



The Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) in coordination with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), Ibero American Guarantee network (REGAR) and the Ministry of Finance of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Invite you to participate in a:

TRAINING SEMINAR ON SMEs GUARANTEES SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Introduction

The Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) in coordination with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), Ibero American Guarantee network (REGAR) and the Ministry of Finance of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago wish to invite the Governments of the ACS Member Countries and Associate Members, who wish to strengthen their knowledge in the areas of SMEs Guarantees Support Systems, to participate in a training course to be held on July 9 and 10, 2012 at the Headquarters of the ACS Secretariat, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

Background and justification

Guarantees are mechanisms traditionally used by the financial system to cover the risk of financial operations. More recently they have been recognized as useful to overcome problems of information asymmetry between lender and borrower, as described in the scientific literature. This instrument is considered in the standards for regulating the solvency of financial institutions and incorporated into credit risk assessments. Therefore, the expected effect of guarantees is a reduction in capital requirements and provisions of financial institutions.

Obviously, one of the most recommended actions to facilitate SME access to credit is the strengthening of guarantee systems in the region, increasing levels of support for financing, creating regional mechanisms for guarantees, refinancing and reinsurance, and diversifying types of customers.

SELA has actively participated for fifteen years in the organization of annual forums on guarantee and financing of SMEs, which has meant recognition for the role that the institution has played in this matter.

This Training Seminar stems from the experience obtained in the Regional Forum: "Access to Credit and Financing for SMEs" which took place in Kingston, Jamaica, in December 2009. It was recommended that an activity be held in order to delve deeper into analysis of the mechanisms of access for financing of SMEs in the Caribbean.



The ACS collaboration in this training seminar goes hand in hand with the Work Programme of the Directorate of Trade which aims to raise awareness about the role of SMEs for economic and social development of the region and to raise awareness of the banks and government support mechanisms and other resources that exist in the region for the opening, development and consolidation of SMEs.

Objectives

1. Gain knowledge and disseminate the progress in establishing innovative guarantee systems and instruments for financing SMEs in the region;
2. Encourage the development of new institutional and instrumental initiatives for guarantees and financing SMEs in the region;
3. Promote the training of officials and businessmen on the creation and implementation of guarantee systems at the request of Member States.

Participant's Profile

The Training seminar will be offered to Representatives of SME Institutions and Associations as well as Representatives from the Public and Private Sector of the Member States and Associate Members of the ACS.

Speakers

The Ministry of Finance of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago
Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
Caribbean Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (CASME)
Association of Caribbean States (ACS)
Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)
Mr Pablo Pombo, Ibero American Guarantee network (REGAR)
Edgard Coquis, (FOGAPI)
Juan Carlos Duran, National Guarantees Fund (FNG) of Colombia
The Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF)

Venue

Headquarters of the Secretariat of the Association of Caribbean States, 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, <http://www.acs-aec.org>



Coordination Organisations

The Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA)

The Ministry of Finance of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Secretariat of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

Ibero American Guarantee Network (REGAR)

Further information

Lic. Ariadna Perez, Director of Trade Development and External Economic Relations of the ACS, Trinidad and Tobago. Tel. (868) 622-9575, Fax (868) 622-1653, email: aperez@acs-aec.org or kbaltimore@acs-aec.org or nmohammed@acs-aec.org

Lic. German Caires, Head of Project, Latin American and the Caribbean Economic System (SELA), Venezuela. Tel: +58 (212) 955.7146/955.7111 Fax: +58 212 951.6901 / 951.52.92 email: gcaires@sela.org

Mrs Melissa Herasingh, Project Assistant, Trinidad and Tobago International Financial Centre, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Tel: (868) 627-3081/7 email: mherasingh@ttifc.co.tt

Webpage:

SELA: http://www.sela.org/view/index.asp?ms=258&pageMs=26403&item_id=100931

AEC: <http://www.acs-aec.org/>