



Overcoming the Hurdles: Making Intra Caribbean Travel Work

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LIAT's Mission

To provide safe, economic and reliable air transport to the people of the eastern Caribbean.



Basic Stats & Facts

18 Dash8 aircraft

20+ destinations

Approximately 120 sectors daily

Approximately 950,000 passengers annually

Basic Stats & Facts

- A vast network serving markets from Santo Domingo to Guyana. Inclusive of US, French, UK and Dutch territory
- Regional hubs in Antigua, Barbados, and Trinidad
- Connections with transatlantic carriers
- Cargo and courier services
- Full in-house domestic engineering capability

Basic Stats & Facts.

- Existing highly competitive market framework including Caribbean Airlines, American Eagle, REDjet, WINAIR, BVI Airways, British Airways and JetBlue.

LIAT therefore connects the Eastern Caribbean in a number of ways.

The goal and challenge is to increase the efficiency of delivery of services.

Hurdles to Regional Travel

- Economic conditions
- Cost of regional travel
- Preferences for extra-regional travel
- Regulatory barriers
- Technical challenges

Hurdles to Regional Travel

Economic conditions

Global and regional economic challenges. Explicit link between economic growth and air travel

Cost of regional air travel

LIAT experience: Caribbean as a high cost region

Lack of economies of scale in an industry dominated by economies of scale

High operating costs – fuel, labour, maintenance, capital costs, regulatory costs, taxation and government charges

Small and fragmented markets

High vulnerability to national disasters

Hurdles to Regional Travel

Preferences for extra-regional markets

Comparative cost-benefits of extra-regional vs. regional travel. Strong family ties to metropolises. Tourism attractions and packages. Competition from cruise packages

Regulatory barriers

Minimal. Visa and travel restrictions.

Technical challenges

Minimal. Airport restrictions and operating constraints – security, facilitation (immigration cards!), limitations in airport facilities and services



The Way Forward

Cooperation between all players to resolve main constraints and hurdles. CTO role critical: Intra-Caribbean travel task force?

Costs! – reductions in taxes (accommodation and travel), tripartite approach to industrial relations, inter-airline cooperation

Building a more attractive/competitive Caribbean product: Festivals; shopping attractions etc

Thank you!

