



Trinidad and Tobago's 1st UNEVOC Centre Launched

L-R: Mario Als, Director; Pauline Whiteman, CEO; Dianne Joseph, Director; Lincoln Ramlochan, Director; Carl Seymour, Director; Joy Francis, Director; Dr. Ruby S. Alleyne, Chairperson; Satesh Ojar, Director; & Shalene Suchit-Dwarika, Director, of the NTA, at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the launch of the official UNEVOC Centre in Trinidad and Tobago.

Skilled workers, artisans, craftsmen, master craftsmen and technologists, in every sphere of economic activity, turn the wheels of the economy of Trinidad and Tobago. These were the words of Dr. Ruby S. Alleyne, Chairperson of the National Training Agency (NTA) at the launch of the official centre for UNEVOC, the first of its kind in Trinidad and Tobago. The historic occasion was held on October 15th 2019 at the NTA's Head Office in Chaguanas.

At the event, NTA's key technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and industry partners witnessed the proud unveiling of the UNEVOC signage and plaque. These articles are now visible reflections of the strategic focus of the NTA to ensure that the local TVET system is in stride with its international counterparts.

UNEVOC is UNESCO's specialised centre for TVET, which focuses particularly on contributing to the overarching goal of developing and strengthening TVET worldwide. As members of the UNEVOC Network, Centres gain access to international expertise and mutual assistance for institutional capacity development. Centres are also exposed to mutual learning opportunities through the various forms of cooperation, institutional mechanisms and platforms. Membership allows for the benchmarking of TVET approaches, initiatives and practices.

The NTA gained acceptance into the UNEVOC Network in June of this year. This is an opportunity which will support NTA's overall mission of improving and strengthening the standard and quality of TVET in Trinidad and Tobago. Furthermore, through this platform, the NTA will be more capable in facilitating the emergence of an enabling environment for knowledge exchange and mutual assistance among TVET officials, policymakers, academics, teachers, practitioners, experts, skills training participants and wider stakeholders in the country. The Centre is accessible to members of the public Monday to Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

During her remarks Dr. Alleyne indicated that TVET can offer persons viable careers, once they possess the willingness to work and learn, and the right attitude to work. She stated that the sustainable development of Trinidad and Tobago's industrial sector is heavily dependent upon the availability of skilled manpower, as this keeps the wheels of industry turning. Therefore, collaborations like these, and the upcoming partnership between the NTA and the National Library and Information System (NALIS), are extremely vital and necessary as they will assist with the alleviation and eventual elimination of the stigma associated with TVET, and will increase the awareness of employment opportunities in TVET.

Dr. Alleyne concluded by restating the Agency's commitment and its pivotal role in improving the quality, relevance and efficiency of all TVET in the country.



Dr. Ruby S. Alleyne, Chairperson, NTA



Ms. Pauline Whiteman, CEO (Ag.), NTA



Dr. Patrice Parris Searles, Coordinator, UNEVOC Centre, Trinidad and Tobago

