

### THE SXM AIRPOR IORIZON NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2018





ABOVE L TO R - Station Manager, Ilonka Heisterkamp, Interim Director of the St. Maarten Tourist Bureau, May - Ling Chun and Copa crew

### **COPA AIRLINES RESUMES SERVICE TO ST. MAARTEN**

Copa Airlines, a subsidiary of Copa Holdings, SA {NYSE: CPA}, and member of the global airline network Star Alliance, resumed its operations to St. Maarten on June 2 with two weekly flights, connecting the Caribbean island with 77 destinations in 31 countries of the American continent through the Hub of the Americas, located in Panama City.

"Copa Airlines always trusted that St. Maarten and its inhabitants would recover from the effects

of Hurricane Irma. With the restart of our operations to the island, the economic, commercial and tourist reactivation of both St. Maarten and other surrounding areas will be promoted," said Christophe Didier, vice president of sales for Copa Airlines. "Since we started flying to St. Maarten almost eight years ago, this island has become one of the preferred destinations for our passengers to vacation in the Caribbean," Didier added. With the restart of operations to St. Maarten, Copa Airlines reaffirms its commitment to economic reactivation and the commercial and tourist development of the Caribbean, a region

that Copa attended with humanitarian flights transporting food, equipment, medicines and essential products after the Impact of Hurricane

Together with the tourism authorities of St. Maarten, Saint Martin and Anguilla, Copa Airlines will begin the promotion of the islands, with the aim of reactivating visitors to this wonderful area of the Caribbean, which will be connected to more than 60 cities in South, Central and North America thanks to the airline's network of destinations.

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WEDNESDAY

**SUNDAY** 

AG700 AUA - CUR 12:30 PM | CUR - SXM 1:30 PM AG701 SXM - CUR 3:35 PM CUR-AUA 5:40 PM

AG702 AUA - CUR 7:30 AM | CUR - SXM 8:30 PM AG703 SXM - CUR 10:45 PM | CUR - AUA 12:40 PM



After nine months of reconstruction and remodeling, Oyster Bay Beach Resort has officially reopened with almost half of its accommodations Hotel Update Post Hurricane Irma:

### **OYSTER BAY BEACH RESORT**

and all of the amenities on-line.

The resort has been taking reservations since February and most of the more than 80 available rooms were filled on opening. Although there is still availability for the upcoming months, the summer and fall season is filling up quickly.



### AIR CENTURY BEGINS SERVICE TO ST. MAARTEN

Dominican Republic airline, Air Century, started servicing SXM Airport on June 4, with its inaugural flight No. Y2-162 that departed from Santo Domingo earlier that day. With this new route, the airline, which operates from La Isabela International Airport, Dr. Joaquín Balaguer, offers more options to its customers, in addition to its current destinations in San Juan, Puerto Rico and Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. Later this month the airline will open the routes Curacao and Aruba.

"By opening these new routes, we extend a bridge of affection for all the Dominican brothers who reside in those islands full of history, music,

SXM AIRPORT CARGO
BUILDING UPDATE

The SXM Airport Cargo building sustained damages during the catastrophic hurricanes of 2017. But according to the Management of the Projects, Planning and Systems department, repairs to the damages to the west of the building are slated to begin by mid-June. Meanwhile, simultaneously the eastern side of the cargo building will continue the phase 2 process. The Cargo building is currently being used by cargo operators and for storage. Phase 1 of the reconstruction of the Cargo building was originally completed in 2016.

The Projects, Planning and Systems department of the Princess Juliana International Airport SXM provided the following updates:

- Roof Works is at 90% completion.
- Additional materials are expected to arrive on June 28, 2018.

culture, rich gastronomy and dreamy landscapes. They can now count on a real Dominican Airline!" Said Fabio Nina, Commercial director of Air Century.

He added that "The stellar moment we experienced today would not have been possible without the necessary and decisive support of the country's aeronautical authorities, to whom I express my deep gratitude, to the executives of the Princess Juliana International Airport. But mostly because of the continued preference of our valued travelers who trust in the punctuality, comfort and warmth of our service."





Marlin-Romeo, Chief Operations Officer, Michel Hyman,

Director of Operations, Luis Miguel Caceres, and Marketing



- Currently there are 4 cargo operators at the facility.
- The repairs to the Phase 1 will commence during the first week of July du to the late arrivals of materials
- The Cargo Building is slated to be completed in September 2018.



Roof repair works being done at the SXM Airport Cargo Building



### SXM BIDS FAREWELL TO CHARLENE VAN DER LINDE After 27 Years In The Airline Industry

"It has been some awesome years," said outgoing aviation manager, Charlene van der Linde as the Princess Juliana International Airport bid her farewell on May 31st, 2018 after 20 consecutive years of dedicated service to our passengers. She was employed at the Delta Airlines. Previously, she had worked as a Passenger Service Agent with Air Aruba in Curacao for 7 years.

It was the handling company of Arrindell Aviation who took a chance on the Curacao native, when

she arrived on St. Maarten in 1998.

"I really enjoyed working at the Princess Juliana International Airport — SXM and I will cherish the memories forever.

What I will miss mostly is my PJIAE family, as there's never a dull moment. As for the Island of St. Maarten, it's my favorite, you will see me around a lot, but not during the peak hurricane months," joked van der Linde.



# PJIAE AIRPORT SURVEILLANCE RADAR AND AUTOMATION REPLACEMENT PROJECT PROGRESSING ON SCHEDULE

Princess Juliana International Airport, SXM has chosen Thales as the provider of Primary/ Secondary Surveillance Radar and Automation. Thales is one of the most reputable providers of radar and automation systems worldwide. The PJIAE Air Traffic Services facility experienced catastrophic damage to its equipment during hurricane Irma.

SXM Airport has taken on the difficult task of restoring all

the equipment and components required for the safe and efficient operation of aircrafts within St. Maarten's airspace. The integration of radar, communication and navigation equipment is an essential component of the project.

The radar project involves many other logistical aspects, which included the dismantling of the dome above the Air



Traffic Control tower, removal of the existing radar antennas/ motor assembly, replacement of the components and rebuilding the dome.

"The Air Traffic Control Tower expects to be at full capacity prior to the high season of 2018/ 2019. The project is scheduled to be completed by August 2018 declared the manager of the Air Traffic Services, Gregory Hassell."



### Beach Update Post Hurricane Irma: **GREAT BAY BEACH**

Sea, Sun and Sand...The Great Bay beach is the envy of most beaches throughout the Caribbean. Most of the harbor cruise visitors take a brief ferry ride to Philipsburg to shop, have some lunch and relax on this beach.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**



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## STEFANIA KONG-GUMBS WINS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE AT 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL IS-LANDS' AIRPORT SAFETY CONFERENCE

Stefania Kong-Gumbs, Head of the Princess Juliana International Airport, SXM, delegation at the just concluded 12th Annual Is-Lands' Airport Safety Committee, (IASC) conference was presented with the Committee's first Award of Excellence at the closing of the meeting on Friday May 25, 2018 at the Simpson Bay Resort.

The Committee discussed issues related to all aspects of operational safety at aerodromes from Monday, May 21st through Friday, May 25th, 2018. The Princess Juliana International Airport-SXM- hosted the conference which attracted delegations from Antigua & Barbuda, Anguilla, Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba and Suriname. Participants also included the Section Head of the St. Maarten Civil Aviation Authority, Shaka Lake.

The conference program was designed to offer participants an opportunity to engage in interactive sessions, and observe how the SXM Airport continues to recover from the devastation and

aftermath of hurricanes Irma and Maria. The delegations engaged in the safety audit for a period of two days, as they presented its findings. The safety audit is essential as it would reveal the deficiencies that exist at the airport, by an independent non-punitive committee. The audit would serve to help SXM Airport to better

improve the standards and recommended practices mandated by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). SXM Airport will receive the written version of the audit report no later than 6 weeks after the end of the conference. The Quality Assurance Department will prioritize the high-risk findings and implement the necessary mitigation measures.



Stefania Kong-Gumbs receiving the Award of Excellence at the 12th Annual Is-Lands' Airport Safety Conference from I.A.S.C. President Mr. Dharmndra Phalai and I.A.S.C. Newly appointed Public Relations Officer Mr. Jonathan Hoepel

It was also determined that the presence of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) would be welcomed at the annual IASC meetings. The conference concluded with the closing remarks by the Director of Finance, Michael Lake on behalf of the Acting Chief Executive Officer, CEO and Chief Financial Officer, CFO, Ravi Daryanani, where she emphasized the commitment to safety by the Management of the SXM Airport.



Charles R. Thomas, Operations Coordinator

### **FOREIGN OBJECTS DEBRIS – JUNE IS FOD MONTH**

The month of June is annually designated as the Foreign Objects Debris (F.O.D.) month. The Operations department advocates the awareness, requesting the stakeholders to review their premises for old or loose lying debris. As we are currently in the midst of the Atlantic Hurricane season, SXM Airport has increased our air-side surveillance on F.O.D.

"During the month of March, we collected 203lbs of debris and approximately 150lbs in April," said Charles Thomas, the Operations Coordinator, who led

the clean-up in April.

"Our efforts have not ceased, as the Cargo ramp is also due for a clean up," added Z'haria Richardson, Chairperson of the F.O.D. Management team.

The "GUESS WHAT - GUESS WHERE" campaign is the latest venture of the department. Stakeholders are asked to identify the locations of the erected F.O.D. banners, take a photograph with the signage, whilst illustrating what the sign instructs the airport community to do.



# THE FACILITY AND MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT COMES TO THE RESCUE OF THE R&FF.

"Shambles" is the word often used by onlookers to described the Rescue and Firefighting building at the Princess Juliana International Airport, SXM.

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### UNIVERSITY OF ST. MARTIN STUDENTS ROUND TABLE WITH SXM AIRPORT PROFESSIONALS

The Introduction to Business and the Business Environment students of the University of St. Martin, U.S.M., held a round-table discussion with SXM Airport professionals to talk about the rebuilding and recovery process currently taking place at the Airport. The students also received a tour of the temporary pavilions and the operations at the airport.

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The destruction caused by the hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, left the Rescue and Firefighting team (R&FF) with limited facilities. Since then the firefighters have been housed in container offices to continue the required operations.

Recently, the management of the Facility Maintenance Department (FMD) was assigned to construct a temporary building for the R&FF. The Rescue and Firefighting facilities will now feature offices, training room, bathrooms and a kitchen area.

The project is being spearheaded by the Senior handymen, Cleon Jack and Mervin Scot of the Facility Maintenance Department, who revealed that the project began in December 2017 and should be handed over to the R&FF by mid - June 2018.