



Get Your Game on



The Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Caribbean

33rd Annual Caribbean Conference of Accountants

Building and Innovating Caribbean Businesses

June 25 - 27, 2015

HYATT Regency Hotel & Conference Centre
of Trinidad and Tobago

Hosted by
**The Institute of Chartered Accountants of
Trinidad and Tobago**





About The Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Caribbean (ICAC)

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Caribbean (ICAC) was established on October 28, 1988, to represent the interests of accountants within the English-speaking Caribbean. The founding members of the ICAC are Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, and Trinidad & Tobago.

Since its establishment, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Caribbean has provided a forum for the advancement of the accountancy profession in the Caribbean. Today, with seven member bodies (national accounting institutes) and a network of approximately 3,700 accountancy professionals, the ICAC is the recognised regional accountancy organisation dedicated to advancing the interest of accountants within the Caribbean through the promotion of internationally acceptable standards and best practices, through leadership, research and continuing professional development.

Among its many achievements, the ICAC is proud to be recognised as an "Acknowledged Accountancy Grouping" of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). This is a designation held by only five other accountancy groupings in the world. These groupings support the objectives of IFAC and the advancement of the accountancy profession within their jurisdictions.

Annual Caribbean Conference of Accountants

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Through its flagship event, the Annual Caribbean Conference of Accountants, the ICAC provides a forum for accountants in the region to participate for mutual and fraternal benefits and to examine regulatory issues and other matters impacting the profession globally.

The 33rd Annual Conference will be held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, over the period June 25–27, 2015. The conference will be hosted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Trinidad and Tobago (ICATT) and will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and Conference Centre.

The 2015 Conference will continue the trend of providing regional finance professionals and business leaders with the opportunity to examine the current developments in key areas such as financial reporting, corporate governance and strategic leadership, against the backdrop of the theme **Get Your Game On: Building and Innovating Caribbean Businesses.**

The cadre of speakers will be recognised leaders drawn from the region and internationally, and as with past conferences, the 2015 Conference is expected to attract over 700 delegates from the Caribbean as well as from the United Kingdom and North America.





Welcome Message from the President - ICAC

Frank V. Myers

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all - delegates, presenters, your spouses and guests - to this, our 33rd Annual Caribbean Conference of Accountants here in Trinidad & Tobago.

The ICAC's annual conference was last held here in Trinidad in 2008, the year of the global financial crisis that preceded the great depression. The situation is vastly different this time around as the world is well on its way to recovery, with the United States leading the way. There is renewed sense of optimism that the US embargo against Cuba will be removed together with the fear of the impact of this on our tourism-based economies, particularly in the Eastern Caribbean. Today, adjustments have been forced by the precipitous fall in the world market price of oil, with significant impact on all sectors with the effects extending into the CARICOM region. Within this context, Caribbean economies, which are nowhere near optimum development, are required to adapt to a new normal and chart a course that will ensure that the gains made to date are not reversed.

It is against this backdrop that we meet here in Trinidad under the theme, "Get Your Game On – Building and Innovating Caribbean Businesses." Businesses are critical to sustaining the economies of the Caribbean and to securing the future for generations to come. Creating a model for the future is an awesome responsibility and we look forward to your full participation in assessing how we can "build" and "innovate" Caribbean Businesses towards securing the future of our economies. The conference technical sessions will also focus our attention on "Where the Caribbean Stands" in the current global economic environment, "Making Smart Investment Decisions" and how we can strategise to work more efficiently and effectively while making optimal use of technology. Another interesting topic to be explored is, "What's Top of Mind for Caribbean Business Leaders".

As usual, our conference will include technical content that will keep us abreast of global trends and developments within the profession as well as topics aimed at enhancing the human agenda and soft skills development of the accountants, finance professionals and business leaders who will be in attendance.

The conference will also offer an exciting social events programme that will facilitate the strengthening of regional and international ties through socialising and networking. I urge you to participate fully in this unique gathering of the Caribbean accounting fraternity and to make use of the networking opportunities while enjoying the delights of the cultural melting pot that is Trinidad & Tobago, the warmth and friendliness of its people, and the rhythm of its diversity.

I encourage you to register for the conference and book your accommodations early and to be guided by the information that has been posted on our conference website to make the process as seamless as possible for all delegates.

On behalf of the Board of the ICAC, I thank the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Trinidad & Tobago for hosting this year's conference and look forward to welcoming you to what will be another successful conference.

Frank V. Myers
President, ICAC



Message from the President - ICATT

Pria Narinesingh

On behalf of the Council of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Trinidad and Tobago, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to the ICAC 33rd Caribbean Conference of Accountants – 2015.

ICATT is honoured to present this year's conference on behalf of the ICAC. It is the fifth time that Trinidad and Tobago has hosted this prestigious event which is chaired this year by ICATT Council Member and ICAC Director, Anthony Pierre. Our Organising Committee is working toward delivery of a conference which, at least, exceeds expectations.

In 2015, ICATT celebrates 45 years of service to the accountancy profession. Our colleagues in Jamaica are celebrating their 50th anniversary and we congratulate them on achieving this golden milestone. What this means is that the accountancy and auditing profession in the region has had a long tradition, made even stronger by the formation of the ICAC. Trinidad and Tobago can claim a special bond with the regional body for it was at a meeting of Caribbean accountants in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago in 1987 that a resolution was passed proposing the establishment of a chartered body for accountants in the Caribbean. The ICAC was subsequently incorporated in 1988 in Jamaica. Today, membership across the region is approximately 3,700, with 1,350 from Trinidad and Tobago.

The conferences hosted by the ICAC create not only a strong network of professionals who live and work throughout the region; they are platforms to explore opportunities for growth, to put heads together on regional challenges and for moving toward the achievement of global standards in the interest of the publics and economies we serve.

This year's theme: Get Your Game On - Building and Innovating Caribbean Businesses is really a call to the region's professionals to ready themselves for the challenge of growing sustainable enterprises in a time when island economies struggle to emerge from the contagion of the 2008 financial collapse. While the traditional businesses will remain bread and butter, quantum leaps can only be derived from innovative, out-of-the-box approaches that build on the unique competitive advantages of our island states.

Throughout the years, the profession's activities in the region have been supported by sponsors, partners whose generosity has underwritten the cost of professional growth and development, and the achievement of higher standards of performance. I wish to be the first to express sincere gratitude to all our sponsors. We might compete fiercely in the world of business but there is one thing we agree on unanimously, and place above all else, and that is the fundamental values of the accountancy profession: Truth and Fairness, Integrity, Justice and Prosperity and the ethical actions to achieve.

We also welcome especially the members of the ICAC Board, the representatives of IFAC, our affiliates visiting and hope that you enjoy your stay with us. As President of ICATT, I can assure that Trinidad and Tobago is ready, willing and looks forward to host the region and to do so in inimitable 'Trini' style.

Pria Narinesingh
President, ICATT



Message from the 2015 Conference Chairman

Anthony Pierre

In 2015 The Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Caribbean (ICAC) will mount the 33rd Annual Caribbean Conference in the industrial capital of the English speaking Caribbean - Trinidad and Tobago. The conference venue is the Hyatt Regency Hotel & Conference Centre located on Port of Spain's sweeping waterfront overlooking the tranquil Gulf of Paria. Adjacent to the conference hotel is Trinidad's International Financial Centre and the temporary home of the Trinidad and Tobago Parliament.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Trinidad and Tobago (ICATT) is pleased to host this prestigious event in the calendar of ICAC. The conference theme is: Get Your Game On - Building and Innovating Caribbean Businesses. It speaks to the need for Caribbean island states to innovate in the way we do business and conduct our economic and financial affairs as we surge to

uniquely define who we are in a globalised world which, in the lyrics of Trinidad's calypso artiste, David Rudder in his West Indies cricket anthem, does not recognise little island states anymore.

How successful we are in this pilgrimage will depend to a large extent on the resolve of our captains of industry and commerce. As trusted professional advisers accountants will find themselves playing a greater and non-traditional role in the new paradigm. We will need to innovate and re-think our service proposition to employers, clients and society at large.

We have put together an extremely interesting day and a half of thought-provoking sessions with perspectives for members in every sphere of professional life. Our Saturday morning programme is particularly stimulating as we explore potential growth areas for Caribbean economies. Practitioners who are innovating and re-defining the respective fields will share with us how to "do it like a boss".

Apart from the conference, Trinidad offers a number of exciting activities which I am hoping you will take time to explore. We offer a great shopping experience at our various shopping malls. There are two world-class shopping malls within a two-mile radius of the Hyatt, and for the adventurous there are world-class malls at Trincity in East Trinidad, Chaguanas in Central Trinidad and at Gulf City in the South. There is also a PriceSmart Shopping Centre just about a mile from the Hyatt.

For those looking for fine dining options there are numerous covering a wide variety of cuisines. Perhaps you would like a taste of Trinidad performing arts theatre, or a day trip to the other side of paradise, it's called Tobago. A game of golf anybody? Zip lining in the Chagaramas valley or a quiet day on Maracas Beach after a breath taking drive through the northern range and along the north coast of Trinidad? If you go to Maracas, you must have our world famous bake and shark.

On behalf of the host institute, ICATT, I look forward to welcoming you to this year's conference experience. May you have a memorable conference and a most enjoyable stay in Trinidad and Tobago. Let's Get our Game On!

Anthony Pierre
2015 Conference Chairman

Agenda - Day 1

Opening Ceremony:	Flag Procession and National Anthem
Welcome Remarks:	Anthony Pierre, Conference Chair
Remarks:	Pria Narinesingh, President - ICATT
Remarks:	Frank V. Myers, President - ICAC
Opening Address:	TBA
Address:	Sylvia Wei Yen Tsen, Senior Director, Quality & Member Relations - IFAC

COFFEE BREAK

Panel Discussion:	Current State Analysis - Where Does the Region Stand Now? Moderator: Mariano Browne, Managing Partner - Browne and Company Panel: The Hon. Ryan Pinder, M.P., Head of Wealth Management and Chief Legal Officer - Deltec Waddy Sowma, Chairman - Suriname Association of Economists Wendell Mottley, Chairman - Trinidad and Tobago Unit Trust Corporation
Presentation:	The Capital Agenda - Making Smart Investment Decisions Kath Carter, Global Business Development Leader - EY
Panel Discussion:	What's Top of Mind for Caribbean Business Leaders? Moderator: TBA Panel: Vincent Pereira, President - BHP Billiton CIBC First Caribbean International Bank Presenter Komal Samaroo, Chairman - Demerara Distributors Ltd.

LUNCH

Breakout Sessions:	2:00 – 2:45 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">IFRS Updates Grant Thornton PresenterThe Human Factor PwC PresenterValuation Techniques KPMG Presenter
	3:00 – 3:45 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">IFAC's Accountability Now Mario Abela, Leader of Research & Development - IFACKey Challenges for SMPs Globally Paul Thompson Director, Global Accountancy Profession Support - IFACBuilding Impairment Test Models KPMG Presenter
	4:00 – 4:45 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">IFRS Updates Grant Thornton PresenterToday's Woman – Doing it All Alison Lewis, Director RBL & Former Advisor - Office of Executive Director, World BankISAs Clarity & Best Practices Ron Salole, IAAS Board - IFAC

Agenda - Day 2

Presentation: **Issues arising from audit monitoring visits to SMPs in the Caribbean**
Michael Scott, Director - Proactive Consulting for Professionals Limited

Opening Remarks: Anthony Pierre, Conference Chair

Presentation: **Revolutionising the Public Sector - Can IPSAS Deliver?**
Anthony Harbinson, President - ACCA

Panel Discussion: **Sustaining Innovation - Human, Financial and Technological Considerations**
Moderator: TBA
Panel: AICPA Presenter
CPA - Canada Presenter

Presentation: **Business Innovation: Incorporating Practical Approaches for the Dynamic Enterprise**
Deloitte Presenter

COFFEE BREAK

Presentation: **Transforming the Entertainment Industry in the Caribbean**
TBA

Plenary Session: Motivational Speaker

2016 Conference Update: Institute of Chartered Accountants of Belize

Closing Address: President - ICAC

LUNCH



ICAC Annual Taxation Seminar

CARICOM Double Taxation Agreement and its Applicability in the Current Regional Economic Environment

Thursday, June 25, 2015 (1:00pm - 5:00pm)

Regency Ballroom VI, Hyatt Regency, Trinidad and Tobago

SEMINAR TOPICS

- Purpose and Objective of the CARICOM Double Taxation Agreement (CDTA)
 - CDTA vs. OECD and UN Models
 - Overview of Selected Articles
- Regulator's Perspective
- Legal Perspective
- CARICOM Secretariat Perspective – Summary of Concerns and Challenges
- Caribbean Business Sector Perspective
- Working Group Discussions – Key Weaknesses / Challenges Identified
- Reports and Recommendations from Working Groups

REGISTRATION FEE (VAT Incl.)

Conference Participants	– US \$150
Members (Not attending conference)	– US \$190
Non-Members (Not attending conference)	– US \$210

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Friday, June 12, 2015

FOR REGISTRATION

Contact: Sara Affonso-Smith

Telephone: (1 868) 623-8000 Ext. 221 | Fax: (1 868) 627-7087 | Email: sara.affonso.smith@icatt.org

Please note registration is not guaranteed unless payment is received. Cancellations received after 4pm of the registration deadline will incur the full registration cost.

Hosted by the ICAC Tax Committee in conjunction with



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SPEAKERS

- H. Wayne Lovell**
Partner, Tax – KPMG Barbados
- Dr. Claude H. Denbow S.C.**
Attorney-at-Law - Trinidad & Tobago
- Representative, CARICOM Secretariat (TBC)**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Accountants
- Tax Professionals
- Finance Professionals
- Legal Practitioners
- Lecturers / Trainers
- Business Leaders

Speaker Profiles

Alison Lewis

Board Member, Republic Bank Limited

Ms. Alison Lewis is a former public servant who served for over 29 years in the Ministry of Finance and rose to the position of Permanent Secretary of that Ministry, a position that she held for 11 years. Over the past 20 years, Ms. Lewis served as a member of a number of Boards of Directors including the Boards of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, the Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission, the Unit Trust Corporation, the Sovereign Wealth Funds Group and the Heritage and Stabilisation Fund. In 2014 she was appointed to the Board of Republic Bank Limited.

During the period 2001 to 2003 she served as Advisor to the Executive Director at the World Bank in Washington D.C., returning home in 2003, shortly before being appointed Permanent Secretary.

Ms. Lewis holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Economics and Management from The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, and became a distinguished awardee on the occasion of the UWI Alumni's 25th Anniversary.

Anthony Harbinson

President, Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Director, Safer Communities for the Northern Ireland Department of Justice

Anthony Harbinson is the global President of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and Director of Safer Communities for the Northern Ireland Department of Justice where he is responsible for the resourcing, policy and legislative framework for reducing offending, as well as policing and community safety within Northern Ireland. Before taking up his current role, he was the Director of Justice Delivery for the Department of Justice.

Prior to this, he was Director of Resources for the Northern Ireland Office and before that Mr. Harbinson was a Senior Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions, responsible for the design and implementation of the new Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland.

Mr. Harbinson has held the positions of President, ACCA Ireland; Chairman of the UK Public Sector Network; and Chairman of ACCA's Audit Committee.

He is the immediate past Chairman of the UK Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies (CCAB), the umbrella group of British and Irish chartered professional accountancy bodies.

Speaker Profiles

Kath M. Carter

Global Business Development Leader, EY

Kath M. Carter is the Global Business Development Leader and the Midwest Region Transaction Advisory Services Managing Partner at Ernst & Young with 20 years business experience in mergers, acquisition and divestiture activity.

Ms. Carter started in the Chicago Transaction Support Practice before transferring to New York in 2006 to focus on mega-PE funds and returning to lead the Midwest Transaction Advisory Services Practice in 2008.

Prior to joining EY, she was the Director of M&A for the southern region of a \$750 million national healthcare transportation company. She also has five years of audit experience and is a member of the AICPA and Illinois CPA Society.

Komal Samaroo

Chairman, Demerara Distributors Limited

Komal Samaroo is a Chartered Accountant who was appointed Chairman of Demerara Distillers Ltd (DDL) in January 2014. Mr. Samaroo had joined DDL in 1979 as the Group Chief Accountant and later became Group Finance Director. He served as Managing Director for 30 years and as Executive Vice-President of International Marketing where he spent eight years ensuring that DDL products found a secure place in world markets before accepting Chairmanship.

Prior to DDL Mr. Samaroo worked with the Bookers Rum Company from 1969 and became the Group Chief Accountant in 1977, Finance Director in 1979 and Managing Director in 1984.

Paul Thompson

Director, Global Accountancy Profession Support, IFAC

Paul Thompson joined IFAC in 2004 and is presently the Director, Global Accountancy Profession Support, having previously served as Director, SME & SMP Affairs, where he led IFAC's initiatives to support the development of small and medium-sized practices (SMPs) and the value they add to small and medium-sized entities (SMEs).

From 1988 to 1991, Mr. Thompson worked for Touche Ross & Co, London, where he specialised in the audit of financial institutions. He then lectured on financial reporting and analysis at the undergraduate and MBA levels at universities in the UK, Singapore, and Malaysia.



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Speaker Profiles

Ron Salole

Member, IAASB and Director, CCAF-FCVI

Ron Salole is a Member of the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. He is also a Director at CCAF-FCVI Inc., a Canadian research and education foundation focused on strengthening public sector accountability by promoting effective performance auditing and oversight of government operations.

In December 2014, Mr. Salole completed his term as Deputy Chair, International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board. In March 2013 he retired from the position of Vice President, Standards at the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada. He headed the standards setting function for developing and issuing financial reporting and assurance standards in Canada.

Mr. Salole is a Fellow of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Hon. Ryan Pinder, M.P.

Head, Wealth Management and Chief Legal Officer, Deltec

Hon. Ryan Pinder, M.P., served as Minister of Financial Services in the Government of The Bahamas between May, 2012 and December, 2014. He is the current Member of Parliament for Elizabeth Constituency.

As Head, Wealth Management and Chief Legal Officer, Deltec Mr. Pinder advises local, national and international clients in both taxable and tax-free mergers and acquisitions, business combinations, restructurings, private equity transactions, corporate joint ventures and other strategic alliances. Mr. Pinder also advises clients on domestic and international taxation, business valuation and business entity law and the international tax consequences of various inbound and outbound transactions and reorganisations.

Sylvia Wei Yen Tsen

Senior Director, Quality & Member Relations, IFAC

Sylvia Wei Yen Tsen, a Canada-qualified Chartered Accountant and a member of CPA Canada, is the Senior Director, Quality & Member Relations at the International Federation of Accountants. At IFAC she oversees three distinct areas: the Compliance Advisory Panel (CAP) and Compliance Program, the Professional Accountancy Organisation (PAO) Development Committee and PAO capacity building initiatives, and the Forum of Firms. She also has responsibility for operations and IT.

Ms. Tsen worked previously with KPMG in their Audit and Assurance Practice and International Head Offices. Practising as an accountant in the Netherlands, New Zealand, and Canada, she brought a diverse range of public practice experience when she joined IFAC in 2003.



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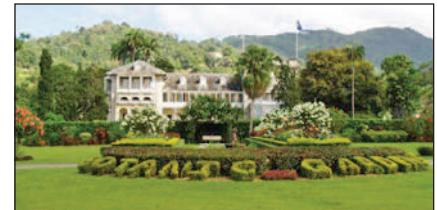
2015 ICAC CONFERENCE

Event Schedule

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

ICAC Board Meeting – Hyatt Pt. Fortin Room

Dress: Business



Thursday, June 25, 2015

Arrival & Registration of Delegates – Hyatt Diamond Room
ICAC Meetings – Hyatt Ruby Room
ICAC Annual Taxation Seminar – Hyatt Regency VI Ballroom
Welcome & Cocktail Reception – Hyatt Lime Lounge

Dress: Business

Dress: Business

Dress: Elegantly Casual



Friday, June 26, 2015

Conference Opening Ceremony – Hyatt Regency Ballroom
Conference Sessions – **Day 1** – Hyatt Regency Hotel
President's Dinner – Hyatt Regency Ballroom

Dress: Business

Dress: Business

Dress: Lounge Suit



Saturday, June 27, 2015

Conference Sessions – **Day 2** – Hyatt Regency Ballroom
Conference Closing Ceremony – Hyatt Regency Ballroom
Farewell Party Cruise – The Harbour Master (Boarding at Hyatt Waterfront)

Dress: Business

Dress: Business

Dress: Elegantly Casual
Wear White!



ACCOMPANYING PERSON'S PROGRAMME

Friday, June 26, 2015

Shopping @ The Falls at Westmall **OR** Chaguanas Adventures

Dress: Casual



Saturday, June 27, 2015

Port of Spain City Tour and North Coast Tour to Maracas Bay

Dress: Casual

Notes:

Tours include bus transport, refreshments and English-speaking guides.

Participants are advised to wear comfortable walking shoes and bring insect repellent, sunblock, raincoat or umbrella (just in case of rain) and a hat to protect from the sun.



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Registration

Members	US \$595
Non-Members	US \$650
Group (min. 5 persons, 1 company)	US \$575
Accompanying Person	US \$325

* Members include ICAC Member Bodies, Affiliates and Associates

To register, log on to <http://2015conference.icac.org.jm>

Closing Date for Registration: **June 12, 2015**

REFUND POLICY:

After May 15, 2015, no refund will be allowed but a substitution can be made at no extra cost.

For more information, contact ICATT Secretariat:

Phone: (1868) 623-8000, 625-1954 | Fax: (1868) 627-7087

Email: icatt@sttt.net.tt



CAL - OFFICIAL AIRLINE OF THE ICAC 33RD ANNUAL CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE

Sponsor, Caribbean Airlines Limited (CAL) is extending a 10% Discount to all participants travelling to Trinidad during the period 20th – 30th June, 2015 for the ICAC 33rd Annual Caribbean Conference.

Delegates travelling from Miami, Fort Lauderdale, New York, Kingston, Barbados, St. Lucia, Grenada, St. Maarten, Guyana, Suriname, Bahamas and London can take advantage of the special rates. The account code assigned for the conference is ICAC15 and only registered participants quoting the code are eligible for the 10% Discount.

Please note that the discount will apply to G type fares and higher in economy class and C type fares and higher in Business Class. Discount will not apply to already discounted fares, which include fare categories X, U, S and Z.

Reservations can only be booked through the Caribbean Airlines reservation call centre or a local ticket office where available. Contact CAL at:

- **London** + 44 870 774 7336 / + 44 845 362 4225
- **Jamaica** 1 888 359 2475 (Local) / 1 800 523 5585 (International)
- **Canada / North America / St. Maarten** 800 920 4225
- **Caribbean / Guyana** 800 744 2225
- **Suriname** 597 520034 / 520035

Accommodation

Special accommodation rates for delegates attending the ICAC 33rd Annual Caribbean Conference of Accountants are available at the following hotels:

Hyatt Regency - https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=13780698



Hyatt Regency

Contemporary design, waterfront views and unequalled amenities combine gracefully at Hyatt Regency Trinidad. This stunning Trinidad hotel and conference centre offers unprecedented luxuries in a breathtaking Caribbean destination. The centrepiece of the dynamic Waterfront Centre in Port of Spain, this luxury hotel features beautiful spaces to relax and rejuvenate, world-class meeting and event facilities, and the most expansive and contemporary conference centre in the Caribbean.

Radisson Hotel - www.radisson.com/icatt



Radisson Trinidad

Surrounded by breathtaking views of Port of Spain, the Northern Range and the Gulf of Paria, the Radisson Trinidad is a relaxing oasis boasting superior amenities and the city's largest hotel rooms. On-site highlights include a well-equipped fitness centre, free Wi-Fi and a sparkling outdoor swimming pool. The hotel's unbeatable location in the heart of Port of Spain makes it easy to get to the International Financial Centre, major international banks, government ministries, embassies and the region's best shopping. The Radisson Hotel is a two minute walk from the Conference Hotel and shuttles will also be provided.



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About Trinidad and Tobago

The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago comprises two islands at the southern most end of the Caribbean archipelago. Trinidad the larger of the two islands – is 4,828 sq km (1,864 sq miles) and is situated 10km from the east coast of Venezuela. Tobago is 33km off the north east coast of Trinidad and covers 300 sq. km (116 sq. miles)

The country's climate is tropical with temperatures that vary between 23 and 32 degrees celsius. The "dry season" lasts from January to May and "rainy season" extends from June to December. Unlike the rest of the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago is fortunate to be south of the hurricane belt.

The two islands are a study in contrast. Trinidad is rich in natural resources, especially oil and gas and is known for its cosmopolitan lifestyles and many festivities. The richness of its flora and fauna reflects its past linkage to the South American mainland. The capital city, Port of Spain, is a hub of business activity and a major financial centre in the Caribbean. The more serene Tobago is the centre of the country's tourism industry with its coral reefs and beautiful white sand beaches, natural beauty and a special island charm.

Like its islands, the 1.3 million people of Trinidad and Tobago are unique. Their warmth, friendliness, energy and professionalism have created a welcoming environment that facilitates tourism and investment. One of the most critically integrated societies in the world, the country is a collage of cultures reflected in the food, music, dance and traditions that enrich national life.

Indeed, it is said that Trinidadians and Tobagonians love a celebration! It is not surprising that festive activities are on in Trinidad almost every month. The best known is Carnival, staged during February/March each year. It is touted as the greatest show on earth and ranked with New Orleans' Mardi Gras and Brazilian Carnival. Among the many Carnival activities are steelband and calypso competitions, J'ouvert celebrations, parade of costumed bands and kings and queens of Carnival. Parties or 'fêtes' across the country are an integral part of the Carnival season.

Other major religious/cultural events include:

- Corpus Christi and Easter – Christian festivals
- Phagwa/Holi and Divali – Hindu festivals
- Hosay and Eid-ul-Fitr – Muslim festivals
- Spiritual Shouter Baptist Liberation Day – a unique blend of Christian and African doctrines
- The Tobago Heritage Festival

Other notable events include the National Music Festival, the World Steelband Festival and the Tobago Jazz Festival.

Source: Adapted from the Ministry of Tourism, Trinidad & Tobago (www.tourism.gov.tt)



Travel Tips

(adapted from information courtesy of the Tourism Development Company)

The Organising Committee of the ICAC 33rd Annual Caribbean Conference wishes you an enjoyable stay. As with any trip away from home, you are advised to take the necessary precautions to make your experience a truly memorable one. Please keep in mind the following general safety suggestions:

- Comply with all laws and respect local customs.
- Avoid hitchhiking and/or picking up hitchhikers.
- Remain alert, trust your instincts and pay attention to your surroundings. Report any suspicious activities to the police.
- Avoid leaving bags, cameras and valuables unattended.
- Avoid carrying/displaying large amounts of cash and expensive jewellery and placing cameras round your necks. Avoid leaving similar items in full view in your vehicle.
- Use appropriate banks and cambios for all foreign exchange transactions.
- Should your passport, credit card or travellers cheques be lost or stolen, report it immediately to the police and your banking agent. Call 999 for the nearest police station.
- Avoid excessive consumption of alcohol.
- Purchase food and beverages from vendors with valid food badges.
- When on the beach, follow the advice of the lifeguards.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Official Language: English

Currency: Trinidad and Tobago dollar (TT\$)

Time Zone: EST +1; GMT -4

Climate: The average temperature is about 30 degrees Celcius (89 degrees Fahrenheit).

Religion: Freedom of religion is enshrined in Trinidad and Tobago's Constitution and all faiths are represented in our islands. June is observed as the holy month of Ramadan by Muslims and a prayer room is available for conference participants.

Banking & Business: Banks are open Monday to Thursday, 8am-2pm and Friday, 8am-1pm & 3pm-5pm. Banks located in shopping plazas and malls are the exception with business hours from 11am-6pm. As a rule, the day starts at 8am and ends at 4pm, from Monday to Friday at most government departments and private business. Shops open from 8am-5pm from Monday to Saturday - except for stores in malls, which are open from 10am-7pm. Most malls and shops are closed on Sundays and Public Holidays.



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- Taxes:** Hotel Tax: This tax of 10 percent is standard to all hotels and guesthouses in Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, hotels may add other fees.
Value Added Tax: Referred to as VAT, this is a 15 percent tax added to goods and services. The prices displayed in stores usually include this tax, unless otherwise stated. Companies registered to charge VAT must prominently display their Certificate of Registration.
- Electricity:** 110/220 volts, 60 Hz. If this voltage is different from your home country, some hotels offer adapters to their guests.
- Telecommunications:** The international dialling code for Trinidad and Tobago is 1-868 followed by seven digits. On the islands, use the seven digits only.
Cellular Service: With two cellular phone service providers in Trinidad and Tobago - Digicel and the Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago (TSTT) - it is easy to stay connected. Cellular service covers both islands and is capable of supporting a wide range of services, including wireless. Both companies also provide roaming facilities. Phones or sim cards can be purchased from licensed dealers.
- Driving:** To drive you will need a valid international driver's permit or one issued in The Bahamas, Canada, England, France, Germany or the United States of America. This permit is valid for 90 days after arrival. Seatbelts are required for drivers and front-seat passengers.
- Air Bridge:** There is a regular air service, or air bridge, between Trinidad and Tobago, with roughly 20 daily flights. Flights on the air bridge cost US\$24 one way or US\$48 return. You can purchase tickets online or at the airport counter.
- Ferry:** A daily ferry service provides transport for passengers, vehicles and cargo between Port of Spain and Scarborough. Services on board the vessels include dining and bars. The crossing takes approximately 2 ½ hours. Return tickets cost TT\$100 (about US\$16) for the fast ferry and TT\$75 (about US\$12) for a place aboard the conventional vessel Warrior Spirit. The cost of transporting a vehicle incurs a separate charge based on the type, model, size and weight. Tickets are not available for purchase online, but can be bought at the Government Shipping Service Terminal, Wrightson Road, Port of Spain (opposite the Central Bank Towers and within walking distance of the Hyatt) and selected travel agents

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

- Q.** How do I get to the Hyatt from the airport?
- A.** The Organising Committee provides complimentary transfers from the airport on all arrival and departure days. At Piarco, authorised taxi drivers are usually positioned just outside the customs area in the airport terminal. The regular fare to Port of Spain is US\$30-35, with higher rates after 10pm. You can also rent a car from auto rental agencies situated at the airport terminal. Avoid travelling with persons offering transport outside the terminal building. Taxis are available from the hotel to the airport - you may contact the concierge to arrange.

- Q.** What is the acceptable rate for tipping?
- A.** This is left to your own discretion; however, you can follow the guidelines below:
- Taxi Drivers: 10% of the fare
 - Service Staff at a Restaurant: 10 to 15 % of total bill
 - Spa Attendants: 10% of total bill.
- Q.** What type of clothing should I pack?
- A.** For business days, suits, shirts, ties, blazers and jackets, skirt suits and dresses are appropriate. For day trips, comfortable, light clothing is recommended, but pack a light sweater/shawl as it can get quite cool in the evening. See page 14 for recommended wear for each event. Please note it is illegal in Trinidad and Tobago for civilians to wear camouflage clothing.
- Q.** Can I use foreign currency to pay for goods and services?
- A.** US dollars are widely accepted in Trinidad and Tobago at approximately TT\$6 to US\$1. It is advisable to change your money to our official currency, the TT dollar, on arrival. You can reconvert any currency before your departure. Most ATMs will give advances on credit cards in TT dollars and banks will convert your cash.

WATER TAXI SERVICE

Looking for a comfortable, hassle-free and scenic commute into Trinidad and Tobago's capital of Port of Spain from the southern city of San Fernando? The Organising Committee will provide complimentary return tickets for registered conference participants on Friday 25th and Saturday 27th, June.

A relatively new service, the Water offers sixteen (16) daily sailings between San Fernando and Port of Spain.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Ambulance/Fire	990
Directory Assistance	6411
Emergency Health Services	811
Local and Overseas Assistance	0
Police	999, 555
Port of Spain General Hospital	623-2951/2952
Tobago, General Information/Emergency	211

Our Sponsors

The official launch of the ICAC 33rd Annual Caribbean Conference of Accountants was held at the HYATT Regency, Trinidad & Tobago, on Friday 27th February, 2015. At this event, Platinum level conference sponsors, EY, Deloitte, KPMG, PwC and Gold Sponsor, CPA – Canada, made cheque presentations to the ICAC President, Frank Myers.

Additional sponsors are: Grant Thornton (Platinum), KCL Capital Market Brokers Limited, Kudos International Network, PKF Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors and Ricky Rampersad Branch – Guardian Life of The Caribbean Limited (Bronze) and Aegis Business Solutions, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Atlantic LNG Company of Trinidad and Tobago, Caribbean Airlines Limited and Massy United Insurance Limited (Other Sponsors).



In photograph:

Standing (L – R): Derek Mohammed, Lead Audit Partner, Deloitte; Misha Lobban Clarke, CEO, ICAC; Frank V. Myers, President ICAC; Anthony Pierre, Council Member ICATT & Conference Chair; Kerry-Ann Chevalier, Assurance Director, PwC; Christopher Hornby, Audit & Tax Partner, KPMG.

Sitting (L – R): Brenda Lee Tang, Head of ACCA Caribbean; Pria Narinesingh, President ICATT & Assurance Partner, EY; Nancy Foran, Vice – President, CPA – Canada; Esther Le Gendre, GM, ICATT.

18

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