

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Dear Editor / Head of Department

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### **Shell Empowers Future Innovators: Handover Ceremony of STREAM Kits to Schools**

[PoS, 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2023] – **Shell Trinidad and Tobago Ltd.**, in partnership with the National Institute for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST), hosted the "Shell STREAM Kit Handover Ceremony", a testament to Shell's dedication to fostering the next generation of innovators and problem solvers.

The ceremony, held at NALIS on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2023, marks a significant milestone in Shell's ongoing commitment to advancing Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STREAM) education within the nation, showcasing Shell's steadfast support for education and community development.

Eleven (11) STREAM Kits which included include lab equipment, mechanical /renewable energy models and agricultural items such as solutions, test tubes and handbooks were distributed to the following schools:

1. Rio Claro East Secondary School
2. St. Stephen's College
3. Blanchisseuse Secondary School
4. Mayaro Secondary School
5. Moruga Secondary School
6. Princes Town East Secondary School
7. Toco Secondary School
8. Guayaguayare Secondary School
9. Rio Claro West Secondary
10. Cowen Hamilton Secondary School
11. Matelot Community College

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CEREMONY:

- **Empowering the Future:** Shell's initiative is aimed at empowering young minds to excel in STREAM subjects, providing them with the tools and resources needed to succeed.
- **Enhanced Learning:** STREAM Kits contain a variety of materials and equipment to facilitate engaging, hands-on learning experiences for students, aiding them in understanding complex concepts in a practical and enjoyable manner.
- **Teacher Training:** As part of the initiative, a comprehensive teacher training programme was conducted, equipping educators with the knowledge and skills to effectively utilize the STREAM Kits in their classrooms.

Ms. Ryssa Brathwaite, Social Performance & Social Investment Advisor, at Shell Trinidad and Tobago Ltd., expressed enthusiasm about the event, stating, **"Today we are so proud to announce the handover of over \$220,000 in STREAM resources to schools across Trinidad and Tobago. These carefully curated kits and the lab equipment, which are being handed over to 11 schools today are meant to teach students that anything the human mind can conceive, it can achieve as well. We are confident that these items will instill creativity and innovation, and at the same time... keep the students engaged and enthusiastic about STREAM, and passionate about transforming their communities and ultimately the world."**

The event which also featured an address by NIHERST, Deputy Chair, Mrs. Natasha Skinner-Rocke, stated **"Today, as we celebrate the Shell STREAM Kit Handover, we are handing you the keys to unlock a world of endless possibilities. These STREAM Kits are more than just instruments; they are symbols of potential, gateways to innovation, and catalysts for discovery. Each kit is a story waiting to be written, an experiment waiting to be conducted, and an idea waiting to be born. In your hands lies the ability to explore, to question, and to create. Your imagination is the limit."**

The Ministry of Education, Curriculum Officer (Ag.), Ms. Tricia Gilkes also highlighted the impact and importance of initiatives like these in shaping the future of education in Trinidad and Tobago. Ms. Gilkes stated **"In a world where innovation and adaptation are paramount, we must equip our youth with the skills, knowledge and confidence to not only face the future but to thrive in it. The STREAM kits being distributed today symbolizes our continued commitment to this mission. They are tools of empowerment, vehicles of exploration, and vessel of inspiration. With these kits in their hands, our students will be able to sit at the global table."**

NIHERST and Shell T&T Ltd. extend best wishes to all students, schools and principals.



**Back Row:** School Recipients of the Shell STREAM Kits.

**Front Row from Left:** Social Performance & Social Investment Advisor, Shell T&T Ltd, Ms. Ryssa Braithwaite, Deputy Chair, NIHERST, Mrs. Natasha Skinner-Rocke, Curriculum Officer (Ag.), Curriculum Officer, Ministry of Education, Ms. Tricia Gilkes, President, NIHERST, Mrs. Marleen Lord-Lewis

## **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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