

STUDENTS REWARDED FOR TACKLING GLOBAL ENERGY SECTOR PROBLEM



In partnership with:



Over \$100,000 was awarded to students for creating solutions to a global problem facing offshore oil platforms and the aviation industry.

In 2022, Shell Trinidad and Tobago Limited, in partnership with the National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST) launched its Bird Strike Challenge. The programme was open to graduates of the Shell NXplorers programme, a Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Art and Math (STREAM) programme aimed at equipping students to solve global problems related to food water and energy.

A **Bird Strike** is the collision between a bird and an aircraft which is in flight. Bird Strikes can cause an aircraft to crash resulting in the loss of life, both to humans and animals. Worldwide, the cost of bird collisions with planes has been estimated at \$1.2 billion per year. This problem is especially relevant to Trinidad and Tobago's energy sector as research has shown that birds are attracted to offshore production platforms, drilling rigs, and support vessels for roosting and foraging. Forty-Five (45) university students participated in the challenge. Participant Manda Baboolal had this to say: **"I think it's a great initiative which allows students to engage in solving real life situations and problems in the world of work."** Students received coaching and mentoring from Shell staff and subject matter experts with sessions being facilitated by NIHERST.

"We celebrate the power of innovation, creativity and the tremendous contributions our young people make toward the development of communities, the energy sector and the country. This is why Shell is proud to support initiatives that allow students to demonstrate their true potential."

Ms. Hafsa Ali - Production Manager, Upstream Assets, Shell Trinidad & Tobago Ltd.



AND THE WINNERS ARE...

1st Place Winners

(from left) Evangeline Pardasie, Manda Baboolal, Ms. Hafsa Ali, Production Manager Upstreams Assets, Shell (presenter), Romario Rajaram & Sherriza Kurban.

"We created the Solar Powered Acoustic Spike System." said Romario. "A deterrent consisting of spikes, a flare boom and a sonar system below the platform to deter fish from gathering in the surrounding waters."



2nd Place Winners (from left) David Bailey, Rayann Gilbert, Dr. Peter Smith, Chief Education Officer, Ministry of Education, Chad Kanhai and Sterling James.

"Our project is called "Operation S.T.R.I.K.E." which consists of a distractive deterrent, an eco-friendly chemical deterrent and a physical deterrent." said Rayann.

3rd Place Winners (from left) Keston Singh, Nadia Dillmurad Arman, Camille Lamb-Munro, Shafrana Saffar & Ian Haywood Jr., NIHERST Board Member.

"Our project, "The Frequency Worker" is a model combined an acoustic deterrent, through ultra-sonic sound in order to deter birds from the offshore platform." said Camille Lamb-Munro.



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