

Messages from the SICA nations

By H.E. FEDERICO ALBERTO CUELLO CAMILO

AMBASSADOR OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED KINGDOM



From our history books we all know the crucial role the UK had in the independence of most Latin American countries. With the Rt Hon William Hague, MP, a renowned historian, as Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Central America benefits from the renewed priority given to Latin America in British Foreign Policy. We are most grateful to

the Rt Hon Hugo Swire, MP, Minister of State for Asia, Latin America and the Commonwealth, for his enthusiastic involvement with Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panamá, the member countries of SICA. His generous support to our high-level business conference at Lancaster House, allowed us to enjoy the assistance of Chris Bennett at the Central American Business Council. A written record of our collective efforts is made possible by the outstanding efforts of Rupert Goodman and Jacques Arnold of FIRST Magazine. On behalf of the SICA Member countries, I beg you all to receive our deepest appreciation, extensive to all of your collaborators. **F**

By H.E. PERLA PERDOMO

HIGH COMMISSIONER OF BELIZE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM



The Caribbean gateway to Central America, Belize is strategically located to offer investors unique and wide-ranging investment opportunities. The only English-speaking country in Central America with historical ties to England reflected in its judicial system, Belize boasts political and economic stability. The Government proudly fosters an

investor-friendly tax environment with preferential trade agreements and attractive fiscal incentives and concessions. The fast-growing tourism sector represents 28 per cent of Belize's GDP and continues to attract visitors and investors alike. Just as rapid in growth is the Business Processing Outsourcing industry, making Belize a preferred destination for companies seeking a young, skilled, dual-language (English/Spanish) workforce. Efforts in the energy sector, furthermore, reflect Belize's goal of environmental sustainability in seeking to transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy and to decrease energy intensity. Belize welcomes investments in these areas and more not only to build Belize but also to help achieve regional and global goals. **F**

By H.E. IVAN ROMERO-MARTINEZ

AMBASSADOR OF HONDURAS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM



Through the "UK-Central America New Business Opportunities" initiative the SICA member countries would like to once again express we are a region of wealth and of many possibilities.

Honduras is a strategic location, it has a modern port structure, it has direct access to key markets, has successfully worked with Free Trade Agreements and Alliances, possesses a dynamic work force, is a great opportunity for emerging markets and it has a favourable investment climate. Honduras offers an innovative "Zones for Economic Development and Employment" (ZEDE) that can be established anywhere in the country that meets international standards.

The EU-CA Agreement with the European Union is a clear incentive for trade and investment in our countries.

We would like to invite you to make the best of Honduras. We invite you to come and visit and invest in our country. **F**

By H.E. GUISELL MORALES-ECHAVERRY

AMBASSADOR OF NICARAGUA TO THE UNITED KINGDOM



During 2013, renowned international media has portrayed Nicaragua as an ideal destination for its unspoiled natural beauty, joyful people, rich heritage, and abundant investment opportunities. In this context, The American Cities of the Future 2013/14 Report published by the Financial Times, ranked Managua, Nicaragua's capital city,

third in the hemisphere in the category of strategy for attracting foreign direct investment.

Thanks to the economic and social stability; the high levels of citizen security; the diversification of trading partners; the Government policies to improve the country's business climate; its generous fiscal incentives and solid legal framework; Nicaragua has been one the most dynamic economies in the region, with the highest growth rate of FDI inflows: 33 per cent in 2012 and 17 per cent in 2013.

With a wide range of business opportunities in Forestry, Manufacturing, Agribusiness, Energy and Infrastructure projects, such as the interoceanic canal, Nicaragua is the ideal future destination for your business. **F**

By H.E. ANA IRENE DELGADO


AMBASSADOR OF PANAMA TO THE UNITED KINGDOM



Panama has brought people from many countries over the decades to create a nation of a rich mix of cultures. The most important event in the history of Panama was the opening of the Canal in 1904 which established Panama as the world's crossroads.

Panama is one of the most developed countries of Latin America, with a healthy and effective democratic system; it is considered a very safe and prosperous country. Its service-based economy, mainly in the tourism industry; the Panama Canal and the International Banking Centre make it a highly successful country.

Panama's GDP is growing, at a healthy 7 per cent, and its unemployment rate is still at historical lows, due to several factors such as the Panama Canal Expansion Project, new underground system, roads and hundreds of residential construction works. Panama has been known for its professional and responsible administration of the world's largest and longest serving open registry and we have a strong commitment to the IMO as members of its Council.

Panama has put huge effort into creating the environment that allows companies to take full advantage of Panama's strategic position to have a base in the Latin American Market. Panama has a special regime for the establishment of Regional Headquarters of Multinational Enterprises and has created a special zone for the establishment and operations of Free Trade Areas. 

By H.E. PILAR SABORIO DE ROCAFORT

AMBASSADOR OF COSTA RICA TO THE UNITED KINGDOM




It is a pleasure to share some of the reasons why we are proud to promote Costa Rica as a place for investment:

More than 250 multinational companies are operating in Costa Rica. We have an exceptionally talented and bilingual young workforce. On average 95 per cent of the employees in multinational companies are local. We have preferential

access platform to a third of the world's population, and two thirds of worldwide GDP. Eighty-seven per cent of goods exports are made through free trade agreements.

We have an excellent business climate based on a renowned democratic tradition, economic and political stability. Over 90 per cent of energy is renewable; electricity costs are low and guaranteed; and telecommunications access is abundant.

Quality of life in Costa Rica is high. It ranks 6th in term of per capita GDP in Latin America. It's one of the safest country in the region and amongst the top 5 environmental performers. 


By H.E. WERNER MATÍAS ROMERO

AMBASSADOR OF EL SALVADOR TO THE UNITED KINGDOM



El Salvador is delighted to be part of this Central American conference, and proud to be the host country of SICA's General Secretariat, where all integration efforts begin.

During recent years, trade and investment between El Salvador and the United Kingdom have thrived. The re-opening of the British Embassy has given British companies more confidence to do business in our country.


Our strategic location in the center of our continent, high quality logistics infrastructure, trade agreements, political stability and incentives to investors, give unique opportunities for businesses that want to seize the Central American market, and to expand to other important ones in North and South America. 

By H.E. ACISCLO VALLADARES MOLINA

AMBASSADOR OF GUATEMALA TO THE UNITED KINGDOM



Guatemala showcases its own entrepreneurs as the best example for investment in SICA, given the excellent returns obtained through the region. The sugar industry is an unrivalled case: developed thoroughly in the last 20 years and currently holding the Executive Director's chair of the International Sugar Organisation.

With an impeccable record in foreign investment protection, a key geography and location, a true belief in free market and the role of commerce to reach development Guatemala and SICA are the ideal platform to access its integrated market and many others through the different FTA's subscribed with some of the most important economies in the world. Our doors are open! 



The Central American Integration System
Peace – Development – Liberty – Democracy