



REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
 MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY
 AND INVESTMENT

TRADE LINKS

JAN - MAR 2013

... Your Trade, Business and Investment Platform



INDUSTRY
 FOCUS

2013 - A Year of Diversification

... Maximising the potential of our non-energy sectors



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Message From The Editor

The ability of any economy to generate sustainable wealth rests in its ability to be more productive and hence, internationally competitive. Trinidad and Tobago currently stands in 68th position globally in the World Bank's 2012 Ease of Doing Business Rankings. However, this is nowhere close to where we should be if we are to attract further investments and accelerate the transformation of the economy.

In respect of diversification of the economy, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment has the leadership role in the attainment of the Government's diversification objectives. Notably, we will focus on seven sectors, namely: Maritime, Down-stream Energy, Food Sustainability, Creative Industries (film, fashion, music), Tourism, Sports, and Financial Services. In this issue of Trade Links, we will feature some of our innovative and entrepreneurial successes.

Over the past months, we have been pursuing a number of initiatives which have already begun to bear fruit. The Single Electronic Window (SEW) for Trade and Business Facilitation was commissioned early in 2012. It currently provides a range of key business services electronically to the business community according to service standards which have been internationally benchmarked

TTBizLink currently delivers a suite of six (6) e-services in the area of trade and business facilitation through thirteen (13) Government departments and has managed to phenomenally improve the efficiency of the Government in these areas. Read of some first-hand experiences of TTBizLink users on page 9.

Through this quarterly publication, we will keep you, our stakeholders, informed about our plans, programmes and achievements. This issue features our diversification thrust, while later issues will focus on our Investment Strategy, our Ease of Doing Business programmes, and Trade Promotion.

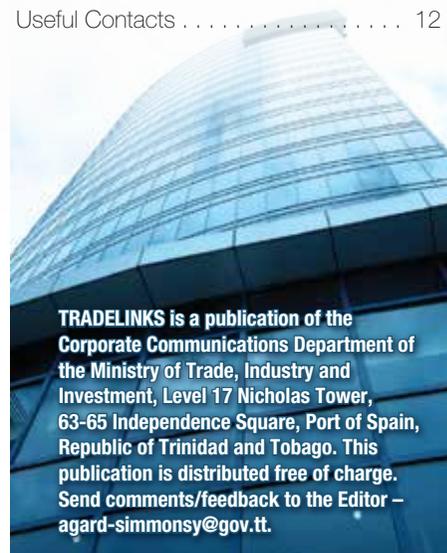
Here's to some stimulating reading!



Your Trade, Business and Investment platform

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2013 – A Year of Diversification

The Fifth Developmental Pillar, which asserts the need to work towards “a more diversified, knowledge intensive economy, building on the native genius of our people”, falls under the remit of this Ministry. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago views the creation of an enabling business environment and a climate that would promote and facilitate investment opportunities and interests as imperatives. In this regard, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment has identified key sectors of focus which would improve and stimulate economic activity and investment within Trinidad and Tobago.

The Ministry’s priority areas for aggressive development include the creative industries (film, fashion, music); the maritime/yachting industry; and the food and beverage industry.

Our **Creative Industry** is dynamic and multifaceted. Given our diversity and the impact of globalization on our country’s evolution, the local Creative Industry makes a significant contribution to the economy in terms of employment, exports and foreign exchange earnings. There is also significant spill-over effects in the domestic economy, including tourism, media, retail, food and beverage, ground transport, hotel and airline sectors.

The **Maritime Industry** was identified as one of the industries in the Strategic Business Cluster targeted for economic stability, growth and sustainability. It should be noted that yachting

is a sub-sector of and refers to the leisure aspect of the maritime industry. Approximately 90% of volume of world trade is carried by seaborne transport. Maritime industry activities, especially seaborne transport, are therefore closely correlated to industrial activity, GDP growth and merchandise trade.

The local maritime industry is characterized by the following activities:

- Transportation of goods and passengers via sea, especially, support services to the local energy industry
- Ancillary services to seaborne transport e.g. towage and pilotage services
- Port operations and administration and ancillary services e.g. warehousing
- Ocean transport intermediaries e.g. shipping agents, freight forwarders, customs brokers, etc.
- Rescue, salvaging and anti-pollution operations
- Manufacturing, repair and maintenance of marine equipment including marine crafts
- Marine construction activities
- Ship and cargo surveying
- Maritime education and training

A Maritime Industry Development Committee (MIDC) and a Yachting Steering Committee (YSC) were appointed by Cabinet. They comprise members from both the public and private sectors. Key projects and programmes of the MIDC are as follows:

- Upgrade of the legislative and regulatory environment for the development of the industry;



Fresh Start Ltd. is a small family owned agro processing business established in 1994, providing consumers with all naturally flavoured fruit beverages and snacks. In 2004, Fresh Start Ltd. launched its line of West Indian drinks, ready to drink in a convenient re-sealable package, which became an instant hit within the retail sector. Over the years, Fresh Start has received many awards for product innovation, sector improvement, business and accounting practices.

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- Institutional reform;
- Human resource development;
- Development of competitive clusters within the maritime sector;
- Building awareness programme

Notably, the **Food and Beverage Industry**, as the largest industry in the non-energy manufacturing industry, remains an integral part of the Government’s diversification thrust.

Caribbean Music Group.com

Caribbean Music Group is a Trinidad based group of companies established in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The Company has produced internationally acclaimed, creative documentaries through its outlet – Maturity Productions – which have been broadcast on major TV channels

worldwide (PBS, France Television, Arte). Twenty years of experience and a sound knowledge of Trinidad’s artists, musicians, producers, songwriters and film technicians coupled with a large network around the world with the more successful “hit-makers” with main “major” labels and main indie “labels” is the recipe for pushing the Caribbean music high on the worldwide map of the music industry. This, while ensuring that film production in the

Caribbean is handled locally and keeping to international standards of professionalism.

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Anya Ayoung Chee has emerged as one of the brightest young international fashion designers since winning Season 9 of Project Runway. Her unique Caribbean style of fashion design played a critical role behind her success on the show. Anya's signature fashion label is called *Anya Ayoung Chee* and she is working on with the government on having a "Made in T&T" label on her garments. She has also served as Tourism Ambassador for Trinidad and Tobago in representing the country's cultural diversity in fashion.

In addition to fashion work, she is the spokesperson for the Tall Man Foundation that is focused on using creative solutions to help Trinidad and Tobago Youth.

Contact: info@anyaanyoungchee.com

During the period January to June 2011, Trinidad and Tobago recorded TT\$104.0 million in Food and Beverage exports. This represented a 48% increase in exports over 2010, for the same period, which recorded only TT\$70.3 million.

The food and beverage sector offers significant investment opportunities, particularly for manufacturers who utilize unique regional agro-products to develop goods such as rum flavoured chocolate cakes, Caribbean fruitcakes, condiments, sauces and spices, soft drinks and exotic fruit juices, specialty rums, and bottled water.

Given the rapid opening up of global markets, the increased appreciation in the Northern hemisphere for "exotic" specialty foods, and the growth of the gourmet lifestyle in the more developed metropolitan communities, the local food and beverage sector has a unique opportunity to brand and create specialty foods for the overseas gourmet markets, apart from the traditional focus on the diasporic markets

The Food and Beverage Industry Development Committee was established in 2005 to further the development of the industry. The Committee has identified several key targets for 2013, namely:

- *Food Safety Awareness/Development Programme:-* As part of this Programme, the FBIDC intends to

assist sixteen companies in obtaining HACCP Certification over the course of the period January – September 2013

- *Increasing Market Access:-* Promotion and Market Penetration:- the Committee will facilitate the participation of at least ten (10) companies at the Summer Fancy Food Show 2013 as well as the American Food and Beverage Show 2013; thus providing invaluable exposure to local manufacturers trying to break into international markets
- *Capacity/Competitiveness Building Program:-* The Committee plans to host a Seminar Series covering areas such as business planning, accounting for small business, regulatory environment for small businesses and consumption trends in the food and beverage industry.

All of these activities contribute to the acceleration of the country's diversification thrust in support of our overall goal to propel Trinidad and Tobago among the top ten (10) destinations for business and investment.

Power Boats Limited

Incorporated in 1973, Power Boats Ltd. (PBL) provided accommodations, docking and launching facilities only for small and local power boats. However, in 1991 it established the yachting industry in Trinidad with the purchase and installation of a 50-ton marine hoist capable of lifting large yachts from the sea for maintenance, modifications and storage out of the hurricane prone areas.

The yachting industry is one of the growth poles in the non-traditional sectors that answers the Government's call for the creation of non-hydrocarbon based industries that earn foreign exchange and provide high levels of employment. PBL, with the watch words "Serious about Service", now employs 80 persons directly, and through a contracting system, provides employment on its premises for another 150 persons.

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TRADE BUZZ



INTERNATIONAL

EAST-WEST TRADE

Former UK Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, tells CNN's John Deferios that protectionism has "taken over" in global trade, while advocating an agreement between developed economies in the West and emerging markets in the East. Brown, who was U.K. premier from 2007 to 2010, said the problem that Europe and the U.S. face is that both do not have a big enough share of each other's markets. His comments came after the U.S. and European Union E.U. announced talks will begin later this year on a multi-trillion dollar free-trade pact to boost economic growth. On the U.K.'s membership in Europe, Brown said British jobs depend on the E.U. and the idea that Britain could leave "offends" the country's history, economics and culture. <http://business.blogs.cnn.com>



REGIONAL

CARICOM SG SAYS CARICOM-US RELATIONSHIP 'STRONG AS EVER'

NASSAU, The Bahamas — The relationship between the 15-Member Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the United States of America remains strong despite differences of opinions "from time to time," the Caribbean Community's Secretary General said. CARICOM Secretary-General, Ambassador Irwin Larocque said one can

only look to the many partnerships formed between the United States and the CARICOM Community – be it U.S. assistance in crime, particularly transnational crimes such as drugs, guns and human trafficking; anti-terrorism initiatives, HIV/AIDS and education, etcetera – as proof of the "positive relationship" that has been developed and sustained by the two groupings.

By Matt Maura, Bahamas Information Services
<http://www.caricom.org>



CARIBBEAN REGION TO DEVELOP MARITIME TRANSPORT POLICY

KINGSTON — A Regional High-Level Symposium on International Maritime Developments held early this year in Montego Bay, Jamaica, resulted in an agreement among Caribbean Transport Ministers to develop regional policies for maritime transportation to ensure that the Caribbean maritime industry operates in a sustainable manner. Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Koji Sekimizu, hailed the move. "This is significant. What they have achieved today was a sort of collective willingness to achieve sustainable maritime in the Caribbean region," he said. Among issues looked at were opportunities for capacity building, and the maritime labour convention. Minister of Transport and Works, Dr Omar Davies, said the delegates examined ways in which the Region could meet the requirements, which have been established by the IMO for various countries.

<http://guardian.co.tt>



LOCAL NEWS

EXPORTS INCREASE, POVERTY DROPS IN FIRST GOVERNMENT APPRAISAL REPORT

An increase in exports and a reduction in poverty were among the achievements highlighted when the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development rolled out the first ever Government performance appraisal report in Trinidad and Tobago on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). According to the Report, there was an increase in exports from US\$9,314.9 million in 2010 to US\$10,919.3 million in 2012. A marked increase was also recognised in non-energy resources from US\$1,924.0 in 2010 to US \$2,095.9 in 2012.

Planning Minister, Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie, outlined Government's five (5) priority areas to support improvement in the quality of lives of citizens; including:

- Crime and Law and Order
- Agriculture and Food Security
- Health Care Services and Hospitals
- Economic Growth, Job Creation, Competitiveness and Innovation
- Poverty Reduction and Human Capital Development

<http://guardian.co.tt>

Trade Ministry commits to improved efficiency and reduced costs in doing business in T&T



Trade Minister, Vasant Bharath (centre) with Ms. Sandra Indar, Permanent Secretary (Ag.), MTII(3rd left), Ms. Daniela Tramacere, Charge d'Affaires a.i., European Union Delegation to Trinidad and Tobago (3rd right), Dr. Asad Mohammed, Chairman National Planning Task Force (2nd right), Mr. Kirk Ifill, Country Head of Southern Caribbean, World Bank Group (2nd left), Ms. Nicole Moonan, Ag. Deputy Registrar General (1st right) and Ms. Valentina Saltane, Private Sector Development Group, World Bank Group (1st left).

attractive destination for trade and investment. Ms. Valentina Saltane, Private Sector Development Specialist, World Bank presented the Key Findings of the 'Ease of Doing Business in T&T Report'. This presentation outlined the technical aspects of the Survey, which included business indicators that determine the ease of doing business such as starting a business, contract enforcement, getting a construction permit, etc. The Report provided short, medium and long term improvement recommendations for the various indicators.

Presentations were delivered on three (3) key reforms currently taking place that affect the way business is done in Trinidad and Tobago. Presenting on Construction Permit reform was Senator the Honourable Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie, Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development. Minister Tewarie's presentation outlined projects, mechanisms and legislative reforms being undertaken to make the regulatory system for investment open, transparent and accountable for all applicants.

Presenting on the Registration of Companies reform was Ms. Nicole Moonan, Deputy Registrar General (Ag.), Ministry of Legal Affairs. Ms. Moonan's presentation highlighted among other things, current initiatives, such as the provision of company registry online services to facilitate the searching for companies names, name reservation, registration of a business and incorporation of a company are done according to international delivery time frames.

Trade facilitation reform was presented by Mr. Randall Karim, Director, Strategy and Policy, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment. Mr. Karim's

On Wednesday 27th February 2013, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment collaborated with the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, the European Union and key Government Ministries and Agencies to host an awareness session titled 'Improving the ease of doing business in Trinidad and Tobago' at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

This initiative is a part of the Government's goal to improve Trinidad and Tobago's global competitiveness and to reduce the overall costs and time of doing business in Trinidad and Tobago. The main objective of the session was to ensure that both the public and private sectors are aware of, and understand the efforts being made by the Government and other stakeholders in the various areas that affect

the country's overall competitiveness rankings. According to the World Bank's 2013 Report, Trinidad and Tobago is ranked 68th out of 183 countries in the overall ease of doing business.

Delivering the Feature Address, Trade Minister Bharath stated that "*the Ministry and its Agencies have been reengineering their systems and processes to remove the impediments and obstacles that are unattractive to both local and foreign investors so as to expand economic activity and investments in Trinidad and Tobago*". He reiterated the Government's commitment to improving the ease of doing business in areas such as Trade Facilitation, Company Registration and Construction Permits, to name a few, which would inevitably position Trinidad and Tobago as a secure and



l-r Mr. Randall Karim, MTII's Director, Policy and Strategy, MTII responds to a question posed

presentation detailed the current scenario regarding impediments to exportation and importation. Mr. Karim stated that the Ministry is working on institutional reform using ICT (TTBizLink), legal and regulatory reforms.

These reforms would allow for the sharing of data where, for example, brokers and agents would be able to apply on-line for their customs declarations and secure approvals without having to visit various offices, hence reducing the time taken from 7 days to 1-2 days.

Remarks were delivered by Ms. Sandra Indar, Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment and representatives of the International Agencies including Ms. Daniela Tramacere, Charge d'Affaires a.i. European Union Delegation to Trinidad and Tobago; Mr. Kirk Ifill, Country Head of the Southern Caribbean, World Bank Group; and Ms. Michelle Cross-Fenty, Inter-American Development Bank Country Representative.

Approximately one hundred and fifty (150) representatives from various Public and Private Agencies were in attendance. Included in the audience were the Honourable Prakash Ramadhar, Minister of Legal Affairs; Mr. Hugh Howard, President, American Chamber of Commerce Trinidad and Tobago; Mr. Andrew Sabga, President, Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce; Mr. Thomas Smitham, Charge d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy; Mr. Robert Tang Yuk, Chairman, exporTT, among others.

Trade Ministry partners with ITC to host Consultative Workshop for stakeholders on non-tariff measures



On Friday 1st March, 2013, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment in collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC), hosted a Consultative Workshop for stakeholders on non-tariff measures (NTMs) at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Centre.

In her Welcome Address, the Ministry's acting Permanent Secretary, Ms. Sandra Indar stated that *"the identification of the obstacles would provide for the achievement of greater transparency about business practices, regulations and requirements and could reduce the domestic barriers to trade; thus promoting the ease of doing business in this country"*.

In a bid to identify measures that inhibit business, and with a view to their elimination or streamlining, ITC carried out an in-depth survey on NTMs affecting companies in Trinidad and Tobago. The ITC survey helped assess company perspectives on NTM's applicable here and on the country's export markets. The Workshop discussed the main findings of this Survey and deliberations were had on the way ahead, whilst examining potential solutions and policy options.

Presentations were made on the following themes: 'Implementation of a Large-Scale Company Survey on NTMs in Trinidad and Tobago: Experiences and Challenges Encountered', 'Main Trade Barriers Affecting Exports in Trinidad and Tobago' and 'Main Trade Barriers Affecting Imports in Trinidad and Tobago'. Speakers included Ms. Karen Crichlow-Thomas, Managing



Ms. Sandra Indar, Permanent Secretary (Ag.), MTII (centre), Ms. Poonam Mohun, Market Analyst, International Trade Centre (left) and Ms. Karen Crichlow-Thomas, Managing Director, AK Insights Ltd.

Director, AK Insights Ltd; Ms. Poonam Mohun, Market Analysis and Research and Dr. Elizabeth Parsan, National Consultant.

NTMs cover a wide range of issues, such as sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical regulations, certification and licencing requirements. When applied to protect human, animal and plant lives, NTMs have a legitimate aim that is justified. However, these measures can also be applied as a protectionist tool, in which case they do not only act as barriers to trade, but can have a negative impact on the competitiveness of the country's economy.

In 2010, in the project's early stages, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment assisted the ITC in compiling the register of companies to be surveyed. In addition, a list of consultancy firms was provided to ITC from which AK Insights was selected to undertake the survey and Dr. Elizabeth Parsan was chosen to complete the Report.



TTBizLink – Changing the way business is conducted in T&T

In keeping with our mandate to enhance the ease of doing business in Trinidad and Tobago, one of the initiatives that is currently 'making waves' in the local business environment is our TTBizLink or Single Electronic Window (SEW). This is a secure, neutral IT platform accessed through www.ttbizlink.gov.tt that facilitates the online application and processing of various trade and business related services. During the first phase of the project, six (6) key e-services were launched. They include:

- **Certificate of Origin** administered by exporTT and the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce (TTCIC)

- **Company Registration** from the Ministry of Legal Affairs' (MLA's) Companies Registry. This e-service facilitates Name Search, Name Reservation, Registration of a Business and Incorporation of a Company

- **Import Duty Concessions (IDCs) and Fiscal Incentives (FIs)** from the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment (MTII)

- **Permits and Licences** from the Animal Health and Production Unit and Plant Quarantine Services of the Ministry of Food Production i.e. Animal Import Permits and Plant Import Permits

- **Permits and Licences** from the MTII's Trade Licence Unit (TLU) i.e. Import Licences; Duty Relief Licence/Minister's Licence; Suspension Certificate; and Safeguard Certificate

- **Work Permits** from the Ministry of National Security's (MNS) Work Permit Secretariat (WPS). This e-service facilitates Applications for Individual Work Permits; Applications for Group Work Permits; and Work Permit Extensions.

Our most recent notable success is that of the e-Company Registration Module which went live in October 2012. With this module we have reduced the processing time for business registration or incorporation of a company from seven (7) days to three (3) days. All successes are listed below.

Noteworthy, is the fact that since the live launch of the first e-services in February of 2012 to the end of December 2012, approximately 10,000 applications were processed. In support of this, and as the TTBizLink Department continues working on Phase II, in this issue of Trade Links, we share a few testimonials on these e-services. See following page.

Take the first step to access these government services online. Register today at www.ttbizlink.gov.tt

e-Import/Export Permits & Licenses

Module Live as at February 2012, Processing time reduced from 4 weeks to 1 day

e-Certificate of Origin

Module Live as at February 2012, Processing time reduced from 1 day to 30 mins

e-Fiscal Incentives

Module Live as at February 2012, Processing time reduced from 6 weeks to 11 days

e-Import Duty Concessions

Module Live as at February 2012, Processing time reduced from 6 weeks to 12 days

e-Work Permit

Module Live as at March 2012, Processing time reduced from 6 weeks to 2.5 weeks

e-Company Registration

Module live as at October 2012, Processing time reduced from 7 days to 3 days

Here's what TTBizLink Users had to say -

"I am pleased to say that this online system has been a vast improvement on the way we do business, it is user-friendly and timely. There has been a drastic reduction in the timeline for approval of permits."

Christopher Alexander, Managing Director, Phoenix Logistics (Trinidad) Ltd. on the Plant and Animal Import Permit e-services

"I find this online system to be working effectively and it is very convenient as it eliminates the hassle of having to go into the Agency in person and wait for approvals. I received approval of my Certificate of Origin within five minutes of sending them through this service."

Mahase Frank, Customs Clerk, Hyline Label Co. Ltd. on the Certificate of Origin e-service

"The website application process was very straight forward, both the design and interface made the website very user friendly. What stood out for me was the computing of totals and the ability to save the application and being able to continue on a different day or different computer. We had an overall very good experience."

Dean Fakoory, Director, Fakoory & Company Limited on the Import Duty Concessions e-service

"As the first user of this service, I found it to be beneficial as it previously took 3 days for a name reservation to be done. However, I submitted my request and was granted approval within a couple of hours; and I had no prior training or experience using the system and was able to do my first online name reservation within 5 minutes."

Kerry Mohammed, Head-Advisory services Dept., W. Mohammed & Co., Certified Chartered Accountants on the Company Registration e-service



HAVE YOU REGISTERED?



**Take the first step to access these government services online.
Register today at www.ttbizlink.gov.tt or call **800-4739****

Agency Focus

After 140 years of success in the energy sector, Trinidad & Tobago has become a favourable location for international investment, focusing on other key non-energy sectors to increase GDP growth and expansion. These include Maritime Industries, Renewable Energy, Agri-business, Tourism, Financial Services, and Culture and Creative Industries.

investTT which was established in 2012, is Trinidad & Tobago's investment promotion agency (IPA) aligned to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment. It is a key agent in the country's economic transformation with a mission to grow the non-oil and gas sectors significantly and sustainably.

investTT is committed to delivering an excellent standard of service to all potential and existing investors. The company works in partnership with all investors from the beginning of the site selection process to establishment of business and beyond.

The Investor Sourcing Unit leads activities in targeting, attracting and securing local, regional and international direct investment to Trinidad & Tobago. As the IPA's first point of contact and engagement with investors, the Sourcing team is dedicated to leading them towards making a committed

investment, as well as delivering relevant and current information pertinent to the decision-making process.

Through its Investor Facilitation and Aftercare Unit, investTT assists both local and foreign investors through each stage of a three-phase investment life cycle. The Facilitation team responds to requests for information, coordinates site visits and provides the investor with one-stop shop services within the business regulations and approvals process. The Aftercare team provides support to existing investors by resolving specific business challenges and identifying new investment project opportunities to encourage reinvestment.

investTT Trinidad and Tobago is a member of the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (CAIPA) as well as the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA).

For more information on doing business in Trinidad and Tobago, please visit www.investt.co.tt or make an inquiry now at **868-638-0038**.

Minister Bharath meets with newly appointed ExpорTT Board

Senator the Honourable Vasant Bharath, Minister of Trade, Industry and Investment met with the newly appointed ExpорTT Board of Directors on Tuesday 26th February 2013 at the Ministry's Head Office, Nicholas Towers, Port-of-Spain. At the meeting, Minister Bharath underscored that the main mandate for ExpорTT, formerly known as Business Development Company (BDC), is to create companies that can be internationally competitive in keeping with the identified sectors for economic diversification. The ExpорTT Board members include:

1. Mr. Robert Tang Yuk – Chairman
2. Ms. Karen De Montbrun – Deputy Chairman
3. Ms. Natasha Mustapha-Scott – Director
4. Mr. Ramesh Tiwari – Director
5. Mr. Adrian Singh – Director
6. Mr. Deryck Omar – Director
7. Ms. Lisa Anne-Marie Ramsumair – Director
8. Dr. Rikhi Permanand – Director
9. Mr. Jean-Paul Dookie – Director
10. Ms. Keitha Smith – Director



Minister Bharath (back row, centre) with Mr. Robert Tang Yuk, Chairman ExpорTT Board (front row, 2nd from right), Ms. Karen De Montbrun, Deputy Chairman, ExpорTT Board (front row, right) and other members of the ExpорTT Board.

Upcoming Events

Trinidad and Tobago to Host the CARIFORUM/EU Parliamentary Committee Meeting – April 3-4, 2013

The Second Meeting of the CARIFORUM/European Union Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) will be hosted in Trinidad and Tobago on April 3rd & 4th, 2013 at the Hyatt Regency. The CARIFORUM/EU JPC is one of the institutions provided for under the CARIFORUM/EU Economic Partnership Agreement

(EPA). The JPC is therefore an integral component of the institutional structure arising from the EPA. The meeting will see the participation of representatives of the European Parliament and CARIFORUM States.

Caribbean Investment Week – June 10-11, 2013

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment continues to create and support initiatives to strengthen the trade and business environment in Trinidad and Tobago. In the month of June, the MTII anticipates the participation of hundreds of foreign investors at the Caribbean Investment Week (CIW). The CIW will encompass the Caribbean Investment Forum on June 10th-11th at the Hilton (Trinidad) Hotel and Conference Centre and the Trade and Investment Convention (TIC) on June 12th-15th at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

In its third year, the CIF is an initiative of MTII under the guidance of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. The Forum is in keeping with the Government's mandate to diversify the economy away from the energy sector and, as such, facilitates an advance level of networking between domestic and foreign investors in the non-energy sector.

It is an ideal platform for collectively exploring business and investment opportunities, and for showcasing the potential the country offers to the world as a politically stable and enabling business and investment destination.

The second component of the CIW, the TIC, is in its fourteenth (14th) year. The event includes a tradeshow, structured business networking events and educational seminars. A strictly business-to-business event, the Convention connects buyers and suppliers to facilitate trade and investment. Below is a copy of a buyer invite to attend the TIC. Just cut out the excerpt and fill in the information to attend the TIC on one of the four days, free of charge.

For further information on the activities of the CIW please contact the Secretariat at 1-868-675-8862.

Caribbean Investment Week 2013!

June 10th - 15th 2013 • Port of Spain • Trinidad & Tobago

Join the hundreds of foreign investors and local business persons who will attend this important forum in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago.



TIC is pleased to present your

Buyer Invitation

to the

Trade & Investment Convention

June 12th to 15th • 2013 • Hyatt Regency Hotel • Trinidad

This Special Buyer Invitation entitles Distributors, Wholesalers, Retailers, Corporate Buyers and Purchasing Agents to FREE attendance at TIC 2013. Register on-line at www.tic-tt.com and learn more about this fantastic business opportunity!

The Best of Business!



Useful Contacts



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Betting Levy Board (BLB)
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Export-Import Bank of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (EXIMBANK)
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Website: www.eximbanktt.com



National Flour Mills Ltd. (NFM)
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Website: www.nfm.co.tt



Point Lisas Industrial Port Development Company Ltd. (PLIPDECO)
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Tel: 636-2201/2705-7 Email: plipdeco@plipdeco.com
Website: www.plipdeco.com



investTT Limited
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TIDCO Trade Facilitation Office of Trinidad and Tobago
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Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS)
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Website: www.ttbs.org.tt



Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Services Industries (TTCSI)
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Trinidad and Tobago Entertainment Company Ltd. (TTent)
47 Long Circular Road, St. James
Tel/Fax: 622-1455 Email: ttentinfo@yahoo.com
Website: www.ttentonline.com



Trinidad and Tobago Film Co. Ltd. (TTFC)
Suite 15, Bretton Hall, 16 Victoria Avenue, Port of Spain
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Trinidad and Tobago Free Zones Company Ltd. (TTFZ)
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Trinidad and Tobago Hotel Facilitation Company Ltd.
EXIM House, 30 Queen's Park West, Port of Spain
Tel: 625-2416/7 Ext 201



Trinidad and Tobago Racing Authority (TTRA)
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Trinidad and Tobago Tourism Business Development Limited
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Premier Quality Services Limited (PQSL)
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Venture Capital Incentive Programme (VCIP)
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