



All-Girls Robotics team to represent T&T at World Festival in Houston



Dr. The Honourable Lovell Francis, Minister in the Ministry of Education seated (Centre) between Shell Trinidad and Tobago Limited's External Relations Advisor, Mr. Leslie Bowrin (Left) and Member of the Board of Governors, NIHERST, Shakka Subero (Right)



The winning team, St. Joseph's Convent, St. Joseph (Bionic Wolves) pictured raising their Champion's trophy at the 2018 FIRST LEGO League Championship at the National Cycling Velodrome in Balmain, Couva.



Members of Palo Seco Secondary School (Robotics Club) pictured with their LEGO Robot Creation. They took home both the Project Innovative Solution Award as well as 1st place in the Robot Challenge.



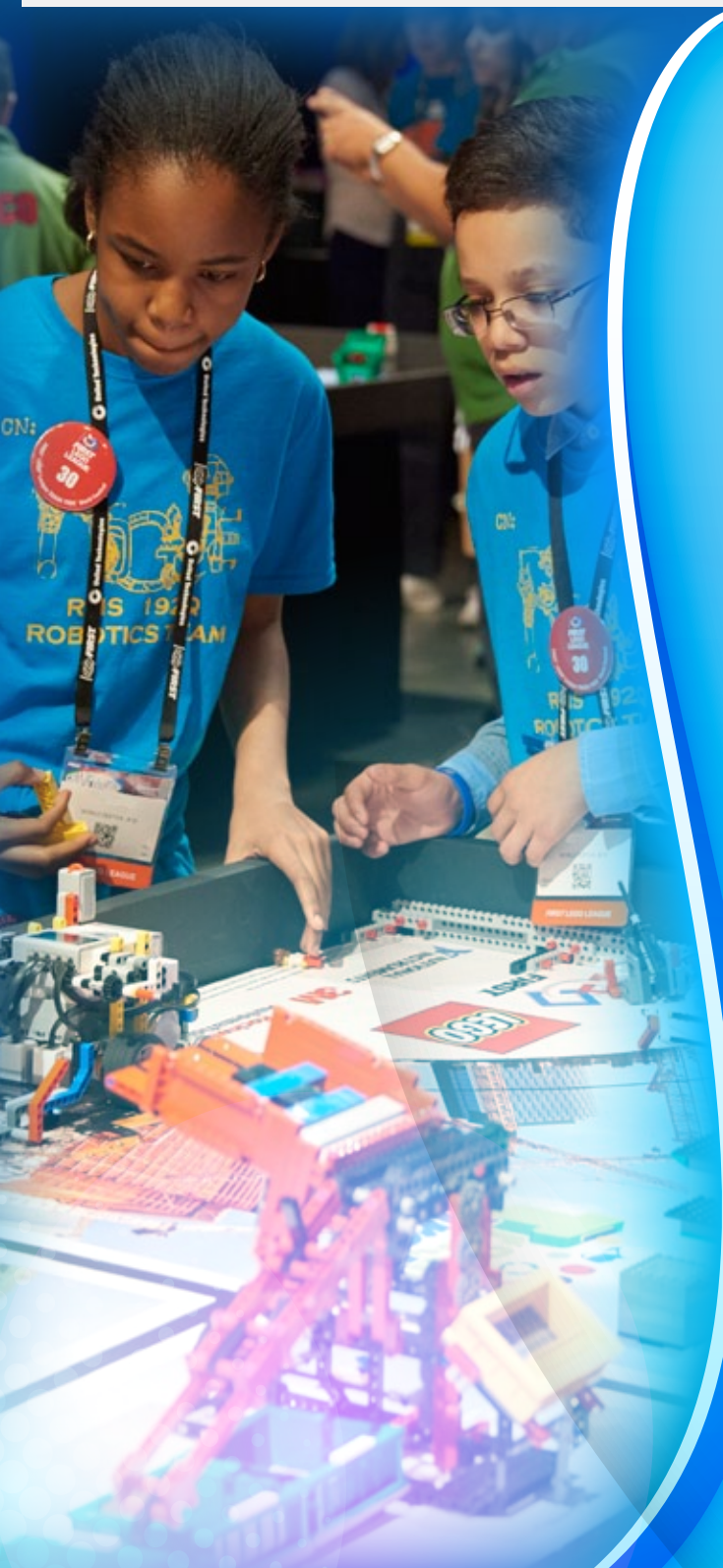
Members of Naparima College's NAPSTECH team smiling with their medals and trophy. NAPSTECH won 2nd place in the Robot Challenge as well as the Core Values (Gracious Professionalism) Award.



One of the all-girls teams, Holy Name Convent (EBSIL HNC DeepMinds) as they do their signature team pose. This team landed the 3rd place prize in the Robot Challenge and the Core Values (Inspiration) Award.



The young masterminds of Smart Kids AQUA Tech with focused looks on their faces during the competition. They took home the Mechanical Design award for their creation.



On Saturday 10th March 2018, approximately 21 teams converged for the finals of the 2017/2018 season of the FIRST LEGO League Championship at the National Cycling Velodrome in Balmain Couva.

Just on the heels of the International Women's Day celebrations, it was the all-girls team "Bionic Wolves" of St. Joseph's Convent, St. Joseph that emerged Champions and will go on to represent Trinidad and Tobago at the FIRST LEGO League World Festival held in Houston, Texas from April 18th-21st, 2018.

With a presence in 80 countries, this global programme is geared toward participants between the ages of 9 to 16 years, utilising theme-based challenges to engage children in research, problem solving, and engineering. The theme for this season was Hydro Dynamics, which explored what is possible when we understand what happens to our water – how we find, transport, use or dispose of it. Teams were challenged to choose and solve a real-world Hydro Dynamics problem. They were also required to build, test, and program an autonomous robot using LEGO MINDSTORMS® technology to solve a set of missions in the Robot Game, and throughout their project and robot game experiences, to display the core values of discovery, teamwork, and professionalism.

In what was a very competitive season, several teams were awarded special prizes for Robot Design, Robot Performance and Core Values. Palo Seco Secondary School (Robotics Club) took away the Project Innovative Solution Award as well as the 1st place in the Robot Challenge. They have also advanced to the next round of the Global Innovation Awards- where teams are awarded for exemplary Project solutions. Each FIRST LEGO League region nominates a team for this Award whose solution epitomizes innovation. Naparima College (NAPSTECH) won 2nd place in the Robot Challenge, as well as the Core Values (Gracious Professionalism™) Award; while Holy Name Convent (EBSIL HNC DeepMinds) landed the 3rd place prize in the Robot Challenge and the Core Values (Inspiration) Award. Independent team Smart Kids AQUA Tech took home the Mechanical Design Award while the Judges' Award went to Trinity College, Moka (Cyber Nation).

Shell Trinidad and Tobago Limited is proud to sponsor the 2017 - 2018 cycle of the FIRST LEGO League. Under the programme direction of the National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST),

Trinidad and Tobago is blazing a trail as the first country to host this programme and event in the English speaking Caribbean. This partnership with FIRST® LEGO® League engages children in playful and meaningful learning while helping them discover the fun in science and technology. This initiative cements NIHERST's goal of creating interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) from an early age, promoting innovation and providing opportunities for cultivating critical and creative thinking along with the application of technology in problem solving around real world issues. It also aligns with the Ministry of Education's vision of promoting a quality education system that is responsive to the diverse needs of 21st century learners and contributing to holistically developed children who are able to satisfy our human capital needs and to achieve sustainable development.

The closing ceremony featured remarks by Dr. The Honourable Lovell Francis, Minister in the Ministry of Education who extended congratulations to NIHERST and Social Investment Partner, Shell Trinidad and Tobago Limited on the successful conclusion of the 2017/2018 FIRST LEGO League, and recognised "the students, mentors, teachers and volunteers who ensured that this was a rewarding and educational experience".

Also speaking at the event, Shell Trinidad and Tobago Limited's External Relations Advisor, Mr. Leslie Bowrin shared that, "Shell is extremely delighted to be associated with the FIRST LEGO League and the excitement and enthusiasm that the competition has generated, not only for the participating teams but for our members of staff, our STEM Ambassadors, who volunteered as judges and referees. Our support for this competition is one component of our national STEM programme that aims to strengthen innovation, problem solving and critical thinking in our primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions."

Bringing remarks as well were Mr Shakka Subero, Member of the Board of Governors, NIHERST; and Acting President of NIHERST, Ms. Sylvia Lalla, who commended the teams on their performance and teamwork during the season.

Registration is currently open for the 2018/19 FIRST® LEGO® League Season, which is themed INTO ORBIT™. For further information, contact the NIHERST's Innovation Department at 663-6130 ext. 2501/2507 or innovation@niherst.gov.tt, or Marketing Department at 642-6112 ext. 250/291 or marketing@niherst.gov.tt or visit <http://www.niherst.gov.tt/scipop/first-lego-league.html>