

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dear Editor / Head of Department

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NIHERST and MYDNS pen new agreement to support 21st century youth

On May 25th, 2023, the **National Institute of Higher Education, Research Science, and Technology (NIHERST)** and the **Ministry of Youth Development and National Service** jointly conveyed their intent to maximize the nation's youth involvement in Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI).

This partnership was advanced by an official Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) signed by Mrs. Marleen Lord-Lewis (NIHERST, President) and Mr. Farook Hosein (Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Youth Development and National Service) at the NIHERST's Head Office, Port of Spain.

The collaboration, inter alia, is tailored towards growing the capacity and capability of Science, Technology Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education and 21st Century Skills Development among our young people.

Expressing her thoughts on the collaboration, Mrs. Lord-Lewis stated, **"The nation's youth continues to be a major focus of NIHERST. The strategic partnership harnessed between the Ministry and the Institute will only serve to drive our young people toward developing their full potential. This investment in turn will evidently aid in shaping our society into a STEM-educated environment that mirrors our sustainable development goals"**.

Expressing similar sentiments, Mr. Hosein highlighted, **"The well-crafted partnership with NIHERST rests on the foundation of the Ministry's intention to harness youth social and intellectual capital. This agreement will help our young people to navigate this era with the necessary skills and competencies to achieve their highest potential."**

As the state agency responsible for the development of science, technology, and higher education, NIHERST's mission is to stimulate sustainable national capability and capacity in Science, Technology, Innovation, and Technopreneurship through insightful research and relevant programmes.

The Ministry of Youth and National Service is guided by the National Youth Policy (2020-2025), which focuses on the empowerment and strategic engagement of our youth, as co-creators of sustainable development initiatives. In particular, Pillar 2 promotes "Harnessing youth social and intellectual capital" which aims to develop technologically savvy and technically competent young people in Trinidad and Tobago.

Guided by their common focus it is absolute that their partnership will reap the necessary rewards to advance our society to a socio-economic sustainable and transformational future.



Left: Mr. Farook Hosein (Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Youth Development and National Service)

Right: Mrs. Marleen Lord-Lewis (NIHERST, President)

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 MYDNS

The Ministry of Youth Development and National Service was established with the primary focus to advance the youth development agenda and to promote national service. The MYDNS aims to be a dynamic, customer-oriented and policy driven organisation that bring all stakeholders together to promote youth development, and encourages civic-minded citizens to contribute to national service across Trinidad and Tobago.



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