

**ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS)**  
**27<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM (SCST-27)**

Managua, Republic of Nicaragua: July 9<sup>th</sup> 2016  
Holiday Inn Convention Center

**STRENGTHENING OF CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE TOURISM SECTOR**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Regional Consultation Workshop on Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in the Tourism Sector was held in Panama City, Republic of Panama on November 12, 2015.

The workshop was held as part of the follow up actions to the Training for Careers in Sustainable Tourism Project and was attended by the following Regional and International organisations: the French Development Agency (AFD) as the ACS partner in this initiative; the Caribbean Association of National Training Authorities (CANTA); the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO); the Pan-American Confederation of Hospitality and Tourism Schools (CONPEHT); the International Labour Organisation (ILO); the Inter-American Centre for Knowledge Development in Vocational Training (ILO-CINTERFOR); the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Secretariat of Central American Tourism Integration (SITCA).

The workshop also received logistical support from the Panama Tourism Authority (ATP) and was attended by the Guatemalan Tourism Institute (INGUAT) in its capacity as Chairman of the SCST.

The results of the workshop included the approval of the Regional Framework for TVET for the tourism sector and the establishment of a Regional Working Group on TVET, for the purpose of establishing strategic alliances to strengthen Capacity Building. As follow up to this consultation, the DST has completed the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Regional Framework, which has been forwarded to the members of the Working Group as an initial step for planning the execution of the activities proposed.

In order to consolidate strategic alliances in the area of TVET, in April 2016, the ACS signed an agreement of understanding with the Pan-American Confederation of Hospitality and Tourism Schools (CONPEHT), which comprises approximately 90 educational centres from Latin America and Spain.

The Student Exchange Programme for the Promotion of the Languages and Cultures of the Greater Caribbean was carried out with support from the Guadeloupe

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International Centre for Language Learning (CIGAREL), facilitating linguistic and cultural immersion by establishing agreements among the language teaching institutions of the Region.

The first phase of this programme was implemented from December 6-17, 2015, with participation from thirty six (36) students from three countries: Costa Rica, Dominica and Guatemala, with one coordinator in each group, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to thirty nine (39).

With respect to Tourism Security, the Regional Working Group was created, having among its agreements, the exchange of information and experiences in the following areas: Capacity Building, Crisis Management and Destination Image Recovery.