



MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

MEDIA RELEASE

Trade & Industry Minister calls on US firms ... 'Let us work together to forge new paths'

November 05, 2015:- Trinidad and Tobago's Trade & Industry Minister, Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon called on US firms 'let us work together to forge new paths' while speaking at the American Business Outreach Reception hosted by Ms. Margaret Diop, Charge d'Affaires of the United States of America, on Wednesday 4th November, 2015.



Senator Gopee-Scoon noted that *'the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, is seeking not only to expand domestic exports, but also to invite U.S. firms to exploit the numerous advantages, incentives and opportunities available here.'* This, following Ms. Diop's opening words that *'strong commercial relations are essential'* for trade; and moreso that *'the private sector must be part of the plan'*.

Minister (3rd from right) greet Charge d'Affaires Margaret Diop, while surrounded by executives of AmChamTT

Of the evening's event, the Trade Minister said that it *'provides an ideal opportunity for us to understand the strategies and appreciate some of the concerns of the US private sector so that we can develop appropriate policies, plans and initiatives to facilitate increased trade, business and investment between our countries. While the main thrust of the Ministry of Trade and Industry is to diversify the domestic economy and develop those industries external to the energy sector, **any investment is important** ... our doors are always open'*.

Also briefly addressing the audience was Mr. Ravi Suryadevara, President, American Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad and Tobago. Guests included Mr. Norris Herbert, Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Ministry of Trade and Industry; Ms. Karlen Roach, Deputy

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry; Mr. Ammar Samaroo, Comptroller of Customs; Mr. Leroy Browne, Chief Executive Officer, Hilton Trinidad & Conference Centre; Mrs. Racquel Moses, President, InvesTT Limited; Mr. Terrence Walker, Atlantic LNG Company Limited; Mr. Brent Barry, BHP Billiton; Mr. Nirad Tewarie, Chief Executive Officer, American Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad and Tobago.

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