

PRESS RELEASE

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING GROUP OF LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN DEBT MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS

The Inter-American Development Bank and the Ministry of Finance, Trinidad and Tobago, are hosting the "Fourth Annual Meeting of the Group of Latin American and the Caribbean Debt Management Specialists" (LAC Debt Group) on May 14th – 16th, 2008 at the Trinidad Hyatt Regency Hotel. The primary objective of the workshop is to discuss and identify regional experiences on the following debt management topics: debt management offices interaction with markets, coordination of fiscal and monetary policies with debt management, and the role of financial regulation and supervision and their relationship with debt management agencies. The full agenda of the event is available in the Bank's webpage <u>www.iadb.org</u> or the Ministry of Finance website - <u>www.finance.gov.tt</u>.

This meeting is a result of the efforts of the member countries and the IDB, through the Regional Public Goods initiative and the technical assistance of the Capital Markets and Financial Institutions Division. These efforts are developed with the aim of promoting mechanisms to share the know-how of debt management agencies in the region, and enhancing their institutional capacity.

The current event is one of several activities developed by the LAC Debt Group, which was formally established in April 2005, in the framework of an initiative presented on the First Annual Meeting held on March 17-19, 2005, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Currently, the members of the Group are the debt management agencies of 26 countries. Full information and documents of the Group's work are available on its webpage (http://www.iadb.org/lacdebtgroup/).

The meeting will be opened by Ms. Karen Nunez-Teshiera, Minister of Finance of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Iwan Sewberath Misser, IDB Country Representative in Trinidad and Tobago, and Mr. William Ortiz, President of the Steering Committee of the LAC Debt Group and Deputy Director of Public Credit of the Ministry of Finance of Colombia. Participants to the Meeting are Debt Management Specialists from the region, as well as representatives from various international organizations, such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Central American Monetary Council and the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Center.

For further information please contact the <u>Communications Unit</u> of the Ministry of Finance: Tel: 627-9700 ext: 2805-8.