

Caricom to Launch ID Cards for Regional Travel

Members of a Caribbean trade bloc will issue identification cards next year to expedite travel within the region, officials said Friday.

Scanners are being installed at several airports that will allow passengers to swipe their cards after checking in with airlines to avoid long lines at immigration checkpoints, according to a Caricom statement.

Participating countries include Jamaica, Trinidad, Antigua and Guyana. Those not yet enrolled are the Bahamas, Suriname, Haiti and others.

Caricom warned that people still have to carry passports if they plan to travel outside the Caribbean.

The card known as Caripass is valid for up to three years and will be issued to those 16 and older who are residents of participating nations. It is about the size of a credit card.

Caricom spokesman Shabaka Kambon said he did not immediately know the cost of the project that is part of a larger push for economic integration within the region.