



## DHTA Fact Sheet 15 - 21 Sept 2007

All members are encouraged to indicate what they would like to see  
in upcoming Fact Sheets.

We try to have something which interests everyone! ☺

➤ **Inside this Issue:** Dominican Born **Dorcus Alexander: Caribbean Employee of the Year** . Turks & Caicos Hospitality Training Goes Online . **Spanish investors come to the table** . CHA Continues To Lobby For Tourism Interests In Economic Partnership Agreements . **Grenadian travel agent terms Air Jamaica announcement 'deceiving'** . UNESCO warns hotel to conform or lose heritage site recognition . **Pack your 'holy water,' Vatican Airlines passengers were told** . Sugar waste used for food packaging . **Believe: green hotel development is profitable NOW.** The Best Caribbean Chorale Group Ever Recorded on CD . **Skinvisible to Present at 5th International Bird Flu Summit** . Culture should be a tangible experience, says travel expert . **Peter Odle - The Most Recognized Name In Barbados Hotel Industry** . A Tower To Change Its Shape Every Hour . **Delta air lines introduces non-stop service to St. Kitts** . Antigua's Newest Steel Orchestra Launches . **Bet J celebrates the life of Sir John Compton, the late Prime Minister of St. Lucia**

## The Chronicle

Friday, September 21, 2007

### **Dorcus Alexander: Caribbean Employee of the Year**

"I had no clue I would be the winner."

A Dominican national, who now resides in the U.S. Virgin Islands, has been adjudged the most outstanding hotel employee of the year at a conference in Miami.



Dorcus Alexander, a member of the food and beverage staff of Westin Resort in St. John, St Thomas, was named the Caribbean Employee of the Year at the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Conference (CHTC) in Miami. She was chosen from among a large field of nominees by hotel managers throughout the Caribbean.

This award recognises an outstanding hotel employee who exemplifies above average technical competence and hospitality skills.

Alexander, who hails from the village of Grand Bay, has been employed at the Westin Resort in St John for 16 years.

"My career began in the kitchen, doing the dishes and preparing

equipment for banquets ... right now I am a trainer in the kitchen who teaches the employees how to wash dishes, prepare clean equipment and also how to prepare the kitchen for an inspection," she said.

For the competition, she had to first compete against the 400 employees at the Westin Hotel in St John and she won.

"I was chosen to compete against all the hotels in the Virgin Islands. I won that award and was sent to represent the Caribbean in Miami and there I won that award also. I am still surprised because I had no clue that I would win," she declared.

**Last year she was selected as Westin's Employee of the Year and in November she received the U.S Virgin Islands Hotel and Tourism Tommy Star award for excellence.**

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## Caribbean News Digital

### **Turks & Caicos Hospitality Training Goes Online**

The Turks & Caicos Hotel Association (TCHTA) has underwritten the development of a new, comprehensive web site showcasing the Turks and Caicos Hotel, Tourism and Training Institute (TCHTTI), the islands' only dedicated educational facility for the hospitality industry.

Full Story [here](#)

Website Link [here](#)

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## Caribbean Hotel Association

### **Spanish investors come to the table**

The meeting, to be held at Palma de Mallorca, in Spain's Balearic Islands, was brought to fruition through the good offices of Dominican lawyer and hotelier Enrique De Marchena, President-Elect of CHA.

The meeting's agenda reveals an ambitious range of issues for discussion, such as global competitiveness, Spanish investment... [More](#)

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## Caribbean Hotel Association

### **Cha Continues to Lobby For Tourism Interests In Economic Partnership Agreements**

Ongoing efforts seek to ensure that recommendations for the

liberalization of regional tourism services are included in external trade negotiations that the Caribbean is involved in.

San Juan, Puerto Rico (September 13, 2007) – While in Europe to attend a meeting with Spanish investors to be held this Friday in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, CHA President Peter J. Odle; David Jessop, Executive Director of the London-based Caribbean Council; and Alec Sanguinetti, CHA Director General and Chief Executive Officer, took the opportunity to meet earlier this week in Brussels with representatives of the European Union to discuss the ongoing Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations. The purpose of the visit to Brussels was to address the conclusion of an EPA between CARIFORUM and EU specifically...[Full Story](#)

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## E TurboNews

### **Grenadian travel agent terms Air Jamaica announcement ‘deceiving’**

ST. GEORGE’S, Grenada (eTN) - A travel agent has lashed-out on a report by the government claiming that Air Jamaica will be increasing flights to Grenada saying it is a bit deceiving.

“The booking system available worldwide shows that there is no additional flights to Grenada, what is there is that Air Jamaica is putting on an additional flight in November out of Montego Bay to Miami and Grenadians will have the opportunity to connect to this flight,” said owner of Astral Travel, Siddiqui Sylvester. “I think there was a bit of deception when making the announcement.” Read more [here](#)

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## E TurboNews

### **UNESCO warns hotel to conform or lose heritage site recognition**

After examining this week the architectural designs, maps, photos and drawings of the model recently prepared by the Cairo Financial and Touristic Center (CFTC), a hotel overlooking the Salahedin Citadel, the UNESCO strongly recommended the tourism landmark limits its height to 31.55 meters, much lower than the planned 59.50 meters. The UN body requires the contractors to build no higher than the upper level of the enclosing wall and medieval watchtowers of the Citadel, Egypt’s... [Full Story](#)



## E TurboNews

### **Pack your 'holy water,' Vatican Airlines passengers were told**

If it is more than more than 100 milliliters, even a bottle of "holy water" will not be allowed in carry-on luggage, as passengers of Vatican Airlines' inaugural service from France to Rome have learned... Full story [here](#)

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## **FOOD Navigator.com|europe**

### **Sugar waste used for food packaging**

By Charlotte Eyre

06/09/2007 - **Bagasse, a previously useless waste product from sugar cane, can now be used to make biodegradeable packaging for food products in Thailand, its manufacturers claim.**

With governments now concerned that Asia's rapid economic growth is leading to disastrous environmental harm, alternatives to plastic packaging are constantly being sought by food companies in the continent.

The new "bagasse boxes" are made out of agricultural sugar waste, and so decompose after use, claims its Thai manufacturer, the [Biodegradeable Packaging for Environment](#) company.

The packaging can be used instead of traditional plastic-based packaging, the company said, and so are both safe for human health and environmentally friendly.

According to the newspaper the Bangkok Independent, the company created the packaging because of its breakthrough in developing a binder substance that forces bagasse pulp particles to join together.

The resulting substance is both heat- and water-proof, and has passed US Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) standards, the newspaper said.

The project was funded in part by the Thai [National Innovation Agency](#) (NIA), which donated Bt20m to the project as part of a drive to encourage the development of bio-based products across the country.

Over the past five years packaging suppliers have been introducing various forms of biodegradable plastics made from a variety of plants, in the main corn, as a clean alternative to petroleum-based plastics.

Some companies predict that the environmentally-friendly packaging market will grow by about 20 per cent a year, as an alternative to petroleum-based packaging such as the widely-used polyethylene terephthalate (PET).

Bagasse is a fibre product produced from sugarcane waste, often thrown away as uneconomical waste.

However many companies around the world have started to catch on to the idea that Bagasse can make a cheap but efficient way of packaging foods.

Cadbury is possibly the largest company currently using bagasse as part of it's ethical concern plans. In India, the company's Induri plant uses it as a renewable fuel to provide steam for manufacturing.

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## **Caribbean Hotel Association**

### **Believe: green hotel development is profitable NOW**

For those who are pioneering the movement, "green" hotels are more than just politically correct properties: they inspire guests, connect communities, and yes ...they are profitable. Profitable? YES! Profitable! A few years ago everyone asked how you could possibly afford to go 'green' because of premium costs without premium revenues. Now, the question may have turned. Can you afford NOT to build 'green'? And the answer may surprise you...[more](#)

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## **NOTICES**

**The 2007 / 2008 Cruise ship schedule is available at DHTA's office. Interested members can contact the office to have it emailed to them or can come by the office for a copy.**

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### ➤ [Caribbean Marketplace 2008](#)

Registration for Caribbean Marketplace 2008 is now open. Early Bird Registration Fees are valid through September 28, 2007.

By registering early, you save US\$100.00 on your fee. Go to [www.caribbeanhotelassociation.com/Mktplace.html](http://www.caribbeanhotelassociation.com/Mktplace.html) to brush up on the news you need to know, such as: guidelines, lodging options, airline discounts, important deadlines, and pre|post tours - as well as to register online. You can also choose to print the registration form for [suppliers](#) and [buyers](#).

### Why Caribbean Marketplace 2008?

Beyond networking, **Caribbean Marketplace is about business-making.**

It brings a world a buyers from the four corners of the planet and the movers and shakers of the Caribbean hotel and tourism industry under one roof, for a hectic two days of networking and negotiating.

### Atlantis' new world-class conference center

Paradise Island lays claim to the largest ballroom in the Caribbean and provides the perfect setting for Caribbean Marketplace 2008.

- Caribbean Small Hotels Retreat  
Sept. 26-28, 2007  
Click [here](#) for more information.
- 30th Caribbean Tourism Conference -  
Click [here](#) and [here](#) for details and registration forms
- The fifth annual  
re-DISCOVER the Caribbean Show

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> APRIL – 2008**  
at the Sherbourne Conference Centre – Barbados

A 10x10ft draped stand costs US\$250 if booked by latest 31<sup>st</sup>  
December 2007.

Increased media coverage will include TV 'ads', full page print 'ads'  
and live radio coverage.

You can book online at  
[re-discover@caribsurf.com](mailto:re-discover@caribsurf.com) & visit [www.re-discover.com](http://www.re-discover.com)

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### Links of Interest:

- [The Best Caribbean Chorale Group Ever Recorded on CD](#)
- [Skinvisible to Present at 5th International Bird Flu Summit](#)
- [Culture should be a tangible experience, says travel expert](#)
- [Peter Odle – The Most Recognized Name In Barbados Hotel Industry](#)
- [A Tower To Change Its Shape Every Hour](#)
- [Delta air lines introduces non-stop service to St. Kitts](#)
- [Antigua's Newest Steel Orchestra Launches](#)
- [Bet J celebrates the life of Sir John Compton, the late Prime Minister of St. Lucia](#)

Members are also reminded to keep visiting the DHTA's website for updated information  
[www.dhta.org](http://www.dhta.org)