



## **CLOSING REMARKS BY**

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**AT THE LAUNCH OF THE FINDINGS OF TRINIDAD AND  
TOBAGO'S ENERGY SERVICES SECTORAL INNOVATION  
MAPPING (SIM) STUDY**

**(10.30 a.m. – 10.40 a.m.)**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2016**

**PARIA SUITES HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE**

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

**Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon  
Minister of Trade and Industry**

**The Honourable Nicole Olivierre  
Minister of Energy and Energy Industries**

**Mrs. Angela Sinaswee-Gervais  
Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education**

**Mr. Norris Herbert  
Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry**

**Dr. Ulrich Thiessen  
International Cooperation Programme Manager  
Delegation of the EU to Trinidad and Tobago**

**Ms. Rosemary Lall  
Programme Officer (Energy, Environment & Disaster Risk  
Management)  
UNDP**

**Representatives of the Energy Services Industries**

**Members of the Media**

**Government Officials**

**NIHERST Executive and Staff  
Specially Invited Guests**

## Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning

We are near the end of the official launch and the occasion is bestowed upon me to give the closing remarks. Before I begin to recap some of the salient points covered in today's presentation, I would like to offer a vote of thanks to several people.

- First our presenter Mr. Richard Hector of the Policy, Research and Intelligence Department for the delivery of such an insightful and detailed presentation. Also I wish to thank the PRI Team for all the hard work and time devoted to completing various tasks leading up to today's successful launch.
- I must give thanks to our Ag. President Ms. Sylvia Lalla for her unwavering support for projects like the SIM that cover a wide reach and much depth in the quality of information gathered.
- Dr. the Honourable Lovell Francis, Minister in the Ministry of Education. Minister your presence here and your acquiesce to deliver the Feature Address means a lot to the staff of NIHERST. Thank you for your support.
- PS Sinaswee-Gervais you have played a silent role behind the scenes supporting the projects of NIHERST and for this we, are grateful. We thank you.
- Leaving as they say the best for last, **YOU** the audience comprising industry stakeholders, educational and training institutions, bridging institutions, public and private support institutions, specially invited guests, without YOU, your attendance, participation in the SIM, your contributions, the launch and completion of the SIM study would not be possible. From the Executive Management and staff of NIHERST, we thank you and

look forward to furthering our discussions on how best we and others within the public sphere can support you.

It is no easy task attempting to summarise some of the salient points covered in today's presentation. There were many. I am sure you would agree that there is a piece of information that each and every one of us can take away from today's presentation.

As noted, the Energy Services Sector is viable and sustainable for a high degree of skills and competence built over a long period of time resides in this industry. Our energy service personnel are highly reputed abroad and their expertise sought after by governments both near and far. Most of our locally grown energy services companies are family-owned businesses and in these instances, the owners would give a tooth and arm to protect their businesses and investment. In so doing, they anticipate leaving a legacy for successive generations to enjoy.

The sector faces several challenges. The challenge that stands out is the absence of local content legislation or regulations that secure more opportunities for local services companies. Additionally, the needs and interests of our locally grown companies ought to be given due consideration for these stakeholders are the drivers of our national economy. There are few innovations - product and process innovations developed by local personnel, but more can be developed if the resources – physical, human and financial capital are present. Building relevant capacity for this sector can only be realised through collaboration and continued dialogue between the right group of actors.

As we return to our offices today, the SIM leaves each stakeholder group with relevant learnings.

For **government**, the findings from this research bring to the surface the business needs and challenges encountered by our locally grown

energy service companies. The study identifies specifically the areas where business, legal and administrative support services are needed.

For the **energy services firms**, an awareness of your needs is vocalised and this sets the stage for dialogue, interventions and strategic actions to be realised.

For the **educators**, you now know what teaching methods work and how much harder you need to make the curriculum more balanced between theory and practical training. Additionally, some emphasis should be placed on improving the softer skills of graduates.

Lastly, for the **business support institutions**, the gaps are identified and the installation of a relevant suite of support services custom designed to meet the needs of the energy services companies is needed.

Thank You.