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PUERTO RICO GETS SET TO WELCOME PRESTIGIOUS MEETING PLANNER ORGANIZATION TO ISLAND FOR ANNUAL CONCLAVE

SAN JUAN, July 24, 2006 – This month, Puerto Rico will be host to the Convention Industry Council’s (CIC) Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) Conclave. The first time that the group is meeting in the Caribbean, the program will take place from July 30 – August 1st at The Westin Rio Mar Beach Resort, Golf Club & Spa and will bring more than 250 influential meeting planners to Puerto Rico.

The Puerto Rico Convention Bureau has played a major role in bringing the group to the Island, which consists of senior meeting planners and other industry professionals, responsible for booking millions of dollars in meetings, conventions and other group programs which provide an outstanding opportunity to showcase Puerto Rico as a world-class meeting destination.

“This program will bring together some of the most influential and highly-trained business professionals who regularly plan and book meetings and conventions all over the globe,” stated Ana María Viscasillas, president and CEO, Puerto Rico Convention Bureau. “Choosing Puerto Rico is already a testament to our strength as a meeting destination and we have a wonderful opportunity to further demonstrate our many attributes to this special market with the potential to generate significant group business for the Island in the future.”

One of the meeting industry’s most prestigious organizations, the Convention Industry Council has worked closely with the Puerto Rico Convention Bureau, which has three CMPs on staff, to host the event. One of the major reasons Puerto Rico was chosen for the 2006 CMP Conclave was the number of CMPs on staff at the Bureau as well as the host hotel.

In preparing for the group, the Bureau formed a special host committee which includes the Bureau’s Destination Services division in San Juan to assist the organization with sponsorships, special events and logistics to showcase Puerto Rico as the preferred meeting destination of the Americas. An outstanding program highlighting the Island’s many attributes has been put together in combination with the educational sessions to offer exciting activities to benefit the Island as well as generate business leads for Bureau member-suppliers.

“The Convention Industry Council is very excited to have the Puerto Rico Convention Bureau and the people of Puerto Rico as the host destination for the 2006 CMP Conclave,”

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Puerto Rico Host to Convention Industry Council CMP Conclave.../2

stated Christine M. Marshall, CMP Program Director, Convention Industry Council. “Puerto Rico was chosen because it reflects the changing diversity and globalization of the CMP community. Additionally, the island of Puerto Rico is renowned for its hospitality, history and variety of hotels and venues. We look forward to experiencing a cross section of this exotic locale with the CMP community.”

The Convention Industry Council (CIC) is the governing body for the CMP examination and the certification. The CIC consists of 32 member organizations representing more than 103,500 meeting professionals, as well as 17,300 firms and properties involved in the meetings, conventions and exhibitions industry.

As the only annual meeting for Certified Meeting Professionals (CMP), the primary objective of the CIC Conclave is to give CMPs the opportunity to shape the future of the CMP Program. At this meeting, attendees will analyze current CMP test questions for validity and currency, as well as develop new questions on global meeting practices that will, after statistical review, be added to future CMP exams.

The CMP Conclave also offers attendees valuable education and unparalleled networking opportunities that will take place throughout the program. The CMP designation is internationally respected and recognized as the “gold standard” among meeting planners.

The Convention Industry Council represents the broadest cross section of the convention, meeting and exhibition industry. The CMP program is a certification curriculum which evaluates the competency of meeting professionals and represents a high standard of excellence in today’s meeting and exhibition industry. Last year’s annual CMP Conclave took place in Toronto. For more information about the Convention Industry Council, visit www.conventionindustry.org.

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Editor’s Note:

The Puerto Rico Convention Bureau (PRCB) is a non-profit organization established in 1962 to drive meetings, conventions, trade shows and incentive groups to Puerto Rico. With offices in San Juan, Chicago, New York, Miami, and Washington DC, the Bureau strengthens Puerto Rico’s competitive position in the Americas and abroad by increasing awareness of the Island’s outstanding meeting facilities and services, and produces approximately \$92 million to the local economy. The Bureau can be reached electronically through the Internet at info@prcb.org or at its website www.meetpuertorico.com. The PRCB is the official marketing and sales agent for the new Puerto Rico Convention Center (PRCC), which opened in November 2005. For more information on the new Convention Center visit www.prconvention.com. The Puerto Rico Convention Bureau, representing the capital city of San Juan, has been granted full membership as of January 2005 into BestCities, a global alliance of Bureaus that represent the highest standards of service in the meetings and convention industry. For more information, visit www.bestcities.net.

