

FIEO Hosts Tobago Delegation

Indian Companies Must Take the Caribbean Cruise



Mr. Subhash Goyal, Convenor (Services), FIEO (extreme right) presenting a bouquet to Mr. A O Williams, Secretary for Transport & Tourism, Tobago House of Assembly, Government of Trinidad & Tobago. On Mr. Goyal's right is H.E. Pundit Maniedeo Persad, High Commissioner of Trinidad & Tobago in India. At extreme left is Mr. Ajay Sahai, Director General, FIEO.

FIEO welcomed a high powered business delegation consisting of members of trade from the Tobago House of Assembly on 19 April, 2010 at New Delhi, followed by an interactive meet with the Indian members of the trade in healthcare, medical tourism, travel & tourism, consultancy, infrastructure sector, etc.

The delegation was led by Mr A.O. Williams, Secretary for Transport & Tourism, Tobago House of Assembly, Government of Trinidad & Tobago and was also addressed by the High Commissioner of Trinidad & Tobago in India.

The event was attended by a large number of leading companies in the travel and tourism sector, hospitals, consultancy, infrastructure sector, steel, etc.

The delegation explored various

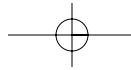
business opportunities in travel and tourism and medical tourism. The sought consultancy assistance in infrastructure and various projects, medical equipment from Indian entrepreneurs, and joint ventures and tie-ups in various industrial set-ups including steel for oil exploration and agri foods

Mr Subhash Goyal, Convenor (Services), FIEO highlighted the scope of investment in the hotel industry in Tobago where investment friendly policies can be helpful to investors as any company can be owned by any national without a local partner .He also advised that if airfare could be downwards rationalised, it would push up tourist inflows to the Caribbean nation.

Mr Ajay Sahai, Director General, praised the culture of T&T where Indian Arrival Day is treated as a na-

tional holiday. T&T celebrates all Indian Festivals such as Diwali. He added that over 40% of the population was of Indian origin and they share the same culture with Indians. Having visited T&T he said that the market potential is huge, and businessmen looking at this market can avail benefit demands arising from the entire Caricom region, and accessibility to the US.

The High Commissioner of T&T thanked FIEO for providing an interactive platform for discussion. He invited Indian companies to be part of the reforms that are prevailing in T&T. As T&T is facing a lack of basic healthcare facilities in cardiology, diabetes, etc, he felt that through assistance of Indian hospitals T&T would be able to overcome the effects of these diseases. He added that T&T has earned a reputation as an excellent investment destination for international



B2B meet is in progress.

businesses and has one of the highest growth rates and per capita incomes in Latin America.

The T&T envoy also said their main aim is to have quality products and services at a reasonable cost, especially from Asian markets. T&T is a cost effective and environment friendly country, so there are tremendous opportunities for investors to invest in T&T.

The New Delhi Based High Commission of this twin island issues around 3000-4000 visas a year. Being a small country, issuing visas in this number is a positive aspect in terms of managing its country in an appropriate manner to manage tourist inflow.

Mr A.O. Williams, Secretary Tourism and Transportation, Tobago



A view of the participants.

House of Assembly also encouraged investments in Tobago in the light of its tropical attractions and friendly climate throughout the year.

A B2B meet was organized to provide a detailed interaction with the delegates of both the countries. Various incentives provided by the Government of T&T were also highlighted during the B2B session. ■