

**ACCEPTANCE REMARKS BY
MOST HON. P.J. PATTERSON ON, PC, QC,
PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA
ON THE PRESENTATION OF THE CTO'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
AWARD
NEW YORK
JUNE 3, 2005**

Honourable Ministers, Directors of Tourism, travel partners, members of the media, friends.

On behalf of the Government and people of Jamaica, I would like to congratulate the staff of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation for helping to make this week a very special one for us all. The entire proceedings have been nothing less than outstanding and deserve the highest commendation.

It is a great privilege to be the first recipient of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation's Distinguished Service Award. It has always been my pleasure and honour to contribute to the Caribbean tourism industry through my years of political service.

The Caribbean is now the world's premier warm weather destination and there is no greater cause than to share my passion for our warm and welcoming people, diverse attractions and scenic settings with the world's discerning travelers.

I have always recognized the valuable returns we derive by supporting those areas that add to the tourism product – film, entertainment, sports and the arts. In accepting this award, I pay special tribute to the thousand of workers throughout the Caribbean who make their own unique and indispensable contribution to the building of a strong and vibrant industry.

I am also happy to be here to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Jamaica Tourist Board and am delighted that we can all celebrate it together this week.

The only limit to the realization of our dream will be any doubts which we may harbour today.

The best is yet to come as we all work together to improve the quality of life of our Caribbean people.

Thank you once again for this great honour.