



Dr. Altman speaking with guests at the BCCI Luncheon

Real Estate as a Future in Barbados

Real Estate mogul and illustrious property developer, **Dr. Paul Altman** was the featured speaker for the March Luncheon of the Chamber on March 25th 2010. Dr. Altman made an interesting presentation entitled, "Real Estate as a Future for Barbados." With million dollar properties lining the west coast of Barbados and the development of inland lifestyle developments such as Apes Hill, the sector has become increasingly important to the island in a number of ways. Moreover, there has been some amount of controversy as the island continues to attract major property interest and investment from foreign markets. There is a delicate balance to be struck.

Dr. Altman, who is involved in urban renewal programs in Speightstown, Hometown and Bridgetown, advocated the need for a balance in property development in Barbados. He carried his argument further, specifically citing the need for a balance in terms of heritage development, with a number of buildings across the island's landscape that have historical significance. He noted that stability can be devised by marrying properties that have a meaningful heritage with modern development.

The property developer, who is now the mind behind the island's first lifestyle centre "LimeGrove Lifestyle Centre" in the heart of Hometown on the west coast, noted that the

towns in Barbados could lead to the way development in the future is conceptualised. He is Past President of the Barbados National Trust and Chairman of the Barbados Community Foundation, a private charity. He recently completed the development of two museums which are both linked to the Barbados National Trust, the Nidhe Israel Museum in Bridgetown and Arlington Museum in Speightstown.

Mr. Altman was awarded the Gold Crown of Merit in recognition of his contribution to the development of tourism and preservation of the heritage of Barbados in 2007 and was honored by the Government with a Centennial Honor in 2000.

Upcoming Events

Business Forum: Doing Business in Barbados, A Look at IDB Findings on April 9th Chamber at 1 p.m. Focus on customers brokers, exporters, importers and distributors.

Business Forum: Doing Business in Barbados, What are the Challenges on April 23rd at Chamber at 1:30 p.m. Investigating the challenges and reviewing the solutions that are being used by firms in Barbados.

BCCI April Luncheon: The Chamber will focus on the prospects of Capital Markets as an Engine of Growth for the Barbados Economy. The featured speaker will be **CEO and General Manager of the Barbados Stock Exchange, Marlon Yarde.**

BCCI looks at Employer Rights Legislation

In March members and non-members had the opportunity to examine the impact of the Employer Rights Bill on employers and employees in Barbados. Gail Springer an industrial relations specialist of 20 years experience was the featured speaker.

Lisa Gale, Executive Director of the BCCI, described the session as very important with enactment of the Bill approaching. She noted that the Chamber wanted to expose members to practices that would come into effect with the Bill.



Presidents' Corner

Heralding the future – welcoming 185th Anniversary

The earlier portion of March was like the proverbial beehive for the Barbados Chamber of Commerce & Industry, as it held a workshop on keeping companies effective even after calamity strikes, another seminar for educating businesses on interpreting the Draft of the Employment Rights Bill and a regular luncheon with a successful real estate broker.

D **isaster Preparedness and Business**

Continuity – *Hurricane and Fire, Earthquakes; Building Code Planning Checklists*” was the subject for pivotal discussion among BCCI members and a panel of stakeholders on Friday 12th March. This issue is increasing in importance as many countries across the globe grapple with such natural disasters.

Key disaster control personnel entities from across the island were on hand to offer advice for participants, like **Judy Thomas** of Barbados' Disaster Emergency Management Agency (**DEM**) who contended that many businesses in this country need to create posts within their organisations specifically to handle disaster-related issues.

Business Continuity in the midst of Disaster

The DEM Official also sees the need for Private Sector to be included in devising comprehensive legislation as it concerns disaster continuity.

Dr David King was the moderator of the presentation, he advised Barbadian firms to maintain an operational resilience by continuously revising their plans as it relates to extreme weather or similar occurrences affecting companies, shops and factories.

Meanwhile **Tony Gibbs** of the Barbados Association of Professional Engineers (BAPE) advice for businesses was not only keep in mind remaining in service after a catastrophe, but not to be a danger to their immediate neighbours due to inadequate preparations.

On the architectural side of the issue, **Neil Hutchinson**, Managing Director of Studio Blue Architects lamented the fact that since there is no official Building Code for Barbados, and some business tried to cut corners in their construction budget and were ignore safety codes.

BCCI MEMBER SEEKS TO EDUCATE LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY ON TOTAL FINANCIAL LITERACY

CMMB: CARIBBEAN MONEY MARKET BROKERS

Hilton Barbados was recently the venue for a very educational seminar on increasing financial literacy for businesspeople, which was hosted by Chamber member – Caribbean Money Market Brokers (CMMB). CMMB's **Senior Trader Ricardo Davis** addressed guests on the concept of a Bond Market as a means of acquiring funds to channel a project into fruition.

The financial expert explained that it is a good idea to use a Bond Market since there would be no middle-men involved, a fixed interest rate is pre-set, and using equity systems will raise larger amounts more quickly.

The next speaker in their line-up was **Esther Lord-Graham**, who disclosed that when entrepreneurs use Fund Access the repayment scheme is 6% on the revolving loan, however what one business requires is not the same as another company's needs – therefore when people hear different stories, they should not make judgments as every need is assessed on a case by case basis.

Chamber partner wins big in Dubai

Barbados Youth Business Trust earns Global Entrepreneur Award for work in 2009

Competing against countries including Russia and Poland, the Barbados Youth Business Trust (BYBT) won the Champion Catalyzer Award for mobilising the most partners per capita for Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) 2009 activities. Marcia Brandon, Executive Director of the Trust is in Dubai at the conference and excitedly accepted the award with the gushing words, "Thank you, thank you, I knew we would get this – we worked hard!"

Marcia Brandon, Executive Director of the Trust attended the conference and accepted the award saying "Thank you, thank you, I knew we would get this – we worked hard!"

Brandon thanked all of her partners who worked throughout the week and noted that she is now motivated to mobilise all of Barbados for GEW 2010. In June 2009, the BYBT entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Barbados Chamber of Commerce & Industry, this partnership includes mentoring BYBT applicants.



Jamaican products worldwide, outstanding performance of their athletes, appeal of reggae are a testament to Jamaica's branding of the Caribbean as world destination.

[Expo Jamaica](#), running this June 17th to 20th, presents an opportunity to capitalise on this reach by seeking international buyers and reinforcing the strength of Brand Jamaica. The event also highlights the significant contribution of members from the JEA and JMA to the Caribbean's fiscal development by creating jobs, earning foreign exchange, and contributing to government revenues. Visiting here last year, some of the exporters held a preview at the Grand Barbados Beach Resort, they're now reminding buyers to sample their products and enjoy an authentic Jamaican experience, and encourage people of the region to come out in their numbers to support Jamaican goods and services, thus boosting the regional economy from within.

IMPORTANT!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 184th Annual General Meeting of the **Chamber of Commerce & Industry** is set for Wednesday 28th May 2010.

It will be held at the Barbados Hilton, Two Mile Hill, St. Michael. Guest speaker is Mr. Gerry Brooks – Chief Operating Officer of Ansa McAl. – come and elect a new President and Council!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BCCI LUNCHEON

PLACE – HILTON BARBADOS

TIME – 12 NOON, MARCH 31

Paul Altman delivers keynote address "*Future of Real Estate in Barbados*"

JAMAICAN EXPO

PLACE – NAT'L ARENA, KINGSTON

TIME – JUNE 17 TO 20

"*Brand Jamaica to the World!*"

MATTECH 2010

JULY 14TH - 15TH, 2010:

THE INTERNATIONAL MATERIAL HANDLING, INDUSTRIAL, MANUFACTURING, PACKAGING, CONSTRUCTION, LOGISTICS, AND SUPPLY CHAIN TRADE SHOW: MATTECH 2010

BCCI COOPERATES WITH JAMAICAN COUNTERPARTS FOR "EXPO JAMAICA"

The best of Jamaica's products will be showcased from 17th to June 20th at [Expo Jamaica](#) at the National Arena in Kingston, under the theme "**Brand Jamaica to the World!**"

In a special effort of cooperation with the Barbados Chamber of Commerce and industry, both the Jamaica Manufacturers' Association (**JMA**) and the Jamaica Exporters' Association (**JEA**) engaged in a partnership to host this premier show to promote the world class quality products and services that Jamaica has to offer, in an effort to expand sales. The increasing demand for