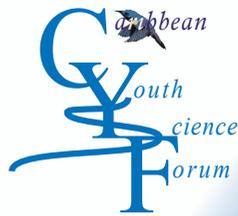




Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Education



NIHERST Immerses Caribbean Students into a World of Science and Technology

Engaging presentations, hands-on workshops, eye-opening field trips and one-on-one interaction with leading scientists, as well as experts from business and industry, proved yet again to be a rich and impactful learning experience for students engaged in the Caribbean Youth Science Forum (CYSF) 2016. Over 150 lower six students from Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago participated in the week-long residential forum from 31st July – 7th August 2016.

Ms. Sylvia Lalla, NIHERST's Acting President described the forum that started 17 years ago, as a "unique and important platform which allows students to explore the benefits of the academic and professional opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)." She emphasised that "particularly crucial in this new post oil and gas era, this programme is an investment in our region's long term development, as growth and diversification are almost impossible without strengthening STEM education and our capabilities in science, technology and innovation."

In the feature address, Ms. Anna Singh represented the Honourable Anthony Garcia, Minister of Education and echoed Ms. Lalla's sentiments as she reminded the audience of the pervasive impact of factors such as technology and the environment on our resources, health and overall functioning. She also shared what the Ministry of Education sees as a "critical mass of immense talent and capacity" in the Caribbean "which when mobilised strategically, results in inestimable benefits." The keynote speaker was a West Indian American with Trinidadian roots, Dr. Colin Topper Carew, a Visiting Researcher/Scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and the Director and Founder of a new Innovation and Inclusion Initiative at MIT's Media Lab. In his speech entitled "The Caribbean as a World Class Epicentre of Technology and Innovation" he attested to the region's strength and potential as he revealed to the young participants that the Caribbean islands "have a vast intellectual reservoir" and that he "futuristically sees the Caribbean becoming a world-class technological epicentre, with an emphasis on world-class."

The week saw students widening their horizons educationally, personally and socially. Core topics this year included: electrical and computer engineering, advancements in medicine and surgery, electrophysiology and cardiology, biotechnology, renewable energy, software engineering, medical physics, industrial chemistry and neuroscience.



Captions

1. At one of the 20 field trips, students see science in action as they learn about aviation and aeronautics.
2. "Survival in the Wild" is the order of business at the Science Seekers activity as students learn to handle emergency wilderness situations and hone their skills in teamwork and communication, as well as creative and critical thinking.
3. Officials at the opening ceremony: (back row, left-right) Prof. Brian Copeland, Principal of The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine campus; Dr. Colin Topper Carew, CYSF keynote speaker; Ms. Andrea Corey, Acting Public Affairs Officer at the United States Embassy in Port of Spain, (front row, left - right) Mrs. Giselle Dinzey, Acting Registrar of NIHERST; Ms. Sylvia Lalla, Acting President of NIHERST and Ms. Anna Singh, Acting Curriculum Coordinator with the Curriculum Planning and Development Division of the Ministry of Education, representing the Hon. Anthony Garcia, Minister of Education.
4. At Socializing with Scientists Dr. Colin Topper Carew shares his expertise and experience in many fields, including architecture, environmental design, film production, technological innovation, communications and journalism.
5. Teammates test their pandemic scenario water purification system in this year's problem-solving challenge.
6. The participants' artistic talents shine at Caribbean Night as all enjoy an evening of culture and entertainment.

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