

## NIABT Briefing on Fairtrade and Corporate Social Responsibility

12 March 2013

**Belfast, NORTHERN IRELAND:** The Northern Ireland Assembly and Business Trust (NIABT) works to forge links with, and promote the exchange of knowledge and information between local businesses and Parliamentarians here and further afield in Dublin, Westminster and Brussels.



R-L: Dr Christopher Stange – Chair of Fairtrade Belfast & Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Northern Ireland; David Ford MLA – Minister of Justice; Jacqueline Gibson – Sustainability Manager at GRAHAM Construction; Chris Lyttle MLA - NIABT Chair and Michael Bell - NIABT Board member

Coinciding with Fairtrade Fortnight 2013 (February 25 – March 10), Dr Christopher Stange - Secretariat of the Consular Corps/Association of Northern Ireland and Chair of Fairtrade Belfast provided a presentation on the importance of Fairtrade from a business perspective, procurement, policy, how to switch, and as a mechanism in alleviating poverty in the developing world.

A guide for business and government was produced in partnership with Business in the Community (BITC) and launched to members at the briefing. <http://niabt.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Fairtrade-a-guide-for-your-business.pdf>

Jacqueline Gibson - Sustainability Co-ordinator at GRAHAM Construction outlined the Company's experience of working with Fairtrade, case studies and the importance of Corporate Social Responsibility to the economy, as well as local and international communities.

The briefing concluded with a question and answer session resulting in 3 recommendations:

1. Formation of an All Party Group on Fairtrade
2. Fairtrade Business/Retail Forum
3. Fairtrade accreditation criteria for businesses