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## **SUPPORT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.**

The Cayman Islands Chamber of Commerce was established in 1965 and is a non-profit organisation that exists to Support, Promote and Protect Cayman business and the wider community. We proudly represent more than 700 businesses and associations from every major industry sector and have recently expanded our operations to include a Visitors Centre.

## PRESS RELEASE

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### 2013 Leadership Cayman Opening Retreat - Exceeds Expectations

The 2013 Leadership Cayman (LC) Opening Retreat took place at The Reef Resort in East End on January 18 and 19. This premier leadership programme is in its fourth year and has once again attracted an exceptional group of men and women from a variety of industries and backgrounds within the Cayman Islands.

The Opening Retreat is designed to introduce participants to the philosophy behind the programme which has been developed to enhance leadership skills and allow graduates to assume more effective roles in meeting community needs. The 25 LC members were welcomed by Leadership Cayman chair for 2013, Sheena Thompson.

**“ This year’s Opening Retreat exceeded my every expectation. We were delighted to have Dr.**

Hammerschmidt come back to facilitate the retreat again this year. Dr. Hammerschmidt has been a part of the Leadership Cayman family since the launch of the programme and he is a dynamic and interactive facilitator who truly makes the opening retreat a special and worthwhile opportunity for personal and professional development. The 2013 class is an enthusiastic and fun group that was receptive to the key learnings. I believe this was an excellent start to the 2013 Leadership Cayman programme and I am looking forward to working the class over the coming months.” commented Sheena Thompson , 2013 Leadership Cayman Chair.

Visiting facilitator for the two-day retreat was Dr. Peter K. Hammerschmidt, President of Leadership Consulting Services, Inc. who has been advising executives in leadership, innovative problem-solving, and teamwork for three decades. He conducts training in a range of leadership disciplines including the Franklin Covey “Seven Habits of Highly Effective People,” “Principle-Centered Leadership,” and “First Things First.” Peter is also a Professor of Economics at Eckerd College and a Senior Trainer and Research Associate on the faculty of the College’s Leadership Development Institute: an affiliate of The Center for Creative Leadership.

**“At the Opening Retreat this year’s leadership class displayed a fun loving energy as they tackled the various challenges and tasks in the opening programme. It was quite clear to me, as I observed them**



interact, that they will apply their diverse talents, styles, and perspectives to collaboratively create a better Cayman Islands community. Their commitment to the Cayman Islands and their ability to work together for the common good will serve the Cayman Islands now, and well into the future” said Dr. Peter K. Hammerschmidt, Opening Retreat Facilitator . **He added** “The Chamber and the Planning Committee must be commended for their work in creating and supporting this ongoing programme. Indeed ... it was my very real pleasure to connect once again with the Leadership Cayman Islands Alumni group as well. The Alumni serve as the foundation for this ongoing programme that just keeps getting better and better. Well done! **All the best to you and the Leadership Cayman Class of 2013.**”

The retreat consisted of a series of presentations, problem solving and team building activities, and **included the provision of customized reports on each member’s leadership style.**

“I thoroughly enjoyed the opening retreat. **I don’t think I’ve ever gotten to know 25 people so fast in my life, and this within a very diverse group. I also love staying at the Reef, so it doesn’t hurt that the event takes place in a true quiet tropical paradise setting.**” commented Bill Fleury, 2013 LC class member. **He added** “**Even after I have been to a 7-day leadership development offsite in the past (at CCL Colorado), I still took away very valuable lessons from this one and a half day experience that I will be able to utilize in my professional life.**”

“The retreat was a remarkable experience. Dr. Hammerschmidt workshop offered us a unique approach to creative problem solving and team building. I left with a greater awareness of personality traits and how to collaborate to achieve a collective goal. The workshop was a great start to the Leadership Cayman platform; the skills learned will assist us all with our team building and personnel management both in and outside of Leadership Cayman. Colleen Cummings, 2013 LC class member.

#### About Leadership Cayman

The LC programme typically involves two evening seminars a month (every other Wednesday) and class members must attend nine out of the eleven seminars in order to graduate. Seminar topics for the 2013 year will include Media in our Community, Criminal Justice, Education & Workforce Development, Sister Islands Perspective, Immigration, Cayman Islands Government, Human Services & Health Care, Financial Services, Stay over & Cruise Tourism, Infrastructure & The Environment, and Culture & Heritage. Seminars will include expert guest speakers from the Cayman Islands. The first seminar will be on February 6 and will focus on Media where participants will learn how various media operate and the influence they have on our business and personal lives.

The programme could not survive without committed sponsors and the Chamber of Commerce acknowledges Cayman National Bank, Deloitte, RBC, Tower Marketing, CML Recruitment, CGA Caribbean and Cayman Airways Limited for pledging their support for 2013.





The Chamber is actively seeking sponsorships for the seminars in 2013 and persons or organizations interested in becoming a sponsor for the Leadership Cayman programme are encouraged to contact [tiffany.ebanks@caymanchamber.ky](mailto:tiffany.ebanks@caymanchamber.ky).

The 2013 LC class members are Dana Arch, Managing Director, Arch Solar Ltd.; Julius Aurelio, Audit Project Leader, Office of the Auditor General; Barry Bodden, Managing Director, Island Paving (1985) Ltd.; Erin Bodden, Project and Marketing Manager, Cayman Islands Tourism Association; James Clark, Financial Controller, Cayman Free Press; Mesha Christian, Vice President, Intertrust Cayman; Victor Crumbley, Consultant, Greenlight RE; Colleen Cummings, Property Manager, Dart Realty (Cayman) Ltd.; Timothy Dilbert, Senior Database Administrator, Rawlinson & Hunter; Jody Powery-Dilbert, Associate, Ogier; Derran Ebanks, Assistant Manager, Cayman National Corporation; Ceili Fitzgerald, Human Resources Manager, RBC Wealth Management; Bill Fleury, General Manager and Chief Operations Officer, Chamber Pension Plan; Lindsey Gordon, Recruitment Manager, SteppingStones Recruitment Ltd.; Victoria Hew, Director, Human Resources, Walkers Global; Tammy Jennissen, Senior Vice President, MaplesFS Ltd.; Joanne Lawson, Senior Manager, Organisational Development and Administration, Dart Enterprises Ltd.; Dan MacLean, Managing Director, Aon; Maria McLean, General Manager, The Security Centre Ltd.; Lynn Merizalde-Orobio, Director of Finance and Administration, KPMG; Laurie Mernett, Director, Assurance & Advisory Services, Deloitte; Valerie Mullen, Director, UBS Trustees (Cayman) Ltd.; Brenton Rankin, Project Manager, Dart Realty (Cayman) Ltd.; Shomari Scott, Director of Tourism, Cayman Islands Department of Tourism; and Aleksei Masiuk, Assurance Senior, PwC.

