

ADDRESS BY

MR. CARL FRANCIS
PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

AT THE

**Development of an Industrial Policy for Trinidad
and Tobago**

9.00am,
TUESDAY 19th JANUARY, 2010

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
BUREAU OF STANDARDS
1-2 CENTURY DRIVE, MACOYA

Mr. Wayne Punnette, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade and Industry

Mr. Ramesh Sarabjit, Director of Business Development Directorate in the Ministry of Trade and Industry

Dr. Lelio Fellows Filho, International Co-ordinator of the International Materials Assessment and Applications Centre, UNIDO

Ladies and Gentlemen

We are embarking on developing an Industrial Policy for Trinidad and Tobago, which is in line with the Vision 2020 pillar of Enabling Competitive Businesses. An Industrial policy is a program of selective government interventions designed to change the sectoral composition of a country's economy, by influencing the development of particular industries or sectors. Therefore we should keep in mind the effects of global conditions, such as the economic and financial crisis. Most importantly, we aim to target the most promising sources of future industrial development, and to focus our attention and energy on these particular areas.

In devising this Industrial Policy, we must first figure out specifically what we want to achieve, what are our targets and where we want to go. This is what we aim to achieve in these introductory sessions. In addition, we are considering the use of "Technology Foresight" in this process. Now, Technology Foresight is the process involved in systematically attempting to look into the longer-term future of science, technology, the economy and society with the aim of identifying the areas of strategic research and the emerging generic technologies likely to yield the greatest economic and social benefits. Dr. Filho will elaborate further on this process, which can potentially be a useful and vital tool in formulating the Industrial Policy.

Furthermore, we have been conducting some research in this area and have identified a few potential objectives and outcomes of our own. Some of these include: increasing business activity, improved international competitiveness of firms, sustainable increases in productivity, and the formation and development of industrial clusters. These objectives are not in any way set in stone, and they are subject, indeed expected, to change following the ideas and insights generated from this ‘brainstorming’ session. This session is intended to be highly interactive, and the purpose of having an audience with such diverse experience and expertise is that contributions will be similarly varied and stimulating.

This morning we are fortunate to have a distinguished and experienced speaker presenting on “the Brazilian experience”. Dr. Lelio Fellows Filho is the International Co-ordinator of the International Materials Assessment and Applications Centre (IMAAC) at the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). By way of background, Dr. Fellows has worked for Brazil’s National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), and has vast experience throughout the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology. From 1983-1986 he co-ordinated CNPq’s Mineral

Technology Department and took part in several Science & Technology Action Programmes funded by the World Bank.

In more recent times, he has dedicated most of his work to international cooperation with France, Germany, China, India, USA, the Organization of American States (OAS) and Latin America covering such issues as Space Technology, Industrial Research, New Materials as well as the Blue Ribbon Panel with the National Science Foundation (NSF).

From 2002 to now Dr. Fellows has been the Head of Technical Office at the Centre for Strategic Studies and Management (CGEE) in Brazil, where he is responsible for Future Analysis centred on technological issues, and Coordinator of the Ibero-American Network on Technology Foresight under CYTED. He has headed many foresight studies, among them being a long term planning study for Brazil, Petrobras Technology Planning, and Strategic Foresight for the Medical System of Sao Paulo University, and the Brazilian National Cultural Plan.

Some of the outcomes we can expect from these sessions are:

- To get critical input from all stakeholders regarding their views on the objectives of the Industrial Policy and what they hope to gain from the development and implementation of this policy;
- To Increase knowledge and understanding in the use of Technology Foresight (TF) tools and methodologies for the development of the Industrial Policy;
- To see the power of Technology Foresight in action, in the context of Brazil, and to apply that knowledge to this country's specific situation; and
- To evaluate Strategic Roadmapping as one of the main TF methodologies involved in developing an Industrial Policy.

In closing, I must say that the Ministry of Trade and Industry stands ready to collaborate with you the stakeholders to explore all initiatives emanating from these discussions.

I wish you a useful day of discussions and look forward to reviewing the outcome of this session.

I thank you.