

LIFESTYLE



Environment

18 PAGES OF WHAT'S GOING ON

Deep-Sea Wonders of the Caribbean

ON February 27, the National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST) officially launched the *Deep Sea Wonders of the Caribbean* video series and book at Digicel IMAX in Port of Spain.

This unique regional project was supported by diamond sponsor, Shell Trinidad and Tobago Ltd; platinum sponsor, the German Embassy, Port of Spain; and green sponsors, the Massy Foundation, Sagcor Life Inc and Atlantic LNG. The undertaking was executed by NIHERST, in collaboration with The University of the West Indies (St Augustine) and the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology.

In 2013 and 2014, Dr Judith F Gobin, senior lecturer, Department of Life Sciences, The UWI, St Augustine, was invited on board the exploration vessel *Nautilus*. She was determined to share her newfound knowledge, which would foster an understanding



IN SUPPORT: gina Pancharan, environmental manager (Aq), Shell Trinidad and Tobago Ltd, delivers greetings on behalf of the project's diamond sponsor.

and appreciation of the deep sea environment in the region, through the introduction and distribution of an educational video series and captioned photo book detailing this previously unexplored natural feature. NIHERST's chairman, Prof

Emeritus Winston Mellowes, delivered the welcome remarks at the launch. He acknowledged the Caribbean scientists involved whose research and efforts permanently changed our understanding of the deep sea.

He said further their participation would encourage young Caribbean students to consider a future in science and related fields since they would be proud to know "there are many experts/icons from this region, who look like us, talk like us and share our experiences, who can excel and make their mark in the international community."

Minister highlights importance of marine sciences

The feature address was delivered by Minister of Education Anthony Garcia, who expressed his gratitude for this initiative since it would allow students to have an increased knowledge of the sea, which would also change the way in which they view the ocean.



VIDEO LAUNCH: Sylvia Lalla, from left, president (Aq) NIHERST; Prof Emeritus Winston Mellowes, chairman, NIHERST; Dr Judith Gobin, lead scientist of the *Deep Sea Wonders of the Caribbean* project and senior lecturer, Dept of Life Sciences, The UWI, St Augustine; and Andreas Hack, Chargé D'affaires of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany.

He also highlighted the importance of marine sciences as a discipline, saying it will give "students the opportunity to see where this field of study can take them", echoing Mellowes' sentiment.

Lead scientist of the project Dr Judith Gobin, in her background and introduction to the project, also expressed gratitude to all who were involved in ensuring it was successful.

She encouraged those present to "ponder on management of this tremendous resource" since it is our heritage. She highlighted her duty as a scientist to encourage stakeholders to partner with scientists, which would allow conversations and strategies focused on ensuring the sustainability and conservation of our ecosystems.

Those in attendance were invited to a first screening of the five-part video documentary series and a photo book on the *Deep Sea Wonders of the Caribbean*, which comprises the following segments:

1. Exploring the Deep Wilderness—an introduction to deep-sea exploration in the Caribbean.
2. Beyond the Beaches—our Caribbean's deep-sea environment and how organisms there have adapted.
3. Hot Sun Above, Cold Seeps Below

4. Grenada and the Jenny that Kicks—a unique look into Grenada's deep ocean
5. An Ocean of Opportunities—careers of the deep sea.

Broad appeal

The *Deep Sea Wonders of the Caribbean* educational video series and book resource will appeal to and whet the appetite of the general public, including both youths and adults in the Caribbean region. Those targeted are secondary schools, environmentally affiliated organisations and key stakeholders, including attendees at the project launch, project sponsors and international partners.

The video series is scheduled to air at the Atlantic Ultimate Field Trip at IMAX, following which it would be distributed to local television stations for airing in between programmes, as well as be made available online.

For information on the *Deep Sea Wonders of the Caribbean* video series, please contact the International Projects Unit at projects-staff@niherst.gov.tt or marketing at marketing@niherst.gov.tt.



PROJECT TEAM: Roslyn Carrington, from left, scriptwriter and editor; Dr Judith Gobin; Graeme Araujo, communications specialist; Joanne Chin Sang, project manager and Project Officer III (Aq), NIHERST; Jamie Lee Yuen, marketing co-ordinator, NIHERST; and Stacey-Ann Sarjusingh, Research Officer II, NIHERST.

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