



MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

MEDIA RELEASE

Thirty-six (36) accredited as International Trade Specialists ... exporTT leads in training our export professionals

November 14, 2015:- Friday 13th November, 2015 saw the accreditation of the 1st Cohort of



International Trade Specialists at a Graduation Ceremony hosted by exporTT Limited. The International Trade Specialist Accreditation Programme (ITS) is a partnership between exporTT Limited and eBSI Export Academy. It is a nine-month e-learning training initiative culminating in a globally recognized certification; accredited by the Institute of Export and delivered by eBSI Export Academy, a global leader in export training, resident in Ireland.

Graduation Class of 2015

Ms. Karlene Roach, Permanent Secretary (Ag.) in delivering the Feature Address said to the graduates

that *“over the nine months of the programme, you would have learned much about trade and customs procedures, finance of international trade and very importantly e-business for international trade. That information, together with the excellent guidance and tutelage of the eBSI’s academic team, would have provided you with a valuable set of skills and knowledge of significant importance to those in the trade family. I want to underline that importance with you and highlight the invaluable role you will now be expected to play in Trinidad and Tobago, in your new capacity as International Trade Specialists.”* Further that *“the Ministry of Trade and Industry and its agencies have a pivotal role to play in [the country’s] diversification effort, through the development of the non-energy export sector and has been specifically mandated to grow the manufacturing sector. From today, you, the International Trade Specialists, will also be expected to play a role.”*

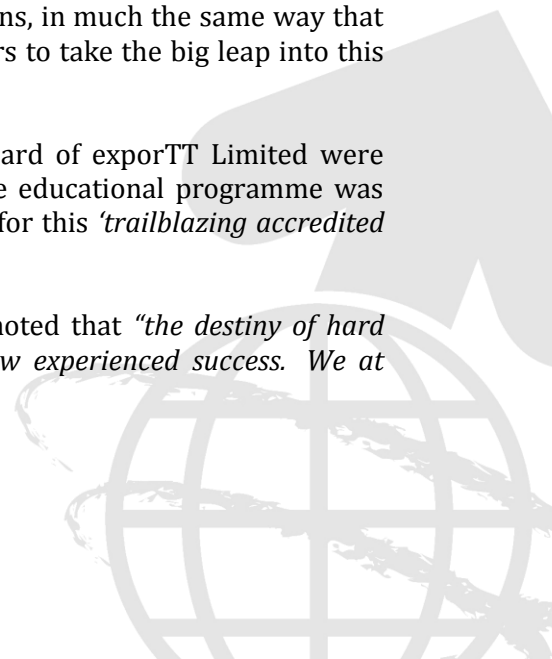
Ms. Roach’s Address also outlined that *“in accordance with government’s policy in rolling out its mandate, the Ministry has identified a number of measures it plans to pursue over the next fiscal to help diversify the economy and improve Trinidad and Tobago’s economic profile. These include deepening and expanding existing markets, aggressively seeking out new markets and exploiting niche markets for our unique quality products.”*

Valedictorian Mrs. Natalie Paul-Harry said of the programme *‘I thoroughly enjoyed the visual concepts’* as it improved the learning process, *‘trade finance was more interesting and e-business was the icing on the cake’*. She noted that *‘the depth of new knowledge has increased my competence in articulating trade issues’*.

Addressing the audience, via skype, Mr. Thomas Smith, CEO of eBSI Export Academy noted that it is with great pride that he can address the first Cohort, via digital means, in much the same way that the programme was administered via digital means. He urged others to take the big leap into this online e-learning course.

While the opening words of Mr. Adrian Singh, Director on the Board of exporTT Limited were words of encouragement to the Graduating Class; since he said the educational programme was *‘export based and export specific’*. He commended exporTT Limited for this *‘trailblazing accredited programme.’*

Mr. Adrian Theodore, Chief Executive Officer of exporTT Limited noted that *“the destiny of hard work is always success. You have done hard work ... and have now experienced success. We at*



exporTT are proud of you and your accomplishment. Well done.” He challenged the graduates to “redefine the landscape of international trade for Trinidad and Tobago.”

The Graduating Class were presented with their Certificates by Mr. Robert Tang Yuk, Chairman. They included:

- With Honours: Natalie Paul-Harry; Roann David; Camille James; Vincent Ramlochan; Antoinette Spencer; Patricia Govia; Shamilla Khan; and Devi Ali
- With Distinction: Shirley-Ann Noel; Christian George; Gareth Narinsingh; Janelle Teemal; Nadia Jardine; Lisa Ramsumair; Dhanraj Harrypersad; Janelle Peters; Suzanne Ragbir; Vonetta Ramjattan; Shara Charles-Sajadhar; Ryan De Souza; Andrew Hosein; Nathali Richards; Marcia Potts; Ravi Sankar; Priya Marajh; Nathalie Anne De Silva; Melissa Pierre; Jamel Spring; Merlissa Khan; Cy Padmore.
- With Merit: Tenika Phillip; Giselle Roberts; Kevin Crichlow; Cintra Sooknanan; Stacy Rodriguez; Kinda Thomas

The International Trade Specialist Accreditation Programme (ITS) provided the export professionals with knowledge in four key areas, namely export marketing operations, trade and customs practice, finance of international trade, and e-business for international trade. Some of the graduates of this programme are exporters; and as International Trade Specialists it is expected that they will better be able to manoeuvre through the systems; while those attached to exporTT will now be more effective facilitators, working closely with exporters and importers. With the knowledge and skills acquired, the graduates can contribute more effectively to the process of improving the efficiency of our trading operations, and this can help in enhancing the country’s competitiveness ratings.

Launched in October 2014, this new initiative was identified by exporTT to meet the specific educational needs of our Trinidad and Tobago exporters and other professionals in the key functional areas of international trade.

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