



MINISTRY OF TOURISM

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

T&T SIGNS TOURISM COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH CUBA

On **March 31, 2015** a Tourism Cooperation Agreement was signed by Senator the Honourable Gerald Hadeed, Minister of Tourism, and the Honourable Manuel Marrero Cruz, Minister of Tourism of Cuba, in Havana, Cuba. This Tourism Cooperation agreement is a historic milestone which will further boost and diversify the tourism industry in both countries.

Trinidad and Tobago stands to benefit from this Tourism Cooperation agreement, inter alia, in the following areas:

- Participation in training programmes and student exchanges
- Development of multi-destination tourism packages
- Exchange of research professionals and specialists to improve the Trinidad and Tobago's tourism product
- Joint venture arrangements
- Exchange of professionals in areas of cultural and natural heritage preservation.

Minister Hadeed explained that “the signing of this agreement is an indication of the maturity of the relationship between the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and that of Cuba” and promised “to work closely with my fellow Minister of Tourism in Cuba, the Honourable Manuel Marrero Cruz, on implementing this very important and comprehensive Tourism Cooperation Agreement.”

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has had formal diplomatic relations with Cuba since 1972 and has recognised Cuba as a key strategic partner within the Caribbean region.

T&T Signs Tourism Cooperation Agreement with Cuba
2015-04-01

- 2 -

Bilateral relations between Trinidad and Tobago and Cuba have blossomed since the opening of embassies in the capitals of both countries, and the signing of several cooperation agreements in areas such as trade, sport, medicine and the waiver of visas.

This Agreement comes at an opportune moment in Cuba's history with the introduction of more liberal incentives for foreign investors and the announcement of the restoration of diplomatic relations in December 2014 between Cuba and the USA, which could lead to full normalisation in their relationship. With a population of 11 million people and a record breaking 3 million foreign vacationers for 2014, the prospects and potential for the Cuban business community are enormously enhanced by this Agreement.

The expansion of the tourism Industry under this Agreement will benefit the two countries through increased employment, multi-sectoral linkages and foreign exchange earnings, which will all assist in economic diversification and facilitate sustainable development.

Also present at the Signing Ceremony, which took place at the historic Hotel National, were His Excellency Mervyn Assam, Ambassador for Trade and Industry and Her Excellency Jennifer Jones-Kernahan, Trinidad and Tobago's Ambassador to Cuba.

April 01, 2015

For more information, contact:

Sherma Mitchell, Manager Corporate Communications
Ministry of Tourism
Levels 8 & 9
Tower C, International Waterfront Centre, Port of Spain
Trinidad and Tobago, **WEST INDIES**

Phone: (868) 624-1403 Ext. 316, 689-5198 (M)
Fax: (868) 625-3894