

ATT RATIFICATIONS APPLAUDED BY THE PRIME MINISTER



The 50th ratification for the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) to enter into force was received at the United Nations on 25th September, 2014 when The Bahamas, Saint Lucia, Portugal, Senegal and Uruguay all ratified the treaty bringing the number of countries to 53.

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ATT RATIFICATION APPLAUDED BY THE PRIME MINISTER



Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar delivers address at the General Debate of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar lauded the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) by members of the regional and international communities as a means of ensuring more peaceful resolution to international conflict. She said this “marked the achievement of another milestone for the international community and a triumph for multilateral diplomacy as the preferred means to resolve the most serious problems confronting the international community.” The Prime Minister indicated that she was very pleased that among those States which ratified the Treaty were The Bahamas and St. Lucia bringing the total number of ratifications by CARICOM States to eight, with all fourteen having already signed the ATT. She pledged to continue to advocate for total ratification by all CARICOM Members and the full implementation of the provisions of the instrument. Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar made the statement at a high-level event associated with the opening of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 25th September, 2014.

The ATT, pursuant to Articles 6 and 7, imposes obligations on all States Parties to refuse to transfer or trade in conventional arms if those arms are subject to prohibitions under resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council, or are likely to be used for the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity or any other breaches of international humanitarian law or international human rights law.

The Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs, described the ratification as a success story for diplomacy in the world. He also stated that it was a landmark achievement for the United Nations, Trinidad and Tobago, CARICOM and the other countries of the world. He further stated that Trinidad and Tobago had been the lead CARICOM negotiator for the ATT for over two years.

The treaty is expected to come into force on 24th December, 2014. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in a message to the high-level event on the Arms Trade Treaty, stated that the ATT is a legally binding commitment; and the United Nations would work for its efficient implementation and seek its universalisation so regulated arms could become a reality once and for all.

Trinidad and Tobago has bid to host the Secretariat of the ATT in Port of Spain. This institution, established under Article 18 of the Treaty, would assist States Parties in exchanging best practices and benefit from other forms of international cooperation to ensure that domestic and international criminals are not readily afforded small arms and light weapons which are the weapons of mass destruction in our region.

MINISTER DOOKERAN DESCRIBES TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S PARTICIPATION AT UNGA AS A SUCCESS



The Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago described Trinidad and Tobago's participation in the High-level Segment of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, from 22-30th September 2014 as very successful. Minister Dookeran indicated that the country was able to enhance its role and image as a developing nation and is increasingly seen as an important player in global affairs, despite its size.

Trinidad and Tobago participated in a number of bilateral meetings to advance trade and other economic issues; as well as the conclusion of diplomatic relations with the Principality of Andorra. Minister Dookeran also mentioned that through the annual Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the G77 and China, the largest global negotiating group representing developing countries, Trinidad and Tobago was able to articulate its vision on matters related to the post 2015 Development Agenda, which would witness a new sustainable development regime for the international community with the emphasis placed on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) next year.

Minister Dookeran indicated that these issues and others were elaborated further in the Honourable Prime Minister's speech in the general debate of world leaders on 26th September, 2014. The Honourable Prime Minister addressed several issues of national importance including measures undertaken by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to achieve the MDGs, which in some areas including education, have been successful and surpassed initial goals well ahead of the 2015 deadline.

Also included were climate change, reform of the international financial institutions to make them more amenable to the specific needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDs); matters relating to international peace and security such as the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty on 24th December, 2014, and its effect on national efforts to tackle the illegal proliferation of small arms and light weapons which is associated with other trans-boundary crimes including the illicit narcotics trade.

Minister Dookeran also articulated that Trinidad and Tobago's co-sponsorship of the United Nations Security Council Resolution on Foreign Terrorist Fighters was done after a critical analysis of the provisions of that resolution, which was adopted by consensus by all 15 members of the Security Council, including the permanent members, namely China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and the United States. He further stated that the resolution was co-sponsored by 104 countries from diverse regions of the world, representing all continents, developed and developing countries, as well as fellow CARICOM State, Jamaica.

It was also emphasised that the resolution should provide for international cooperation mechanisms which Trinidad and Tobago could access to augment its security apparatus as part of the international community's fight against terrorism. Benefits can also accrue from provisions in the resolution relating to the exchange of information with other agencies which are charged with the responsibility for tracking the movement of international criminals.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO SIGNS THE NATIONAL INDICATIVE PROGRAMME

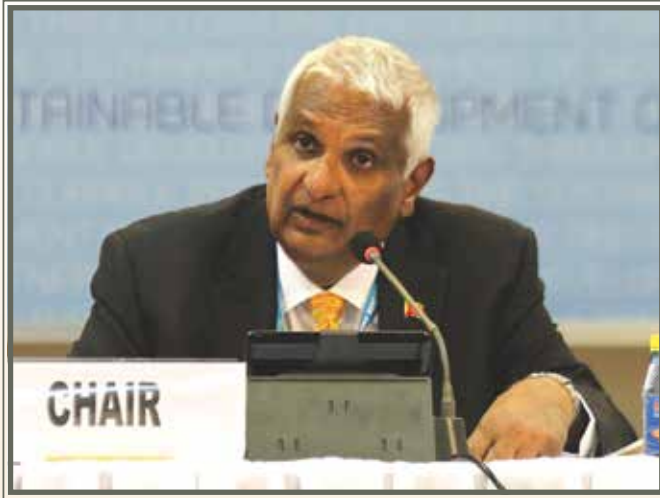
The Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on Tuesday 2nd September, 2014 signed, on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the National Indicative Programme (NIP) of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF). The NIP is a funding mechanism by which the European Union will provide grant funds to Trinidad and Tobago to support social and economic development projects.

Several countries belonging to the African, Caribbean and Pacific

Group of States, including many members of the Caribbean Community signed their NIPs at a signing ceremony on 2nd September, 2014, in the margins of the Third United Nations International Conference on Small Island Developing States that took place in Samoa.

The National Indicative Programme amounts to 9.7 million Euros for disbursement over the period 2014 to 2020.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ADOPTS THE AOSIS LEADERS' DECLARATION 2014



The Hon. Winston Dookeran- Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Third International Conference on SIDS - (Photo courtesy IISD)

Trinidad and Tobago joins with Heads of State and Government of the Alliance of Small Island States to adopt the AOSIS Leaders' Declaration 2014.

Trinidad and Tobago participated in the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and related meetings from 28th August, 2014 to 4th September, 2014 in Apia, Samoa. The Conference resulted in, among other things, the adoption of the new sustainable development action plan for Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities for Action (S.A.M.O.A Pathway) and the registration of 300 partnerships addressing a range of priority areas, including Sustainable Economic Development, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management, Social Development in SIDS, Health and NCDs, Youth and Women, Sustainable Energy, Oceans, Seas and Biodiversity, Water and Sanitation and Food Security and Waste Management.

The overarching theme for the Third International Conference on SIDS was "The Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States through genuine and durable partnership." In this regard,

the Conference served as a forum to build on existing successful partnerships as well as to launch innovative and concrete new ones to advance the sustainable development of SIDS.

Addressing the Conference, the Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that it is "imperative that SIDS engage with the global community in the determinants of a resilience matrix to arrive at a global compact that would secure solidarity for the implementation of the SIDS programme." The Honourable Minister went on to express that for Trinidad and Tobago such a compact must address the systemic difficulties of the existing global financial system that has caused the flow of funds to small states to operate adversely in small economies, and should also be the basis for building just and competitive economies. As the international community launches into the preparatory process for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 6th to 18th July, 2015 it is expected that this SIDS perspective on the imperative for reform of the global financial system will be carried forward by Member States of CARICOM and other SIDS.

Heads of State and Government of the Alliance of Small Island States took the opportunity to meet on the margins of the Conference and agreed on a Leaders' Declaration addressing the issues of climate change and sustainable development.

During these deliberations, the Honourable Minister also insisted on the inclusion of a call for the establishment of a global compact in support of the sustainable development of SIDS through building economic, social and environmental resilience in SIDS countries. This call was subsequently endorsed by Heads of State and Government of AOSIS and included in the AOSIS Leaders' Declaration.

Trinidad and Tobago was among the 300 partnerships that contributed towards the framing of the AOSIS Declaration 2014.

The United Nations General Assembly will agree by the end of the December 2014 on the appropriate modalities for the follow up and implementation of the outcomes from the SIDS Conference.

The full text of the Declaration can be accessed via <http://www.sids2014.org>

EUROPEAN FUNDING FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Trinidad and Tobago will receive grant funds from the European Union to support social and economic development projects.

The Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs recently signed, on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the National Indicative Programme (NIP) of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), to access this funding mechanism.

Several countries belonging to the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, including many members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) signed their NIPs at a signing ceremony on 2nd September, 2014, in the margins of the Third United Nations International Conference on Small Island Developing States that took place in Samoa.

The National Indicative Programme amounts to 9.7 million Euros for disbursement over the period 2014 to 2020.

EDUCATE THE YOUTH ON RESISTANCE AGAINST COLONIAL DOMINATION



Mr. Aiyegoro Ome receives his instruments of appointment

Reparations during her feature address at the 9th meeting of Trinidad and Tobago National Committee on Reparations (TTNCR). The meeting was held on Tuesday 12th August, 2014 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dr. Shepherd added that one of the most important activities of the National Committees on Reparations is that of public education. She further stated that people of African descent should ensure that the history of resistance against colonial domination is taught in schools from the perspective of Caribbean people.

Dr. Shepherd noted that CARICOM Reparation Commission Justice Programme (CRCJP) ten-point action plan has been accepted by all Heads of CARICOM countries including Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar.

It was at the CARICOM's 34th Regular Meeting in July 2013 held in Trinidad and Tobago that it was agreed that each CARICOM member state should establish its own National Committee on Reparations. Additionally, according to the CARICOM Regional Commission on Reparations, the National Committees on Reparations throughout the region would be provided with political oversight through a

“It is a crime against humanity to deny people connection to their identity.” This statement was made by Dr. Verene A. Shepherd, Vice-Chairman of the CARICOM Reparations Commission (CRC) and Chair of Jamaica's National Commission on

Committee under the directive of the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mr. Freundel J. Stuart.

The Trinidad and Tobago National Committee on Reparations was established in September 2013, as mandated by the CARICOM, to document the effects of European Genocide against the indigenous inhabitants of the region, the slave trade and the enslavement of Africans, and colonisation. During the meeting members of the committee were presented with their letters of appointment from His Excellency Mervyn Assam, Ambassador Extraordinaire and Plenipotentiary who represented the Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Aiyegoro Ome, the TTNCR Chairman, in his address noted that justice must be served for the genocide of the First People, slavery, and the crimes against humanity, and the reparation and compensation for these wrongs must be seen by our generation. The Chairman further stated the committee will seek to implement plans towards public education about reparations.

At the end of the meeting Dr. Shepherd presented the Chairman, Mr. Aiyegoro Ome and Ambassador Mervyn Assam with a copy of the book entitled, “Jamaica and Debate over Reparations for Slavery.”

Dr. Shepherd is the recipient of several awards, including the Jamaica National Heritage Trust Award for contribution to Jamaican history and heritage and the Africana Studies distinguished African Award (2007) from Florida International University. She is also a member of several educational and international organisations and is a prominent researcher on gender issues. Dr. Shepherd has presented numerous seminars and conference papers and delivered many public lectures locally, regionally and internationally.



Members of the Trinidad and Tobago National Committee on Reparations are as follows:

- His Excellency Sir Edwin Carrington, Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM);
- Mr. Aiyegoro Ome, Chairman, Trinidad and Tobago National Committee on Reparations

- Ms. Avril Belfon, National Archivist, National Archives of Trinidad and Tobago, Ministry of National Diversity and Social Integration;
- Mrs. Theresa Nebblett-Skinner, Curriculum Development Division, Ministry of Education;
- Dr. Sharon Legall, Attorney at Law, Consultant Lecturer, Faculty of Law, U.W.I.;
- Dr. Anthony Birchwood, Department of Economics, U.W.I., St Augustine;
- Mr. Andy Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, Government Information Services Limited;
- Mr. Khafra Kambon, Chairman of Emancipation Support Committee;
- Chief Ricardo Bharath Hernandez, Santa Rosa First People's Community;
- Der One Piankhi, Council of Orisha Elders of Trinidad and Tobago;
- Mr. Clyde Noel of the All Mansions of Rastafari, Trinidad and Tobago;
- Ms. Tiffany Bethel, Office of the Prime Minister;
- Mr. Naim Mohammed, Ministry of the Attorney General,;
- Mr. Damian Richardson, Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism, and
- Dr. Fazal Ali, University of Trinidad and Tobago.

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS



Staff at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs used Emancipation 2014 to focus on cultural connections between Trinidad and Tobago and Africa. The Ministry collaborated with the High Commission for Nigeria to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to examine some of the cultural connections under the theme “Resistance, Liberty, Heritage: Assume the past, understand the present, build the future together.”

The Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs in his greetings reminded staff of the significance of Emancipation and its importance in this country’s history. Mr. Nasiru Waje, First Secretary at the Nigerian High Commission in his feature address gave details of his country’s culture and traditions.

Mr. Aiyegoro Ome, Chair of the Trinidad and Tobago Committee for Reparations informed staff about the role of the Committee which was established to document the effects of European genocide against the indigenous inhabitants of the region, the slave trade in and the enslavement of Africans and Colonisation.

Members of staff also had the opportunity to view traditional Nigerian art and to sample authentic dishes while they compared recipes and traced cultural connections.

PS PARILLON BEGINS HER NEW JOURNEY IN LIFE

Members of the Foreign Affairs family joined with relatives and friends of Permanent Secretary Margaret Parillon to bid her farewell after 36 years in the Public Service. Tributes were offered in words, songs, poetry and even signage.

The Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs thanked Ms. Parillon for her dedicated years of service and presented her with a token of appreciation on behalf of the staff. Ms. Parillon is on pre-retirement leave and will officially leave the Public Service on 7th January, 2015.



NATIONALS CELEBRATE REPUBLIC DAY WITH PRIME MINISTER KAMLA PERSAD-BISSESSAR



Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and dignitaries at the flag raising ceremony in New York

The Trinidad and Tobago Diaspora in New York and Miami had the opportunity to celebrate the 38th Republic Day Anniversary with the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

In New York the events commenced with the Prime Minister hoisting the national flag in a ceremony on Wall Street. She then highlighted Trinidad and Tobago's progression "as a nation, as a democracy but most importantly as a people." Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar also met with nationals of Trinidad and Tobago at the Tropical Paradise

Ballroom in Brooklyn where she addressed them on issues relating to crime, the health sector and the economy.

Republic Day celebrations culminated in New York with a Gala Dinner, hosted by Dr. Nan Ramgoolam, Trinidad and Tobago Consul General to New York, at the Elite Palace in Queens. At this event, the Honourable Prime Minister underscored that Trinidad and Tobago was on the threshold of a very significant achievement in the area of education, which has come as a result of vision, commitment and keeping promises. She further stated that where education thrived, social inclusion also flourished and that has been the case in the twin-island republic as communities have become stronger and people more confident in their own country.

Over 400 nationals residing in Miami, Florida, were also apprised by the Honourable Prime Minister of the improvements in the health care and education systems in Trinidad and Tobago at a Republic Day Dinner hosted by Dr. Anil Ramnanan, Trinidad and Tobago Consul General in Miami. The Prime Minister also issued an invitation to members of the business community in South Miami to facilitate greater trade opportunities with Trinidad and Tobago, as this country is ranked 27th in terms of trade with South Florida. Attending the event were Dale Holness, Broward County Commissioner; renowned Trinidad and Tobago calypsonian the Mighty Sparrow and United States Representative, Hazel Rogers.

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP UNVEILED BY TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND CHINA



Trinidad and Tobago and China conjointly unveiled specially designed stamps to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Trinidad and Tobago and China and the 65th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China. The stamps were unveiled by His Excellency Huang Xingyuan, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China and the Honourable Nizam Baksh, Minister of Public Utilities. In celebration of this momentous milestone a commemorative event co-hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China was held on 19th September, 2014 at Hyatt

Regency Trinidad.

"We come here not only to celebrate the two auspicious occasions but also to acknowledge that we come as people from two civilisations, from the Chinese civilisation and from the Caribbean civilisation, meeting here in Port of Spain, to build a bond and friendship that will be to the benefit of our respective citizens and countries," said the Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs, as he highlighted the bilateral relationship between Trinidad and Tobago and China.

His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona, S.C., President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, attended the commemorative celebrations and was escorted into the ballroom by the Chinese traditional dragon dancers. Also present were Ministers of Government; members of the Diplomatic Corps; and representatives of the local Chinese community

On 20th June, 2014 the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the People's Republic of China marked the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between both countries.

PRIME MINISTER CALLS FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE



Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar addresses the media following her address on Climate Change

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar signaled Trinidad and Tobago's interest in partnering with all nations in collective action against climate change. The statement was made at the Multilateral and Multi-Stakeholder Action Announcement Session on Transport at the United Nations Summit on Climate Change which she co-chaired.

The Honourable Prime Minister underscored that the greatest environmental threat that mankind faces in this century is the impact of climate change. She noted that Trinidad and Tobago's coastal and in-land regions were showing signs of impact and projected that over the next 15 years, greenhouse gas emissions could double.

In an effort to secure the safety and survival of its citizens and the stability of economies like Trinidad and Tobago, Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar indicated that, "this country supported more determined collective action on climate change to achieve the pathway of keeping global temperature increase below 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2020." The Prime Minister also pledged support for achieving the goal of net-zero global emissions before the end of the century, between 2050 and 2100.

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar highlighted that Trinidad and Tobago's 2011 National Climate Change Policy included the introduction of a robust framework of cross-sectoral policy instruments, fiscal incentives and initiatives focused on the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. She further stated that there was a reorganisation of national development policy to ensure that the imperatives of climate change action would not be vested in one policy, but rather woven throughout the entire national development policy.

Reflecting on some of Trinidad and Tobago's initiatives to reduce the effects of climate change, the Honourable Prime Minister said that "in the output industrial sector there has been greater access to substantial allowances and incentives to encourage energy efficiency in the petrochemical sector. A national Energy-Audits rollout has been undertaken to encourage small businesses and households to implement energy efficient practices and an ongoing effort to encourage vehicle users to switch from diesel and petrol to the cleaner and more efficient compressed natural gas."

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar implored her fellow leaders who have not yet committed to join in the collective effort, to minimize the risks of climate change to our people.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS OBSERVES EID-UL-FITR



Staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had the opportunity to have many of their questions on "Youth in Islam" answered at the Ministry's observance of Eid-ul-Fitr on Wednesday 6th August, 2014. The event was hosted by the Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs who brought greetings to staff and reminded them of some of the important lessons of Islam which focuses on patience, self-restraint, discipline and spiritual elevation. Minister Dookeran also asked staff to display some degree of humility, sincerity, selflessness and concern for the less fortunate during Ramadan.

In addressing the theme "Youth in Islam" Mr. Idrees Saleem, guest speaker took members of staff on a journey into his life as a young Muslim Trinbagonian. He demonstrated how he managed to strike a balance with his religion, values, mores, ethics and his work.

SIGNAL HILL ALUMNI CHOIR PERFORMS IN GENEVA



The Signal Hill Alumni Choir at the Rhythms of One World 2014 International Choral Festival in Geneva

The Signal Hill Alumni Choir reminded audiences in Geneva of the power of music to foster peace and provided an opportunity for them to experience “A Taste of the Caribbean Vibe” at the Rhythms of One World 2014 International Choral Festival. The event was held in Geneva during the period 4th to 8th July, 2014.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

to the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland (PMUN) in collaboration with event organiser US-based non-profit Friendship Ambassadors Foundation (FAF), sponsored the SHAC choral programme which was held at the Conservatoire de Musique de Geneve on 7th July, 2014. The choir performed in two massed choral concerts on 6th July, 2014 at the Victoria Hall and on 8th July, 2014 at the Palais des Nations (United Nations Geneva Headquarters). The choir also entertained guests at the PMUN Mission inaugural Family Day on 5th July, 2014 in Saint Sulpice on the banks of the picturesque Lake Geneva.

FAF noted that this global festival pays homage to the signing of the United Nations Charter on 26th June, 1946. The festival, which premiered in New York City in 2012, highlights the concept of harmony through diversity and the importance of music to fostering peace. This year, the festival featured seven high-calibre international choirs from Australia, Canada, South Africa, France, Romania, the United States of America and Trinidad and Tobago.

His Excellency John C.E. Sandy, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, Geneva, honoured SHAC for its contribution and commitment to culture in Trinidad and Tobago. SHAC will celebrate its 30th Anniversary in 2014 under the distinguished leadership of John Arnold, Musical Director.

JAMAICAN STUDENT RECEIVES TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AWARD



Ms. Tasanique Henry (3rd from left) received the award from staff

The High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to Jamaica awarded the most outstanding student for the 2013 Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE) Prize for History throughout the Caribbean.

Ms. Tasanique Henry of Hampton School was presented the award on behalf of the Eric Williams Memorial Collection. Ms. Henry received two grade ones in CAPE History and the highest scores among her peers. In addition to this award, last year, Ms. Henry was designated the most outstanding CAPE humanities student in the region, for which she was awarded the Pearson Publisher Award.

The Eric Williams Memorial Collection pays tribute to the late Dr. Eric Eustace Williams, scholar, historian and first Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. It is administered by Mrs. Erica Williams-CConnell, daughter of the late Eric Williams, who continues to keep the memory of her father and the principles he espoused, alive.

This is the High Commission’s second prize-giving ceremony on behalf of the Eric Williams Memorial Collection for 2014. In April, Ms. Shontol Harris, of Clarendon High School, St. Catherine, received an award for earning second place in the 2012-2013 Eric Williams Schoolbag Essay Competition.

AMBASSADOR JOHN C.E. SANDY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC



The Hon. Giorgio Napolitano, President of the Italian Republic, welcomes H.E. John C.E. Sandy to the Palazzo del Quirinal during the Presentation of Credentials ceremony. Chief of Diplomatic Protocol, Minister Plenipotentiary, Riccardo Guariglia is to the left of H.E. John Sandy

His Excellency John C.E. Sandy, Ambassador of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the Italian Republic, on 23rd July, 2014, presented his Letters of Credence to the President of the Italian Republic, His Excellency Giorgio Napolitano at the Palazzo del Quirinale in Rome, Italy during an official presentation of Credentials. Ambassador Sandy is now recognised by the Government of Italy as the official representative for this country.

During his presentation, the President extended warm greetings to His Excellency followed by an exchange of views on the historically warm bilateral relations that exist between Trinidad and Tobago and Italy. Ambassador Sandy, in endorsing the President's sentiments, expanded on the various initiatives he would seek to undertake as Trinidad and Tobago's highest representative to Italy, to further strengthen relations and cooperation between both countries.

ADMIRAL LUIS BRION NAVAL MEDAL AWARDED TO ADMIRAL RICHARD KELSHALL

Rear Admiral Richard Kelshall, Regional Security Coordinator, Office of the Prime Minister, received the Admiral Luis Brion Naval Medal from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The medal was bestowed in recognition of distinguished service in the framework of bilateral agreements on national security between the two Republics which have facilitated a strengthening of relations of goodwill and friendship.

Rear Admiral Kelshall received the award on Thursday 24th July, 2014 following the celebration and wreath laying ceremony of the 231st anniversary of the birth of the Liberator and father of the nation, Simon Bolivar and National day of the Bolivarian Navy.


FUTURE DIPLOMATS ON THE JOB




Top winners of the Future Diplomats Competition Rebekka Wooding and Joshua Thomas from NorthGate College joined staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the job when they commenced their vacation attachment at the Ministry.

As part of their prize package the students were granted the opportunity to put theory into practice and to train alongside diplomats. They were exposed to Registry procedures, Consular and

Protocol procedures, Bilateral Relations and Communications. They also had the opportunity to participate in personal security training which was conducted by the Ministry of National Security. Both students expressed their joy and excitement at being able to participate in the programme and indicated that the skill and knowledge gained will assist them to prepare to assume their role as future diplomats.



THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



**FUTURE DIPLOMATS
ESSAY
COMPETITION**


START DATE: MONDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2014
END DATE: FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER, 2014

Essay Theme: CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ESSAY TOPIC: Countries in the Caribbean are vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Discuss the significant causes and effects of climate change in the Caribbean Region. In this context, suggest three approaches for achieving sustainable development in the Region.


Secondary school students within forms 4, 5 and 6 are eligible to compete

STUDENT PRIZES



- 1st Prize Surface Pro 3
- 2nd Prize Samsung Tab Pro 12.2
- 3rd Prize Samsung Galaxy S5

SCHOOL PRIZES



- 1st Prize All In One Printer
- 2nd Prize Desktop and Printer
- 3rd Prize Projector

Teacher's Prize Tablet

GUIDELINES

- Submissions should have a minimum of 1,200 words and must not exceed 1,500 words.
- Submissions should be typed.
- Essays must be original, creative and factual.

OVER 20 ADDITIONAL PRIZES • PRIZES MODELS MAY VARY

Full details are available from:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- School Principals
- www.foreign.gov.tt

For additional information contact:

The Corporate Communications Unit/Ministry of Foreign Affairs
623-6894 Ext. 2154 or Ext. 2022

- Essays must be submitted with completed entry form.

Facebook: Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Foreign Affairs
or ask your School Principal.
Visit: www.foreign.gov.tt