

Top 10 Reasons to Invest in the Caribbean

1 Ideal location: Located in the centre of the Americas, the Caribbean provides the advantage of easy access to markets in the North, South and Central America and serves as a bridge to the markets in Europe.

2 Accessibility: Most Caribbean countries have international airports that provide daily direct flights to the USA, Canada, the UK and several other countries in Europe, as well as South America. Accessibility by sea via the world renowned regional ports is also an advantage allowing for easy access to raw materials and equipment.

3 Openness to trade: Many countries in the Caribbean have preferential access to some of the largest markets in the world. A few Regional Free Trade Agreements include:

- **CARIFORUM/ European Union Economic Partnership Agreement:** Granting preferential access to markets in Europe
- **Caribbean Basin Initiative:** Providing beneficiary Caribbean territories with duty-free access to the US market for most goods
- **DR-CAFTA:** Facilitating increased trade and investment among 5 Central American territories, the Dominican Republic and the USA
- **CARICOM:** Allowing access to the 15 markets of the Caribbean (with more than 23 million inhabitants) at preferential rates
- **Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement (HOPE)/ Haiti Economic Lift Program (HELP):** Granting preferential access to the US market
- **The territories in the Caribbean are currently also negotiating a free trade agreement with Canada.**

4 Modern Infrastructure: Electricity and water supply is constant and affordable. Telecommunications and broadband internet access is available and a ready supply of natural gas can also be easily accessible from

within the Region. Land and office space are available at cost-effective rates.

5 Economic & Political Stability: The Caribbean is known for its stable democracies and economic development. This provides the assurance of a secure location to do business and raise families.

6 Skilled Labour Supply: The Caribbean is known for its highly skilled labour supply with an agreement that allows for the free movement of skilled labour within CARICOM. The peoples of the Region are also fluent in key languages: English, Spanish, French and Dutch.

7 Diverse Investment Opportunities: The Caribbean has garnered critical acclaim as a Mecca for tourism with significant investments in that and related sectors. However, there are a number of other competitive sectors including: information communications technology/business process outsourcing, financial services, agribusiness and the creative industries— with 19 diverse territories to choose from.

8 Flexible Incentives: Many of the Region's territories offer incentives, some of which can be customized, providing the best opportunity for investors.

9 Ease of Doing Business: Of 183 states, the countries in the Caribbean have been highly ranked in the Ease of Doing Business Report 2012 by the World Bank in 3 critical areas: "Protecting Investors" - 53rd; "Getting Electricity" - 55th; and "Dealing with Construction Permits" 58th (regional averages).

10 Responsive investment promotion experts: The Region's IPAs have been recognised by the World Bank for their competent inquiry handling services and excellent web sites (Global Investment Promotions Benchmarking GIPB 2012, World Bank Group).