

PRESS RELEASE:

The 18th trade mission and congress “Connecting sustainable businesses from the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Caribbean region” on 20, 21-22 May at Westin Hotel, Sint Maarten.

In the same week as the Kingdom Youth Parliament takes place, the company InterExpo organizes a trade mission on Sint Maarten. Various companies and governments from all parts of the Kingdom come together in order to do business sustainably from 20 to 22 May.

Peter Oerlemans, managing director of InterExpo, deliberately organizes this 18th trade mission in the Caribbean region: “After the past two editions being held in the Netherlands, the time has now come to visit one of the Caribbean islands as part of the trade mission. Moreover, the businessman foresees an important cross-pollination with the 50 youngsters that are already present on Sint Maarten for the Kingdom Youth Parliament. Business relations will get a very good impression of matters that are highly relevant for the younger generation in the Kingdom.”

Goal

It is the trade mission’s goal to improve business relations between parties from the Netherlands and those from the islands. A perfect example would be a company from the Netherlands that considers becoming active on Sint Maarten and, from there onwards, on Anguilla or Barbados.

Opening:

The governor of Sint Maarten, Eugene Holiday, will open the 18th trade mission during a gala dinner on 20 May, which is on the eve of the congress.

Speakers

18 Speakers will give their presentations during the next two days. They will elaborate on the advantages that doing business on Curaçao, Aruba, Sint Maarten and the 3 BES-islands create. In addition, Chambers of Commerce will use the congress to draw attention to their specific islands. Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius are now special municipalities within the Kingdom. The fact that Dutch legislation is applicable on these islands creates opportunities.

Debates

Important parts of the congress are two debates: an entrepreneurial debate and a utility debate, where energy and water supply is the main topic. The energy company GEBE from Sint Maarten will give content to this 1st debate in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. TNO, with a subsidiary on Aruba, takes part to the debate, even as the dike-warden from West Brabant, Contourglobal Bonaire, 2 new Utility companies on Sint Eustatius and Saba.

The entrepreneurial debate addresses the *do’s* and *dont’s* of doing business in different cultures. Why is the personal more important in the Caribbean region and is it not sufficient to solely rely on correspondence by e-mail? Why is it so attractive to expand to the Caribbean part of the Kingdom in the middle of the recession?

Matchmaking

InterExpo organizes matchmaking sessions parallel to the congress. Parties are matched with each other and can set steps and thereby make contacts more concrete. There will be plenty of opportunity for an informal chat during the network drinks at the end of both days.

Visit to Saba and Sint Eustatius

InterExpo organizes a visit to the smaller islands Saba and Sint Eustatius on 23 and 24 May. "The first charter is already entirely full, there is a lot of interest." says Peter Oerlemans. The business trip will be combined with cultural excursions. This way, one can get to know the islands, which are located on only fifteen minutes by airplane from Sint Maarten.

The 19th trade mission of InterExpo is planned in Paramaribo on 26 and 27 November 2014. The 20th trade mission will be characterized by the evaluation of the constitutional reforms (10.10.10) and will take place in Amsterdam in September 2015.

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