



*From left: STDF Director Alida Francis, Commissioner Spanner, Felicitas Wressnig (WFTGA), and Jerry R. A-Kum (STDF).*

## **Statia Tourism Foundation hosts tourist guide training**

ST. EUSTATIUS-Thirteen representatives from Statia's tourism and hospitality sector are undergoing an intensive eight-day training programme this week on professional tourist guiding.

Felicitas Wressnig, a senior trainer for the World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (WFTGA) headquartered in Austria, is conducting the course at Golden Era Hotel.

Attendees represent the St. Eustatius Tourism Development Foundation (STDF), the St. Eustatius National Parks Foundation (Stenapa), the St. Eustatius Historical Foundation, the Protocol Department, the Department of Education, taxi drivers, and Kidzway Children's Centre. Commissioner Adelka Spanner is attending in her role as President of the Tourism Development Foundation.

The opening session included remarks by Wressnig, Alida Francis of STDF, and Commissioner Spanner. Roland Lopes of STDF served as Master of Ceremonies, while Jerry R. A-Kum of STDF was a primary organizer.

Subjects to be covered include a guide's place in tourism, observation techniques, practical walks, countryside guiding, practical museum guiding, guiding on sensitive sites, vehicle guiding, group psychology and dynamics, running a tourist guide business, and the tourist guide's role in sustainable tourism.

Those who successfully complete the course should then be able to represent the island in a professional manner, to manage various types of tours such as walking and vehicle tours, to cope with difficult persons and persons of different

backgrounds, to monitor the impact of tourism on the natural beauty of the island, and even to manage a private tour guiding business.

Those who pass the practical examination at the end of the course will receive an internationally-recognized certificate as a tourist guide awarded by WFTGA.

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