

September/October 2009

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- LIAT to review high airfares
- Ogle Airstrip now declared as an International port.
- Amazonia tourism strategy in the pipeline.
- First Resource book on butterflies in Guyana published.
- Common Amazonia Tourism Product(CATP)
- Official Commissioning of the Takutu Bridge
- New guest house opens in Orealla
- 'Guyana – A journey into the Jurassic' by John Gimlette
- Surfair 2009
- Tourist arrivals continue to show growth

## Ogle Airstrip now declared as an International port.



Ogle airstrip, once a small aircraft port now becomes an international port of entry, primarily for regional flights to and from the Caribbean and neighboring countries. The runway was extended from 2,500 feet to 4,000 feet; a new terminal facility was put in place, improved facilities for customs, immigration, air traffic controls, and health and fire services was also built. This new development will make accessibility to

Georgetown by regional airlines easier.

## Official Commissioning of the Takutu Bridge

The Government of Guyana and Government of Brazil during the month of September 2009 commissioned the newly built Takutu River Bridge. The bridge which links Guyana to Brazil will definitely enhance cooperation between the two countries in the areas of trade, tourism and cultural exchanges. Guyana stands to benefit greatly from this new development and the tourism potential of both Lethem and the State of Roraima will be taken to newer levels. With ACTO's intention to create a Common Amazonia Tourism Product within the Amazon, this link will definitely fast tract this initiative for the Amazon since Guyana can act as the Capital of the Caribbean to South America.



## New guest house opens in Orealla



The Hon. Manniram Prashad, Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2009 officially

commissioned a 15-room guest house in the Orealla community. The guest house which is owned by Corentyne River Tours (Courtours) is situated near the waterfront overlooking the Corentyne River and has transformed the Orealla community to a new tourism spot in Guyana. The guest house has hammocks

## LIAT to review high airfares.

CEO of LIAT, Brian Challenger, announced at a press conference in Curacao that the current airfares for LIAT are too high. Challenger told media houses at the press conference that high rentals and high taxes by Caribbean governments are partly responsible for the high airfares. The Guyana government is in constant engagement with airlines plying the Guyana route to discuss airfares matter affecting passengers.

## Amazonia tourism strategy in the pipeline.

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) Tourism Coordinator, Mr. Donald Sinclair informed participants at a workshop, aimed to form alliances between Guyana and other Tourism regulating bodies within the Amazon basin, that "Guyana's contribution to the Amazon Tourism Strategy for 2010-2014 is vital". Guyana, he said is still relatively unknown to many South American countries in spite of Guyana being a part of the powerful image called the Amazon. ACTO's mission is to create an Amazonia Tourism Vision and that is why the year 2009 was declared 'Destination Amazonia Year'. The strategy that is currently being drafted will hopefully enhance the competitiveness of the Amazon as a geo-tourist destination. Guyana will have to quickly adapt by promoting multi – lingual learning and improve services for tourists.

facilities, a benab and three (3)-rooms fitted with air conditioner, and will serve as a stopover for tourists.

## Tourist arrivals continue to show growth

Tourist arrivals for the month of August and September have shown a positive growth as compared to last year. Overall there was a 9.4 % growth up to September 2009 this is a big achievement for a relatively small and unknown tourist destination. Despite the economic downturn and challenges that other tourist dependent nations are facing, Guyana has seen some positive growth from the sector. The positive trend is expected to continue and will surpass last year's figure with the Christmas holiday season approaching.

## First Resource book on butterflies in Guyana published.

A field guide entitled "An introduction to Butterflies of the Iwokrama Forest and Communities of the North Rupununi District, Guyana, South America" is available for butterfly lovers to learn more on the different species found in the North Rupununi and the Iwokrama rainforest reserve. The field guide is a product of the project 'Biodiversity and Sustainable Development of Butterfly Production in Guyana' by the Darwin Initiative. The guide is the first of such in Guyana and consists of 131 pages featuring butterflies found in Iwokrama and North Rupununi District. The Darwin's project main objective was to disseminate butterfly farming techniques to 16 communities from Iwokrama and North Rupununi and it is expected that with this new development of the butterfly farming industry, more tourists will visit Guyana, and the livelihoods of individuals within these communities will be enhanced.

## Guyana to host ACTO 5<sup>th</sup> Technical Meeting

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) 5<sup>th</sup> Technical Meeting is scheduled to be hosted in Guyana during Tourism Awareness Month which will be celebrated in November 2009. This meeting will bring representatives from member countries of the ACTO community to discuss ways in which ACTO can forge partnership to market the Amazon as a geo-tourist destination and to collectively brand the Amazon to promote tourism development.

## **"Affordable Kaieteur Package" to help promote Domestic Tourism**

Roraima Airways has launched a US\$150 Kaieteur special to help promote domestic tourism. This package is being offered to both local and overseas tourists who would like to visit the Majestic Kaieteur. The offer ends in December and trips are scheduled for every Saturday and Sunday, however offers are on a first-come first-serve basis.

## **Guyanese Summer Evening held in London.**

Following another successful representation at this year British Birdwatching Fair 2009, Guyana's tourism potential was highlighted at the Guyanese Summer Event held in London. More than 100 tour operators, media representatives, and Guyanese were treated to an evening of Guyanese Hospitality, video, food and snacks, El Dorado Rum and presentations. Some of the presenters were Diane Mc Turk who spoke about Karanambu, Mr. John Gimlette who talked about his off-the-beaten path travels in Guyana, Chairman of Iwokrama Board of Trustee Mr. Edward Glover, the Hon. Laleswar Singh Guyana High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Tony Thorne of Wilderness Explorers and Judy Karwacki of GSTI.

## **Tourism drive extend to the Corentyne River**

The Ministry of Tourism is looking to create more awareness and establish of new tourism hot spots in Guyana. This was evident when the Ministry teamed up with a local investor in the Corentyne area to host the first ever Orella Regatta. The regatta which saw participation from Demerara and Essequibo had attracted a large turnout. There were many activities that took place for the entire day including Canoe racing, different categories of boat racing, cultural performances, and donation of sport gears to the Orella community by Cortours. Tourism Minister, Hon. Manniram Prashad at a formal presentation in 'recognizing the partnership to hosting the regatta', noted that he is very satisfied with the investments made in tourism along the Corentyne River and urged other potential investors to take up the challenge to better promote Guyana's tourism drive. He further stated that tourism is still relatively new to Guyana and the country is not too dependent on it as a major income earner but is getting there and there is need for alternatives especially when Guyana is gaining international recognition as a new emerging tourist destination.

## **'Guyana – A journey into the Jurassic' by John Gimlette**

John Gimlette, a British travel writer, once again wrote an article on Destination Guyana for 'The Daily Telegraph' August 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 edition. Mr. Gimlette, who was in Guyana earlier this year had spent more than 40 days travelling extensively throughout the Rupununi Savannahs. He described Guyana in his article as "a garden built by God, inhabited by survivors and where life is lived to the fullest". His earlier article on Guyana was featured in the April/May magazine, 'Wanderlust' under the heading 'In God's Garden'. His visit to Guyana was sponsored by the Guyana Tourism Authority, Wilderness Explorers and other private sector entities. According to GTA's Director, Mr. Indranauth Haralsingh, it is stories like these by Mr. Gimlette which keeps Guyana in the spotlight and he wishes if other international travel writers can do the same for Guyana.

## **Guyexpo 2009 a grand success**



Guyana largest trade and investment fair (GUYEXPO) which was successfully held for six days at the National Exhibition Centre ended with positive impacts. These were the feelings of exhibitors who showcased their products at this year expo. First timers were encouraged by the positive feedback they got from visitors at their booth while repeat exhibitors pledged that they will always take part in Guyexpo since this is an opportunity for them to display their products. Many exhibitors claimed that Guyexpo help them to reach new customers and create better relationships with other sectors. Many businesses are looking forward for Guyexpo 2010.

## Rockstone Fish Festival promised to be better

The fourth annual fish festival at Rockstone was held on for October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at Rockstone, a small community about 18 miles from Linden. Rockstone is the fishing ground to the famous peacock bass, the Arapima, the nearby islands to Rockstone has more than 140 species of birds and a natural habitat for the world's largest otters, the Giant river otter, howler monkeys, river turtles, iguanas and the black caimans. The Rockstone area is very popular and was featured in the National Geographic in year 2003. The community is working to improve facilities within the community and is gearing to transform the Rockstone area into a massive sport fishing hot spot in Guyana. In 2008, there were more than 8,000 persons who attended the festival and this year with improved facilities, the fish festival has attracted hundreds more.

## Deepavali Celebrations

Guyana join the rest of the Hindu world in celebrating Deepavali (the festival of lights) with several motorcades countrywide , cultural shows and religious ceremonies in many temples . The festival which is celebrated in Guyana and is a national holiday has been appreciated by many Guyanese from all walks of life. The significance of this festival is simply the removing of darkness from the life of mankind. Thousand of Guyanese flock the Georgetown seawall all the way up the LBI centre ground just to have a glimpse of the beautifully lighted vehicles. Houses and streets were decorated with lighted diyas and sweet meats were prepared by Hindus as offerings.

## Guyexpo 2009



Please feel free to contact us and let us know how we can improve our newsletter.

**Guyana Tourism Authority**  
National Exhibition Centre, Sophia  
TEL: (592) 219 0094-6  
FAX: (592) 219 0093  
EMAIL: [info@guyana-tourism.com](mailto:info@guyana-tourism.com)  
Website: [www.guyana-tourism.com](http://www.guyana-tourism.com)  
[www.guyanabirding.com](http://www.guyanabirding.com)

**Plant a tree today for tomorrow**