

Jamaica, Mexico Sign New Air Service Agreement

Jamaica and Mexico have signed on to a new bilateral civil aviation agreement, which will allow for improved air service between the two countries.

The Air Service Agreement was signed at the Rose Hall Resort and Spa, Montego Bay, Thursday (November 5), by Jamaica's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Dr. Kenneth Baugh, and Mexico's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Patricia Espinosa Cantellano.

It was signed during Jamaica's hosting of two regional foreign ministers meetings, November 4-6, in Montego Bay: the meeting of Foreign Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean (CALC); and the meeting of the Rio Group.

Dr. Baugh said he was pleased with the agreement, which is a revised version of a 1975 agreement between both countries. "In the context of closer ties and intensifying our integration and economic co-operation, of building economic space and markets, creating jobs, exports and a better quality of life for all peoples of the region, Jamaica recognizes that the air transport sector is a critical vehicle for economic growth and development, making this agreement of particular importance for both countries," he stated.

Dr. Baugh added that, as both governments strive to keep abreast of the impact of globalization and the current financial crisis, their attainment of sustainable economic growth needs to be based on a pragmatic approach, which maximizes potential areas such as the service sector.

The aviation industry has been identified as one of those service sectors which offer viable means of economic growth, as well as facilitating other sectors through distribution of goods and services to compliment production and consumption, he noted.

He said that Jamaica intends to make full use of the limitless options offered in the agreement, especially in tourism and trade, and encouraged Mexico to do the same.

Ambassador Espinosa Cantellano stated that Mexico attaches great importance to the agreement. She pointed to the complexities that currently affect commercial flights between the two countries, adding that Mexico is committed to changing the situation.