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**TAMARINDO TOURISM COMMISSION FORMED BY THE
GUANACASTE CHAMBER OF TOURISM TO PROMOTE ONE OF
COSTA RICA'S TOP DESTINATIONS**

**Tamarindo Improvements On The Rise As Ocean Gets High Marks, Lifeguards Return To the
Beach, Roads Are Fixed, Police Get New Headquarters, More**

TAMARINDO, Costa Rica March 31, 2008 – Mauricio Céspedes Mirabelli, the Executive Director of the Guanacaste Chamber of Commerce (CATURGUA), announced today the establishment of the Tamarindo Tourism Commission (TTC), an organization comprised of local businesses who have unified for the single purpose of promoting the place *Forbes* magazine calls Costa Rica's "most popular beach" to the international marketplace. The TTC will operate as an offshoot of the CATURGUA, but will focus solely on Tamarindo with all the attendant support of the parent group.

The Tamarindo Tourism Commission will operate from the offices of CATURGUA, and can be reached from the United States by calling 011-506-8818-9311 or by emailing director@caturgua.com.

The group is currently comprised of a consulting board of Tamarindo's businesses coordinated by the Executive Director of CATURGUA. The commission's objectives are:

- 1) To promote Tamarindo as a top tourism destination
- 2) To promote the businesses of the members of the TTC
- 3) To create tourism job opportunities and provide training and education opportunities for Costa Ricans in order to help facilitate placement in jobs

The formation of the Commission comes on the heels of Tamarindo's latest surge of town improvements, including the most visible one—high marks from the Municipality of Santa Cruz on the Tamarindo Bay waters! Mayor Jorge Chavarría ordered new tests on the water quality at Tamarindo Beach and the results were an overwhelming improvement over those that were reported in August by the National Water and Sewer Institute, which had tested water run off during rainy season.

The *Tico Times*, the country's national newspaper, reported that: "The results are an improvement of tests in August," with regard to the examinations conducted by the University of Costa Rica. Both the Municipality and the TTC plan to use the positive ocean results to attract tourism back to the area. In the *Tico Times* Chavarría explained that "the problem wasn't as bad as the August tests purported. 'It was high water season,' he said. 'It wasn't the right time to conduct those tests. The results this time are much better.'"

According to Ann McKillican, a Tamarindo resident, the community has also accomplished its goal of obtaining commitments from area hotels and businesses to meet the \$5,000 per month budget necessary to pay for the Tamarindo Beach lifeguards. Among those who are contributing are: Hotel El Diria, Witch's Rock Surf Camp, Hotel Jardin Del Eden, Banana Surf Shop, Iguana Surf, Secret Spot, Hotel Capitan Suizo, Best Western Tamarindo Vista Villas, Hotel La Laguna del Cocodrilo, Hotel Pasatiempo, Hotel Cala Luna. The lifeguards, who are essential for maintaining the safety and security of the beachfront, returned to the towers the first week of March and are now a permanent fixture on the shore.

In addition, the roads in and around Tamarindo have been given top priority by both the government and the community. The road from Liberia to Tamarindo was repaired and is in perfect condition for travel. Another important road, on which repairs and enhancement have already begun, is the primary boulevard from Pizza Hut to the popularly named "Tamarindo Lake" intersection of Hotel Zullymar, right on the main entrance to town. This long-awaited and much-needed work began on January 7, and will continue until at least the end of April thanks to the efforts of various developers and the Municipality. Construction takes place at night and during parts of the day, depending upon scheduling.

Members of the Tamarindo community have joined together and are working to fix the road from the Tamarindo Resort to Langosta and the work should be completed in the next few months. The Santa Cruz Municipality is also in the midst of widening the Los Jobos Road from Hotel Pasatiempo to Villa Real, providing Tamarindo with a second access road in and out of town.

In keeping with the fact that Costa Rica is one of the safest countries in a hostile world, Tamarindo strives to maintain security for its denizens and tourists and in doing so has been working hard to build a new police station for the local police. While the actual plans are being designed for the new station by local real estate developers—the new facility will be located behind the Gymnasium Tamarindo—the community now rests more assured knowing that the police have a temporary guardhouse located at Cabinas Maleko near the entrance of town. This facility houses 16 police officers who have a new car and two motorcycles as well.