

Castries, SAINT LUCIA, November 10, 2004

For Immediate Release

**SAINT LUCIA TO PLAY HOST TO CARIBBEAN INDIGENOUS
BANKS/FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS CONFERENCE**

The Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Caribbean Association of Indigenous Banks Inc (CAIB) will be held here in Saint Lucia from November 15th to 18th 2004. The Association, comprising 44 member banks and financial institutions representing 15 countries with assets of in excess of US\$17 billion, along with three honorary members namely Caribbean Development Bank, CARICOM and the Caribbean Centre for Monetary Studies, is celebrating its Thirty First Anniversary.

The conference themed “*Building On Our Strengths In A Changing Marketplace*” will take place at the Sandals Grande, St Lucian Beach Resort & Spa, Pigeon Island Causeway, beginning on Monday November 15th with a closed session Annual General Meeting. As a special event, this year, a ‘*World Cup 2007 Cricket Financing Extravaganza*’ will be included with the intent of offering these key players in the Regional Financial Markets a greater insight into financing opportunities/product packaging and special considerations as relates to risk assessment and management of such a large world sporting event. Event insurance and other sophisticated risk mitigating techniques will be among the topics to be discussed. Premier Platinum Sponsor, Cable & Wireless W. I. Ltd, will also participate in the forum. Later that evening, Governor General of Saint Lucia, Dame Dr Pearlette Louisy will be guest of honour at the Opening Ceremony. Keynote speaker, Hon. Dr Kenny D Anthony, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia will deliver his message on the topic “*Saint Lucia’s Policy Responses to the Challenges of Financial Systems Competitiveness*”.

Two full days of conference follows and delegates drawn from throughout the Caribbean basin and the wider regional and global financial services sector will exchange their thoughts under the sub-themes “*Impact of Emerging Trends and Advancements in the Global Banking/Financial Services Industry on the Way We Do Business*” and “*Improving Indigenous Banks/Financial Institutions Competitiveness In A Liberalized CSME, FTAA, WTO Environment*”. Presentations and subsequent Discussions/Group Break-out Sessions will contemplate the present state of the financial services industry and give insights as to the way forward, future industry competitiveness strategies, the regulatory/compliance and anti-money laundering framework including up-dates on Basel 11 Capital Accord, Sarbanes Oxley Act, Corporate Governance and Risk Management Strategies. Macro-economic issues facing/impacting the industry vis a vis the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) will also be highlighted with focus on the opportunities and threats of our indigenous organizations, given the peculiarities of our small/medium economies. **Delegate will definitely be able to take-away some winning strategies and best practices.**

Confirmed speakers at the conference include Prime Minister Kenny Anthony of Saint Lucia, Sir Dwight Venner, Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, Dr Terrence Farrel – Group Executive Director, Business Development, Strategic Planning & Technology, Guardian Holdings Limited, Dr Rolph Balgobin – Head of Institute of Business, UWI St Augustine Campus, Trinidad, Mr David McConney – Banking Consultant and President, Vision to Reality (V2R) Financial Services Inc, Florida, Ms Marguerite Orane – Founding

Partner, Growth Facilitators, Jamaica, Mr David Peterson, Founder of Goldleaf Technologies Inc & Pioneer in Electronic Banking, Florida, Mr Venkat Raman, CEO & Chief Rating Officer, Caribbean Credit Rating Services Ltd and Director, Ratings CIRISIL Ltd, India, Mr R Suresha, Senior Consultant, i-flex Solutions Ltd, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Ernst & Young Caribbean.

Confirmed sponsors include **PREMIER PLATINUM** - Cable & Wireless, **PLATINUM** – Vision to Reality (V2R) Financial Services Inc, Jack Henry & Associates, Goldleaf Technologies Inc, Bank of America, Visa, Caribbean Money Market Brokers Limited/Jamaica Money Market Brokers Limited, PricewaterhouseCoopers, **GOLD** – i-flex Solutions Ltd, Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, ExactPay Network, **SILVER** – TD Securities, Gresham Computing, Union Planters Bank, FutureSoft, Fujitsu Transaction Solutions (Ja) Ltd, **BRONZE** – Advanced Business Solutions Inc, BOC Global Bank Ltd, Datapro and University of Wisconsin – Graduate School of Banking.

Mr Victor Eudoxie, a member of the CAIB Executive Committee and Chairman of Bank of Saint Lucia Ltd and the Local Organizing Committee said, *“the Saint Lucian member banks comprising Bank of Saint Lucia Ltd, RBTT Bank Caribbean Ltd and St Lucia Co-operative Bank Ltd are working assiduously to make this conference the best ever. Topics to be covered over the two-day conference are relevant and applicable not only to Caribbean bankers and financial services experts, but also to many of our business partners”*.

The Caribbean Association of Indigenous Banks Inc was established in 1974, following a decision by the eighth Meeting of the Heads of Government conference in 1973 and the

Inaugural Meeting of the Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Finance with a mandate for the members to meet and deliberate on issues that are relevant and topical to their success.

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OR visit www.caibinc.org for on-line registration