treasurer CCOJ, The Hon. Arnold Foote, Dean and Mrs. Lois Sherwood, Director CCOJ

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Hon. Ken Baugh greets Ambassador of Belgium, H. E. Frederic Meurice, at the launch of Expo 2011. Looking on is Mr. Michael Thompson of Scotiabank, the sponsors of Expo 2011.



From left; Mr. Robert Scott, CCOJ Secretary, Mrs. Irena Cousins, CCOJ Director, H. E. Frederic Meurice, Ambassador of Belgium, H. E. Nafissatou Diagne, Ambassador of Senegal, The Hon. Arnold Foote, Dean CCOJ, Dr. Marica Claudia Geraldo, Consul and Second Secretary - Colombia, Mr. Herman Lamont, Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Jamaica.

NEWS IN PICTURES



Ms. Bianca M. Collins, Political Officer, Embassy of the United States of America, meeting Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Hon. Ken Baugh. Also in picture are CCOJ Dean Arnold Foote, Mr. Michael Thompson, Scotiabank, Vice Dean CCOJ Grantley Stephenson, Ambassador of Chile, H.E. Alfredo Garcia.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Hon. Ken Baugh, discusses Expo 2011 with Mr. Michael Thompson of Scotiabank and Vice Dean CCOJ Mr. Grantley Stephenson.



A section of the audience at the CCOJ's press conference to launch International Trade Expo 2011.