

Montego Bay airport to expand

A Vancouver Airport Services (YVRAS)-led consortium—MBJ Airports Limited—signed an airport concession agreement with the Government of Jamaica on January 15, 2003, to manage and operate the Sangster International Airport (SIA) in Montego Bay, Jamaica. The international consortium, which also includes Spanish, Chilean and Israeli interests, signed the 30-year lease which took effect on March 1, 2003.

Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson and YVRAS President Frank O'Neil signed on behalf of the Government of Jamaica and the consortium respectively. This agreement is the first of its kind in Jamaica's aviation history and will start the long-awaited US\$190 million expansion of the airport, which includes the construction of a new terminal, immigration and customs facilities and additional shops. The Canadian High Commission in Kingston, Jamaica, pro-



vided integral support to YVRAS during the 16-month negotiating process. Present at the signing of the agreement were (from left): Frank O'Neil, YVRAS President and CEO; John Robinson, Canadian High Commissioner to Jamaica; Yasmin Chong, Canadian High Commission; Brian Bohme, YVRAS Senior Project Director; and George Casey, YVRAS Vice-President.

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For more information, contact Yasmin Chong, Canadian High Commission in Kingston, tel.: **(011-876) 926-1500**, fax: **(011-876) 511-3491**, e-mail: **kngtn-td@dfait-maeci.gc.ca** Web site: **www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/jamaica/** *

The Japanese food market

MONTREAL — April 2, 2003 — Are you wondering about the potential for your food products in the Japanese market? Come and have breakfast with the experts and join 35 Japanese buyers and several trade commissioners from Japan who will tell you about that country's agri-food and seafood market. Start **SIAL** on the right foot and visit us the first morning just before the show starts from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in room 518C at the Palais des Congrès, to learn more about Canada's largest overseas food market. Confirm your presence by contacting Céline Lemay, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, tel.: **(514) 873-4147 ext. 230**, e-mail: **Celine.lemay@agr.gov.qc.ca** and include your name, the exporting company, and a list of products you export. *

Canada-Vietnam sign veterinary health certificates

On December 17, 2002, in Hanoi, Vietnam, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Vietnamese authorities negotiated veterinary health certificates for cattle and a zoo-sanitary certificate for beef for human consumption.

Vietnam's continuing economic growth has contributed to continued domestic

demand for livestock products, and to expanding meat exports in the region. Recent estimates place annual current meat consumption in Vietnam at 25kg per capita, with a possible rise to 35kg by 2010.

Canadian exporters have been quick to act on this market development. Canada is one of the few countries that has signed a veterinary

protocol for various animal products with Vietnam, a fact that can open many doors for Canadian exporters interested in this booming region.

For more information on opportunities in Vietnam, contact the Canadian Embassy in Hanoi, tel.: **(011-84-4) 823-5500**, fax: **(011-84-4) 823-5351**, e-mail: **hanoi-td@dfait-maeci.gc.ca** *

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