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PUERTO RICO CONVENTION BUREAU TEAMS UP WITH ISLAND PARTNERS TO HOSTS TO LURE TOP SPORTING EVENTS CONVENTION TO THE ISLAND FOR 2009

SAN JUAN, June 21, 2007 – The Puerto Rico Convention Bureau recently welcomed Lisa Furfine to San Juan. Ms. Furfine is the associate publisher for *Sports Travel Magazine* and is the organizer of a major sports industry conference called **TEAMS: Travel Events and Management in Sports**. During her trip, Ms. Furfine paid a visit to the new Puerto Rico Convention Center as the potential host site for the annual TEAMS Conference for the 2009 conference. Should Puerto Rico be chosen for the conference, it would result in an estimated 4,000 room nights at area hotels on the Island with an estimated local economic impact of \$1.5 million.



Pictured from left to right: Thom Connors, SMG; Manuel Sánchez-Biscombe, PRCCDA; Lisa Furfine, TEAMS; Marilia Juarbe, PRCB; Margaret Colón, PRCC; Yldefonso Rodríguez, PRCCDA; Mitzi Segarra, PRCB

The TEAMS Conference attracts approximately 300 sports events organizers and event rights holders looking for new and exciting destinations to host their events. Sports entities which have attended the conference in the past include the U.S. Olympic Committee, USA

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Track & Field, National Senior Games Association, National Council of Youth Sports, National Amateur Baseball Federation, among others.

“We have a proud history of hosting world-class sporting events with professional organizations such as Major League Baseball, the National Basketball Players Association and the United States Tennis Association,” stated Ramón Sánchez, executive vice president and COO, Puerto Rico Convention Bureau, the organization which has been working closely with Ms. Furline to be considered as a host destination. “From our number of modern and sports-specific built arenas, coliseums and other state-of-the-art sports facilities to the more than 30 sports federations which actively participate at the International Olympic Committee level on the Island, we’re eager to continue to build our reputation as a premier sports event destination.”

Organized by Schneider Publishing Company, Inc., TEAMS is the world’s largest conference and expo in the sports and has been named one of the 50 fastest-growing trade shows in North America by *Tradeshow Week* magazine for three consecutive years.

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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 \$125 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) opened 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.

