

MEDIA RELEASE

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Dear Editor / Head of Department

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First Lego League National Tournament is Back After a Three-Year Hiatus

Couva, Trinidad and Tobago. Scores of onlookers and approximately two hundred (200) participants, from across various schools in Trinidad and Tobago attended the recently held FIRST LEGO League National Tournament, hosted by the National Institute of Higher Education Research Science and Technology (NIHERST) and Shell Trinidad & Tobago Limited (Shell).

The FIRST LEGO League is a global programme with a presence in eighty (80) countries. The initiative which utilises theme-based challenges to engage students in research, problem-solving, and engineering, impresses its core values of the contribution of others, learning, and community involvement to its competitors.

At the prize-giving ceremony, at the National Cycling Velodrome, awardees were presented with over \$125,000 in prizes for awards which included Core Values, Robot Design, and Innovation Project.

At the ceremony, NIHERST, as the operational partner of the programme in Trinidad and Tobago, invited one of its Governors, Ms. Sharon Baboolal, to deliver remarks. Ms. Baboolal highlighted **'We firmly believe that initiatives like the First Lego League are instrumental in nurturing young talent and enabling them to explore their potential.'**

As she directed her attention to the participants she exclaimed, **'Our greatest investment is in you. The ones who can make a difference in our communities and chart a course that can transform our society to be admired by generations to come. We stand firm in our mandate to foster a culture of scientific discoveries, technological advancements, and innovative development, but without the core asset, of our youth, none of these will be possible.'**

Platinum sponsor of the First Lego League National Tournament and patron of the Shell STREAM Programme, Shell T&T Ltd. was represented by its General Manager- Business Transformation, Ms. Anesha Sadar, who impressed, **'Shell Trinidad and Tobago is proud to be the platinum sponsor of the First Lego League. STREAM (Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Art and Math) education challenges our current thinking to find creative solutions to the problems we face today as a society. The First Lego League is one of the many avenues that provides the support young people need to generate ideas that will pave the way to a sustainable future.'**

Ms. Tricia Gilkes, Curriculum Coordinator, within the Ministry of Education who brought remarks on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Education, expressed **'the FIRST LEGO League programme is always a welcomed educational resource and solution for 21st century teaching and hands-on learning. This initiative is an exciting way that serves to advance not only the Ministry's drive toward Digital Transformation but that of Trinidad and Tobago and its Sustainable Development Vision: 2030.'**

During the awards declaration, the following teams were announced as the top winners in their respective categories: -

- Champion's Award - Trinity College East
- Robot Performance Awards (1st) – Trinity College East
- Robot Performance Awards (2nd) – Maple Leaf International College
- Core Values Award - Chaguanas North Secondary School
- Robot Design Award – Presentation College, Chaguanas
- Innovation Project Award – Parvati Girls' Hindu College
- Motivate Award – Brainstormers
- Rising All-Star Award – Holy Name Convent
- Breakthrough Award – Naparima College
- Engineering Excellence Award- Maple Leaf International College

In their final remarks, NIHERST extended its gratitude to the event's silver sponsor Phoenix Park Gas Processors Ltd., as well as bronze sponsors, Massy Foundation, Republic Bank Ltd, Radio Shack, and in-kind sponsor, Sunshine Snacks-Zoomers.



In Picture: Trinity STEM Rollers of Trinity College East- Recipient of the Champions Award and Robot Performance Award (1st)

About NIHERST

NIHERST is a statutory body established in 1984 to promote science, technology and higher education in Trinidad and Tobago consistent with national development goals. The Institute is an agency under the Ministry of Education. Its current work focuses on the development of a more diversified, knowledge-driven economy, based on the ingenuity of our people and their ability to create, adapt and use science and technology for wealth generation and national development. Many of its programmes aim to strengthen the innovative, creative and entrepreneurial capabilities of the general population. NIHERST is also engaged in research, such as in foresight and innovation, to support economic diversification; promoting innovation and the commercialisation of technology in priority sectors; and building global partnerships.

About Shell STREAM Programme

Shell Trinidad and Tobago Ltd. (STTL) has been implementing Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Arts and Math (S.T.R.E.A.M.) Programme since 2013. This national programme aims

to strengthen the energy sector's talent pipeline and the country's progress at economic diversification by enhancing critical thinking, creativity and problem solving through strengthening awareness, competence and the delivery of Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics within the educational system. Since 2019, NIHERST has been one of Shell's facilitators in STREAM education.

The programme represents a key opportunity for informal education and hands on learning around innovative science and technology resources. It communicates not only the fundamentals of STREAM but also enables the foresight to demonstrate how STREAM connects to the everyday and real world. This makes the STREAM concept more relatable and solidifies the correlation between science and society.



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