



## HR conference to tackle tough times

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The Cayman Islands Society of Human Resources Professionals has announced the speaker line up for its annual professional development conference on 7 May 2009, tailored to providing strategies for managing in an economic downturn.

The one day event – being held at the Grand Cayman Marriott Beach Resort – is targeted at business leaders and senior managers, in addition to human resource professionals and business owners.

This year's conference theme, "If the bubble bursts... how will you manage and motivate your talent," is focused on the HR challenges facing businesses in light of the economic climate.

CISHRP has reduced the registration fee to demonstrate its knowledge that all businesses are being asked to do more with less.

"We are extremely excited about this year's conference and feel it is relevant to what is currently going on in the Cayman Islands," said Conference Chair Samantha Bennett.

As with prior years, CISHRP has organised a programme featuring a combination of prominent local professionals in addition to top international experts.

Conference keynote speaker will be Dorothy Hill, SPHR, Field Services Director in the Southeast Region for the US-based Society of Human Resources Management. Ms Hill is based in Vero Beach, Florida and is responsible for programmes in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi as well as Bermuda, The Bahamas, Puerto Rico, and St. Croix.

Ms Hill will be discussing: "HR competencies – setting the stage for success," and will conduct a workshop for attendees on how to identify these competencies and how to integrate them into their organisations.

Mr. Doug Soares, founding partner of Expertise, Bermuda's largest consulting firm specialising in human resource management and who was the keynote speaker at last year's CISHRP conference, will return.

Mr. Soares will be discussing "Cutting people costs without cutting people," and will conduct a workshop that will identify strategies for reducing personnel costs without resorting to redundancies. Other speakers include Mr. Walling Whittaker who will discuss: "Don't think pay, think total compensation," and Mr. John Harvey who will discuss: "Performance management in good times and bad."

A new feature in the conference programme will be the HR Open Forum which will comprise a panel of experts who will answer human resources-related questions.

This year's panel will include Mr. Franz Manderson, Chief Immigration Officer; Mr. Lonny Tibbetts, Director of Employment Relations; Mr. Cyril

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Theriault, Superintendent of Pensions; and Mr. Mervyn Conolly, Superintendent of Health Insurance.

CISHRP has also brought back the HR Marketplace, a social event held the evening before the conference.

**FYI**

Vendors interested in participating by sponsoring a table at the HR Marketplace can call 916-3742 for details.

Registration for the event includes attendance to the one-day conference, lunch, refreshments, conference bags sponsored by Bank of Butterfield; CISHRP polo shirts sponsored by ICO Uniforms; and other CISHRP giveaways.

For further information on the conference, contact Meaghan Mitchell at 949-1345, ext. 128, Samantha Bennett at 916-3742, [registration@cishrp.ky](mailto:registration@cishrp.ky) or log on to [www.cishrp.ky](http://www.cishrp.ky).



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