

## Netherlands Antilles offer tax rebate for meetings, conventions

(04/04/07) New tax initiatives between the U.S. and the Netherlands Antilles that took effect last month mean good news for meetings and convention planners.

The agreement allows U.S. taxpayers to claim a tax deduction for expenses associated with a convention held in the Netherlands Antilles to the same extent as a convention held in the US.

The implementation of the Tax Information Exchange Agreement March 22 means that the five islands of the Netherlands Antilles -- Bonaire; Curacao; Saba; St. Eustatius; and St. Maarten -- are considered part of the North American area. (Aruba had previously been considered part of the Netherlands Antilles until 1986 when it was granted a "status apart" and became a separate part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.)

Expenses incurred while attending conventions, business meetings and seminars on the five islands are allowed as deductions according to the same regulations as if each of the five islands were a U.S. territory.

The tax information agreements strengthen the relationship between the Netherlands Antilles and the United States.

Source: Travel Weekly (USA)