CALL FOR PAPERS

Caribbean Centre for Competitiveness (CCfC)

1st Regional Competitiveness Forum
“A Solutions Agenda to Key Competitiveness Challenges”

Background

The Caribbean Region has serious competitiveness Challenges, based on the 2011-2012 Global Competitiveness Index of the 7 Partnering countries surveyed; overall Barbados ranks 42 of 142 (Countries surveyed), with Trinidad & Tobago ranked 81 and Jamaica, Guyana, Dominican Republic and Suriname ranked 107, 109, 110 and 112 respectively, and Haiti ranks at 142. Therefore, the real challenge lies is finding the solutions for sustained competitive growth. In response, this event takes a solutions focus to three major challenges in its Forum discussions and is driven by market demands.

Themes

This FORUM focuses on three major themes:

1. Unlocking access to finance
2. Human Capital as a Source of Competitiveness
3. Business Tools and Mechanisms for the Internationalization of SMEs
This is informed by GCI findings for the region, the theoretical underpinning of firm based competitiveness and the finding of the CARICOM Secretariat, these rank amongst the top six competitiveness challenges of the region. Transportation, Crime, and the Ease of Doing Business are the other top constraints to business competitiveness, but will not form part of this Forum’s discussions as the intention is to drill deeper into the areas that can define a meaningful post-Forum agenda for implementation.

**Sub-themes**

Drawing on the collective expertise of the organizers; the following sub-themes have been singled out as a guide to interested presenters:

**Financing**

| Building an enabling Venture Capital and Angel Fund/Investment Model for the Region: A Best Practices approach |
| A Template for preparing SMEs to become Investment Ready for Commercial and Alternative Financing: A Case Study Presentation |
| Moving beyond Collateralized Financing: Alternative Models based on Case Studies for the Region’s Private Financial Sector |
| Credit Union investment Financing Opportunities - A How To for Potential Investors |

**Human Capital**

| A framework for building a Competitive Organisational Culture |
| How to build a Culture of Innovative Entrepreneurship: Building Creativity into country |
| Investment in Human Capital as a profitable Value Proposition for Firms |
| How Businesses create Spaces for new value prepositions through Research & Development at no/low costs |

**Internationalization of Business**

| How to Develop an International Marketing Strategy |
| e-Commerce as a Tool for expanding into global markets: A toolkit for starters |
| Accessing Market Intelligence for competitiveness: affordable and user-friendly techniques |

**Submissions**

**Guidelines**

Forum presentations must include only a **brief statement of problem context (if necessary) and focus on sharing workable recommendations and solutions.** Ideally, best practices and case studies of models proven to be effective will be preferred, especially where they can be applied to a Caribbean context. Written papers will be required for post-Forum publication.
Deadlines
Interested presenters are required to submit a 350 words Abstract by June 24th 2012.

Selected Presenters will be informed by July 15th 2012

Written Papers must be submitted by September 30th 2012

Forum Presentation (15 minutes) must to be submitted by October 15th 2012

Submit to: Secretariat
Call for Papers, 1st Regional Competitiveness Forum “A Solutions Agenda to Key Competitiveness Challenges”

Email: ccfc@sta.uwi.edu
Fax #: (868) 663-5267 or 645 1523