



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**Ministry of Trade and Industry**

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# *4th China International Import Exposition (CIIE)*

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REMARKS  
SENATOR THE HONOURABLE PAULA GOPEE-SCOON  
MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

Good morning everyone,

It is a pleasure to be here with you today at the 4<sup>th</sup> China International Import Exposition; one of the world's largest and most innovative platforms for strengthening international cooperation in trade and investment and a very important tool through which countries and exporters can build and reestablish trade links with China and the rest of the world.

The past year and a half has been a challenge, especially for trade, as production has scaled back and supply chains have been obstructed across the globe. If the economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis is to be resilient and long-lasting, a return to 'business as usual' must be avoided. Central to this new approach is the expected focus on well-being and inclusiveness, and finding a balance between economic development and environmental sustainability, and competition and collaboration. This event is therefore critical, not only for firms to enter and expand into the Chinese market, but also for Government representatives, export promoters, innovators and business people to exchange ideas and experiences, negotiate deals and new opportunities, and discover new consumers and markets across the globe.

### **TT-China trade**

Trade relations between Trinidad and Tobago and China continue to remain strong throughout the years.

In seeking to expand our exports to China, Government is working to diversify our range of export products and services. The Chinese market is massive; and our exporters are quite eager to penetrate niche consumer segments within China that are open to new and exciting products and experiences.

### **T&T's Offerings**

Trinidad and Tobago, while a largely hydrocarbon economy, is also known world-wide for its offer of world-class goods and services, that are found nowhere else on Earth. Our *Online Country Exhibition* showcases key sectors and products that have significant appeal to both niche and mass markets. I welcome you to take note of our exclusive cocoa and chocolate products, our assortment of hot sauces, our selection of bitters and rums, as well as some of our major distributors that can help you find the products and quantities you desire.

I recognize First Caribbean Marketing Co. Ltd., and in particular the Executive Chairman, Mr. Charles Cheng, for his efforts in facilitating the representation of a wide range of Trinidad and Tobago's goods at this exhibition. Further to this, Mr. Cheng has also pledged his support to local companies to promote products beyond the expo towards generating exports to the Chinese market.

I wish to thank everyone, on both sides of the globe, who made this event a reality. China has always been open and welcoming to the people of Trinidad and Tobago. Trinidad and Tobago has a lot to offer and I encourage you to take full advantage of our trade and investment opportunities.

I thank you.