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**PRESS RELEASE**

**15<sup>th</sup> CGCS OFFICIAL LAUNCH**

**Bridgetown, Barbados, June 5, 2008.** Senator the Honourable Maxine McClean, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Mr. Philip Williams, Executive Director of the Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) will be the featured speakers at the official launch of the 15<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Gift and Craft Show (CGCS) on Wednesday June 11, at 9.00 am at the Sherbourne Conference Centre. The 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary show, organised by Caribbean Export takes place from October 2-5, at the Sherbourne Conference Centre.

**'Celebrating Handmade Designs and Caribbean Traditions'** is the theme for this 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary show, and according to Veona Maloney, Caribbean Export's Manager, Core Services, it was selected "in recognition that a handcrafted product often has a story, inspiring origin, or close connection to the designer, and respect for and dedication to quality, design and creativity, sets handcrafted items apart from mass-produced merchandise."

The inspiring handcrafted products and cultures of the English, French, Spanish and Dutch Caribbean, and the show's 'Embracing Design Division' which will showcase the creativity and ingenuity of the fresh untapped talents of a cadre of young regional designers, vying for the 'Best New Designer Award' in the Best of Show Awards, are just some of the show's attractions noted Ms Maloney.

She further noted 'Onsite Caribbean' a new and exciting collection of home accessories developed by eight (8) companies from Barbados, Haiti, Dominica and Jamaica will also have its regional launch at the show, "and this should appeal to the regional and international buyers and members of the public attending the show."

FirstCaribbean International Bank is the main corporate sponsor of the CGCS and will be participating in the Barbados launch and in the upcoming official launch in Saint Lucia scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **About Caribbean Export**

Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) is a regional trade and investment organisation of the Forum of Caribbean States (CARIFORUM). Caribbean Export's mission is to increase the competitiveness of Caribbean countries by providing quality trade and investment development and promotion services through effective programme execution and strategic partnerships.

More information about Caribbean Export can be found at [www.carib-export.com](http://www.carib-export.com).  
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