BUSINESS SYMPOSIUM AND INNOVATION FORUM 2013

✦ 4:30 – 7:30 PM OCTOBER 22, 2013 SIR CECIL JACOBS AUDITORIUM, ECCB HEADQUARTERS, ST. KITTS
✦ VIDEO CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS TO OTHER ECCU MEMBER COUNTRIES

The forum is designed specifically for CEOs, business executives, senior managers, board directors, business owners, entrepreneurs and academics.

The event will provide a medium for the exchange of ideas and perspectives and the tabling of challenging yet practical solutions to address sustainable and resilient business growth in the OECS through formal presentations and facilitated discussions.

THEMES AND SPEAKERS:

Business Competitiveness
by Dr Luz Longsworth, Director of the UWI Mona Western Campus, Jamaica

Creative Business Leadership
by Denzil V Crooke, CEO/Consultant, Quantum Consulting, St. Kitts

Strategic business models for ECCU business that would allow for effective responses to present challenges and seizure of present and future opportunities. by Rawlinson A. Isaac, Businessman/Financial Consultant, Nevis

PLATINUM SPONSORS INCLUDE:

Contact the ECCB for registration details.
KICKSTARTING
OECS Business Ventures
Economic Growth

If there is ever a time to kick start our young entrepreneurs who are brimming with business ideas but lacking in capital, it is now. However, if our entrepreneur hopefuls continue to look to traditional funding sources, most of those ideas will never be kick started into reality. A shift in focus is imperative.

It is time to explore the en vogue phenomenon of crowd financing (looking to the crowds i.e. John and Jane public, to fund business ventures through donations) which has revolutionised the way business and social ventures are funded worldwide.

In an online article “Is Crowd Financing For You?” posted on 24 September, the author, Nedra Rhone, noted that US$2.8 billion are flowing through crowd funding sites worldwide. In 2012, caribbean360.com reported that the Grenadian Goat Diary initiative, raised US$63,160 through the US based innovative crowd funding website, www.kickstarter.com.

Just imagine what could be achieved if 50% of those who have ties to the region would pledge US$10.00 annually to fund business start-ups or a social development project like the enhancement of technology hardware and software in schools that would enable our young scholars to be continuously challenged by and exposed to the same educational tools and technologies as their global counterparts. The results would be PRICELESS. We are talking about the development of new business ventures that would have been unimaginable or unattainable; the increase in the competiveness of the region through skills and knowledge enhancements and the economic growth of our countries.

Let’s get kicking! Let’s get started!

Editor’s Note, SLW

For more information on crowd funding, check out these US based sites: Kickstarter, IndieGoGo, Crowdtilt and GoFundMe.

“The future is contingent on human action.”
Just Start: Take Action, Embrace Uncertainty, Create the Future.
Leonard A. Schlesinger, Charles F. Kiefer with Paul B. Brown
**Theme Song**
**FINANCIAL INFORMATION MONTH, OCTOBER 2013**

**STARTING NOW**

**Verse 1**
This journey, get ready to conquer
By the numbers we can be
And though she lies before us
This complex global economy
We must stand together (firm) as a unit
And remember the tides of the past
Right now, this very minute
Reshaping our future is our task

**Chorus:**
Reshaping our future – starting now
We working together – starting now
Forward for de better – starting now
One collective power – starting now

Every man and every woman
Young people join de mission
Businesses hear (sound) de call
Institutions together standing tall

Nou ka laje – low productivity
Nou ka laje – despondency
Nou ka laje – old spending habits
Nou ka laje – with no budget

Laje, laje – let go (x4)

**Verse 2**
New ways of thinking
Ideas on the grill
A new dawn is coming
Economic growth on the hill
Think the unthinkable
Reach for the unreachable
Dream the impossible
And know that you are able

**Chorus:**
Reshaping our future – starting now
We working together – starting now
Forward for de better – starting now
One collective power – starting now

Every man and every woman
Young people join de mission
Businesses hear (sound) de call
Institutions together standing tall

Nou ka laje – inertia
Nou ka laje – de spending fever
Nou ka laje – procrastination
Nou ka laje – for a new vision
Laje, laje let go (x4)

**Written & Composed by Chester G F Letang “Daddy Chess”, Commonwealth of Dominica.**

“The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew.”

Abraham Lincoln
1862 Annual Message to the US Congress

October is Financial Information Month
Reshape

I am going to

Relook
Rethink
Rewind
Refine
Remake

I am going to Reactivate to get to great

Review what I should value.

How am I going to forge ahead, blaze new trails,

If I do not Re-value, Re-appraise, Re-assess?

Present challenges must make me Reason

That I need to Re-conceive, Re-birth, Re-master, Re-boot.

I am going to Revolve to evolve

I am going to Re-configure...How? Go figure!

I am going to REACH MY POTENTIAL…

October is Financial Information Month
I am going to Re-write my story
Past failures do not define me!

I am going to Re-develop, Refine, Re-flow.
It has been an uphill battle in this tumultuous economic go-slow
but I have no choice but to Re-discover my mojo.

I am going to Re-calibrate
Re-formulate, Re-take, Re-choose.
I am going to Re-align.
Fed-up with always being behind.

I am going to Re-cover, Re-map, Repeal.
This is not the right path … can’t you feel?
I am going to Re-charge…
Re-imagine…Re-connect.

I AM GOING TO RE-SHAPE MY FUTURE
…STARTING NOW
Do you have an INNOVATIVE Business Idea?

Compete in the ECCU INNOVATION CONTEST 2013 for secondary schools and college students and get a chance to win up to $3,000.00.

Here’s what you need to do:

- Formulate your innovative idea
- Prepare a business plan for your idea (approx. 15 pages)
- Submit the completed entry form and business plan to the ECCB office in your country

Last year’s winners. You can be a winner too!

Deadline for submitting your entry is 29 November 2013 by 5:00 p.m.

Visit your school’s office or go to www.eccb-centralbank.org for an entry form and additional information.

Reshaping Our Future
Starting Now