



CFL MD heads IGA Caribbean

Managing Director of Consolidated Foods Limited Andre Chastanet has been appointed Chairman of the newly established Independent Grocers Alliance's (IGA) Caribbean Advisory Board. IGA Caribbean is the regional arm of the Independent Grocers Alliance, the world's largest voluntary supermarket network. IGA's membership includes nearly 4,000 Supermarkets worldwide, supported by 36 distribution companies and more than 55 major manufacturers, vendors and suppliers encompassing everything from grocery to equipment items.

IGA Caribbean was set up in Miami earlier this month at a meeting called by IGA Global. During that meeting discussions were advanced on how best to leverage the IGA brand and concept for the benefit of the Caribbean region as a whole, and on a regional structure that would best suit the needs of IGA retailers and partners from Trinidad, Barbados, Bahamas, St. Kitts, Grenada, Turks & Caicos and Grand Cayman, Jamaica and Aruba, all of which are part of this growing international entity.

Mr. Chastanet says IGA Caribbean members are committed to working even more closely, starting with merging their regional purchasing power beginning with the IGA line of products to achieve better prices, greater choice and quality for the consumer. This type of collaboration becomes even more crucial given the downturn in the global financial market and the trends predicted for the food industry in 2009. The IGA Caribbean group expects to take full advantage of the expertise, support and brand-building programmes of IGA to expand the scope, quality and delivery of the food industry in the region.

While he welcomes the opportunity to head the Caribbean grouping, Mr. Chastanet notes that a serious responsibility has been placed not only placed on his shoulders, but on the Super J chain of IGA supermarkets which are operated by CFL. Super J supermarkets have been part of the IGA franchise since 2005. The decision to go that route was based not just on the strength and support that comes from being part of a tremendous retailing network, but more so the customer service and community relations philosophies embodied by IGA.

Mr. Chastanet says "There's nothing quite like it anywhere else in the industry. With IGA you find individuals united by a name, who are excited to freely share experiences with each other and are motivated by the desire to make the community stronger. This is at the heart of all their operations and this is what Super J supermarkets are about".

IGA Global President Tom Haggai President who attended the Caribbean meeting expressed confidence in Andre Chastanet as “the right person to be our first chairman for IGA Caribbean, given his exceptionally high level of commitment and passion for the food retail and distribution industry”.

The Independent Grocers Alliance is more than a simple banner and private label merchandise on the shelf. The IGA Brand is custom-designed for the independent retailer or distributor who wants to access the security, the connections and partnerships of a brand trusted across the United States for over 80 years. IGA has operations in 46 of the United States and more than 40 countries, commonwealths and territories on all six inhabited continents. In fact, the IGA Brand now extends around the globe to the Caribbean basin, South America, Europe, Russia, Korea, China and Australia.

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