



## **CLOSING REMARKS BY**

**Ms. Giselle Dinzey  
(Ag) REGISTRAR**

**AT THE LAUNCH OF THE *FIRST* LEGO LEAGUE**

**November 23, 2016**

**QUEENS PARK OVAL  
(SHELL HOSPITALITY SUITE)**

**The Honourable Minister of Education  
Mr. Anthony Garcia**

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education,  
Dr. the Honourable Lovell Francis;**

**Ag. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education,  
Ms. Angela Sinaswee-Gervais;**

**Country Chairman, Shell Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago and  
the English and Dutch Caribbean,  
Luis Prado;**

**Ag. President, NIHERST  
Ms. Sylvia Lalla;**

**Head, Microsoft T&T,  
Ms. Frances Correia**

**Members of the Media**

**Government Officials**

**Specially Invited Guests**

**Students**

**NIHERST Management and Staff**

## **Good Morning!**

It is indeed an honour to deliver these Closing Remarks and express gratitude to all those who made this event and this project a reality. Given the fact that this project addresses an identified need in Trinidad and Tobago, i.e. more support for STEM education, pilot projects of this nature must be embraced at the national level given the potential of such projects for inspiring young people to pursue careers in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), which essentially will positively impact on the quality of life in our country.

I wish to especially thank the Honourable Minister of Education, Mr. Anthony Garcia for giving the necessary approvals to set in motion this pilot project and for taking the time to be with us today. As previously mentioned, Mr. Garcia comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience in Education. Given his past frame of reference and current portfolio as Minister of Education, it would have been easy for him to appreciate the relevance and

timeliness in executing this pilot project for children in Trinidad and Tobago.

I must thank the financial sponsor Shell Trinidad Ltd. Mr. Luis Prado, the Country Chairman of Shell Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago and the English and Dutch Caribbean and Mr. Leslie Bowrin, Shell's External Relations Advisor, I wish to convey a **special thank you.**

Without your company's generous contributions and investment in this pilot project, none of this would have been possible. Particularly, in these stringent economic times, building partnerships is essential and we commend you for your continuing work in supporting STEM education and empowering fence-line communities under the pillar of corporate social responsibility.

Next, the founders of the **FIRST LEGO League** Programme – **FIRST and LEGO Education** - thank you for your vision and for including us in this remarkable journey. Thus far, it has been a most rewarding experience for NIHERST staff in learning and understanding the details in executing **FIRST LEGO League**. We are most appreciative of the possible opportunity to showcase a champion award winning team from Trinidad and Tobago at the 2017 **FIRST LEGO League** World Festival in Houston, Texas.

And to our partners Sacoda Serv Ltd., we welcome the counterpart training and experience in effectively implementing this project and for your active role on the Steering Committee.

Members of the Steering Committee for this project comprise representatives from the Ministry of Education, The University of the West Indies, Shell, JRR Life Ltd and NIHERST. I wish to thank all members for their unwavering efforts and the time vested in bringing this project to fruition.

And now to our Acting President and project champion, Ms. Sylvia Lalla, who has been the driving force behind this project. Thank you for your support, direction, keen interest and motivation which have nurtured a strong project team.

To the staff of the Innovation Unit at NIHERST, you have facilitated the execution of this project, effecting a launch and operationalizing certain segments of **FIRST LEGO League**. This is just the beginning. Know that all partners are on board to continue rendering support in achieving the desired objectives. We wish you continued success as the program unfolds.

And lastly, to you the audience, thank you for your presence here to share in this event and show your support for this initiative.

We all look forward to experiencing the fruits of this project - children who can apply STEM to solving real world problems in our communities using critical thinking and team-building skills and the values of gracious professionalism and “coopertition”.

I thank you.