



On the Trail

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CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT



Eng. Pedro Suarez Reyes
Chairman of the Special Committee on Transportation
Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

With the intention to help strengthen cooperation and regional integration process, in order to create an ample economic space and preserve the environmental integrity of the Caribbean Sea, the Special Committee on Transport is developing a comprehensive program of actions, which presently, is based on a refined portfolio and a vast group willing of experts with a clear vision of uniting the Greater Caribbean by air and sea, giving all of themselves every day towards achieving the goal set.

In compliance with the will expressed by the delegates at the recently concluded XX SCT meeting, resulted in this first edition of the newsletter called *On the Trail* where one of its main objectives is to make known what is being done in the ACS and its SCT to integrate the region.

It will be pleasing and beneficial to receive your feedback and suggestions relating to the material presented and the topics to be addressed.

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES



His Excellency Ambassador Luis Fernando Andrade Falla
Secretary General
Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

I am pleased that the Directorate of Transport and Disaster Risk Reduction can count on a newsletter, where the activities, initiatives and projects that have been approved by member countries can be viewed.

The Transport Directorate under the leadership of Engineer Eduardo Jose Gonzalez Angulo and his team have developed and allowed to continue to promote the adoption of the guidelines on the compatibility of indicators of Quality Air Service and Airport, to further increase the transport sector within the Member Countries of the ACS and to contribute to the expansion of trade, investment and multi-destination tourism.

This makes it a pleasure to invite and welcome *On the Trail*, a quarterly newsletter that will be the liaison of information between member countries and associate members of the Association of Caribbean States to further address the main challenges faced by maritime and air transport within the framework of the program of the Association: Uniting the Caribbean by Air and Sea.

MARITIME ROUTE MAPS OF THE GREATER CARIBBEAN

This project, which cost less than USD \$ 50,000 to date, has as its main objective to unite the Caribbean by Air and Sea and the response to the need to carry out a project with minimal cost.

Once Phase I was implemented, Phase II was launched and would allow regular updating of the various maritime services serving the Greater Caribbean.

The objective of this phase is to create an updated map of sea routes which exist in the Greater Caribbean and to enable exporters, importers, sellers or buyers, foreign or regional to know when, how, with whom and under what conditions they can mobilize their goods. This will also clearly establish the map of shipping routes available to the Greater Caribbean updated every two months to increase intra-regional maritime trade and facilitate their external connections, determine whether there are areas devoid of maritime services within the territory of the Greater Caribbean and if the conditions of transportation of various existing lines meet shipping expectations.



XX Meeting of the Special Committee on Transport

The Twentieth Meeting of the Special Committee on Transport of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) was held in Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on June 30 and July 1, 2011. The Board of the Special Committee was composed of **Cuba** as Chairman, represented by Mr. Pedro Suarez Reyes, an official from the Transport Ministry, **Suriname and Mexico** as Vice Chairs, represented by Mr. Michel Amafo, Director of the Maritime Authority of Suriname and Sergio Luna, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Mexico in Trinidad and Tobago, respectively, **Panama**, represented by Mr. Carlos A. Pashales L, Deputy Director General Civil Aviation in the capacity as Rapporteur. The Meeting was attended by **11 Member States and two observer organizations**. The Director of Transport and Disaster Risk Reduction, Eduardo Jose Gonzalez Angulo who was also part of the central table was accompanied by his Advisor Mathieu Fontanaud, and the Sustainable Tourism Director Gloria de Mees, also participated.



At the meeting developments of new projects were presented among which mentioned are: **Presentation of the updated table of airline routes in the Greater Caribbean region, the impact of the cruise industry for the Greater Caribbean, presentation of COCATRAM on an issue or project in Central America that could be integrated in the context of the Greater Caribbean, project "Maps of sea routes in the Greater Caribbean."**

The Chairman announced that he was fully satisfied for having developed strong working days during the progress and management of the Twentieth Meeting of the Special Committee on Transport, which started since Cuba's assumption of the Chair, with the invaluable assistance of the Ambassador of Cuba in Trinidad and Tobago, the staff of the Secretariat as well as many other valuable contributors who deserve thanks. The meeting concluded with strong applause.



Opportunities for Short Distance Passenger Transport and Inter cruise and Air routes between Central America and the Caribbean



On June 29 and July 1, 2011 we presented in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, before the representatives of countries attending the XX Meeting of the Special Committee on Transport of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS); project "Opportunities for Short Distance Passenger Transport and inter cruise and Air routes between Central America and the Caribbean. " Initially, the idea of this project emerged during a courtesy call prior to the hosting of the XIX Meeting of the Committee, in 2009, and which was later proposed to the attendees and accepted in order to elaborate the project profile. This profile was sent to the organism that year and for special reasons, the project could not be at last year's meeting held in Surinam (to which the undersigned was unable to attend), and so this year the ACS Directorate of Transport, rightly included it in the agenda of the meeting.

The project in question, if proven viable, would only be another commercial space for our economies which so far have not been sufficiently explored or exploited.

As I have stated on previous occasions, the objectives of the project are of particular interest for Central America and especially to Costa Rica due to the location of Puerto Limon in the area of the Greater Caribbean and the existent possibilities of positioning the city as a port, even with a large component of tourism development and exploitation, in fact favouring local employment generation and contribution to the economy.

We must not forget that there are major plans to improve that city's airport, all of which is considered within the referred project for the possibilities of inter-cruise - airlines - and port cities as focal points for interconnection.

Caribbean countries can be an important source of foreign currency for our Central American region due to the high purchasing power of their populations, which is not sufficiently exploited by us, thus failing to notice transport routes that are available to us, in this case, the maritime and air routes and, those already on our soil, the land routes for travel within our country or mobilization within them. All within a development with businesses of one's own region. Call it, if you like, shipping short-distance passengers (cruise companies in the Greater Caribbean), but not only covering large cruise ships, those that appear as floating cities, but also looking for those that are medium sized, something like between those mentioned and a large ferry, of which there are many examples such as the Transmediterránea in Spain, which conducts even a day and a half tours. This would allow the profitability of the business along the most convenient routes for shipping in the Caribbean Sea, connecting the core tourist port cities and the cost would be more affordable for our intermediate economies.

CRUISE TOURISM BENEFITS

To be taken into full account in this industry, is the financial injection made by passengers on the economies of the countries. In 2008, Cruise Tourism produced U.S. \$ 1.8 billion in direct consumption; passengers spent on average in 2010 U.S. \$ 97.26 per port of arrival, while expenses related to the cruise generated 56.000 jobs in the Caribbean, resulting in U.S. \$ 720 million in wages.

CONCLUSIONS

The Greater Caribbean should project itself and strengthen its position as a tourist hub interesting to its inhabitants. There are natural resources, infrastructure and plans for the future which deserve to be enjoyed. In addition, our area is in the clear expansion of the possibilities offered by the shipping and the Greater Caribbean populations. We need non-traditional and forthcoming vacation alternatives, especially for Caribbean countries that are in better conditions to spend that those that exist in their own surroundings.



Enlaces de interés



Contribute:

The DTDRR invites you to send pictures and articles in for the next issue.

Contact:

Eduardo José González Angulo
Director
Email: egonzalez@acs-aec.org

Mathieu Fontanaud
Adviser
Email: mfontanaud@acs-aec.org

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contribution to this issue.*

Letter to the Editor

Greetings to the port maritime community of the Greater Caribbean (GC) on the occasion of the edition of the newsletter published by the Department of Transportation Association of Caribbean States (ACS). I have no doubt that this medium will be an important driver and the communicator of the activities within this division, not only for the Greater Caribbean States, but for the international community in general.

What is a great effort in developing this medium, is the having the link for the nations to the ACS and from the ACS to them, something which is essential for the development of an organism and to strengthen the link with the nations that are part of it and the success of their programs. Without communication there is no transmission of knowledge, and a multilateral agency that does not communicate, is an organism that lacks the substantial and necessary vitality to project itself in its environment. The importance of communication nowadays and the power to communicate is unquestionable in order to accomplish success and exercise proper accountability.

Hence it is a good idea that should be applauded since the ACS itself has a means to communicate, using the technologies now available to the society of nations to receive and send information. And for me it is an undeserved privilege at this time to convey greetings to all countries of the ACS, especially in its first edition.

From Costa Rica to all, a fraternal embrace which unites us as nations and to the Transport of the ACS, again my congratulations for this great effort.

Dr. Hector Arce Cavallini
Deputy Director General
Port Maritime Division-MOPT
Costa Rica



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Please send questions/comments/suggestions to:
5-7 Sweet Briar Road, St. Clair, P.O. Box 660, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies
Tel: (868) 622 9575 | Fax: (868) 622 1653

mail@acs-aec.org <http://www.acs-aec.org>