

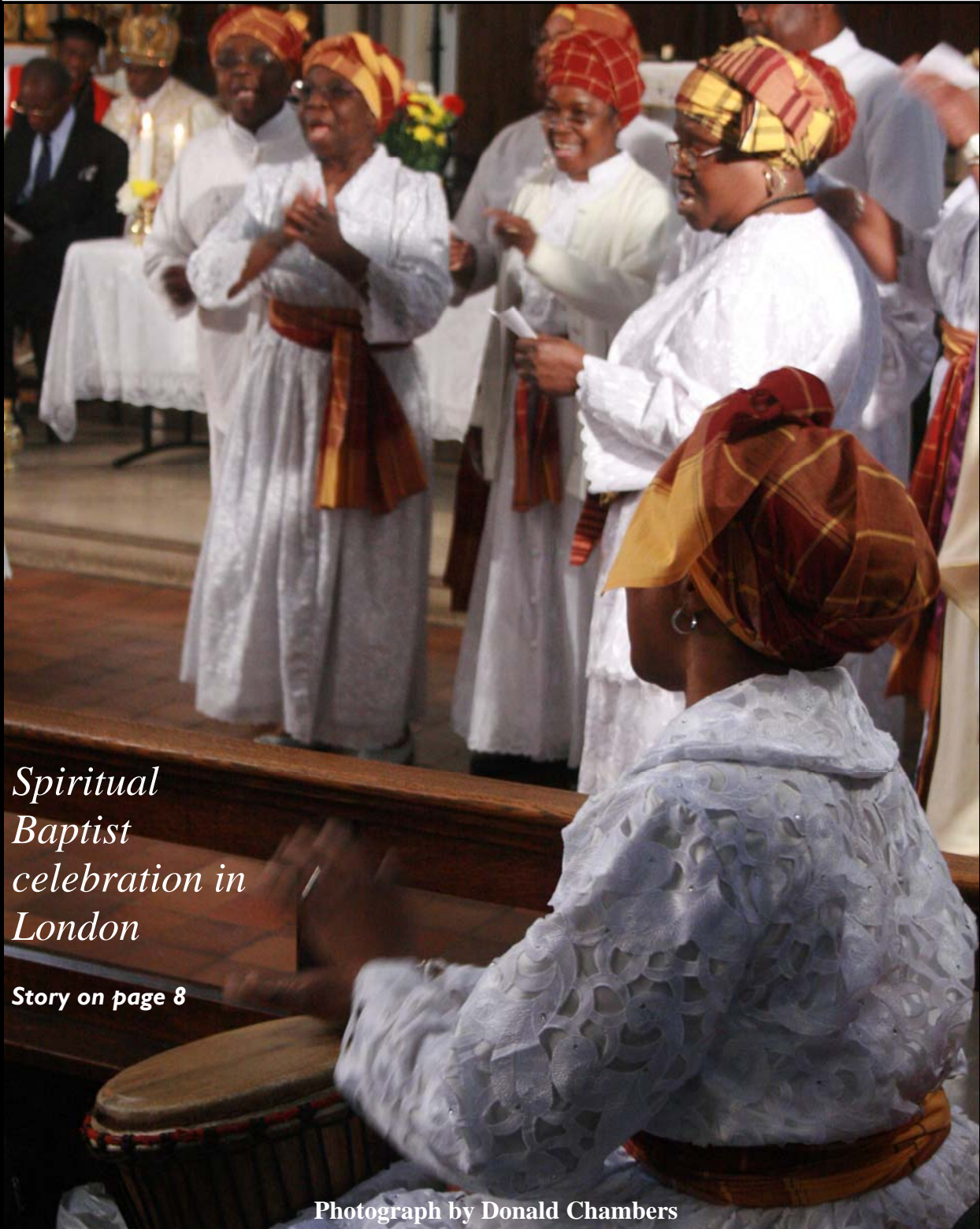


London Mission

Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

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*Spiritual
Baptist
celebration in
London*

Story on page 8

Photograph by Donald Chambers

www.tthighcommission.co.uk



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John survives
stern test

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Product of the High Commission of
the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, London

Prime Minister at World Economic Forum on Latin America in Mexico



*The Honourable
Patrick Manning
Prime Minister*

The Honourable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, in response to an invitation from the President of Mexico, His Excellency Felipe Calderon Hinojosa, led a delegation of Government officials to Cancun, Mexico, to participate in the World Economic Forum on Latin America. The forum was held on

April 15th and 16th 2008.

The Prime Minister's presence and, more specifically, his contribution to a session on Central American growth

were specially requested by Professor Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum. The Forum provided a valuable opportunity to establish useful dialogue between Government leaders, Business Executives of International Organizations and Civil Societies. This mission is of specific importance as Trinidad and Tobago has a mandate to seek consensus on matters related to the Fifth Summit of the Americas to be held in Port of Spain in 2009.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by an advisor to the Central Bank and a senior official from the Ministry of Finance.



Towards a More Caring Society

*Left: Senator the Honourable Jerry Narace
Minister of Health*

The Minister of Health, Senator the Honourable Jerry Narace, addressed the National Nursing Symposium on April 18, 2008, at the Crowne Plaza, Port-of-Spain.

Senator Narace said that the aspiration of the Ministry of Health was to create, within the health sector of Trinidad and Tobago, a culture in which health care workers must not see themselves merely as providers of medical services, but they must demonstrate a greater sense of caring for their clients. This is in keeping with one of the major goals of government's 2020 Vision: that of nurturing a more caring society.

The Minister shared his concerns about the continuing issue of nursing

personnel shortage that is afflicting almost every health care setting worldwide. He stated that in Trinidad and Tobago, it was neither through lack of recruitment efforts nor training initiatives, but that when the interested numbers were there, the infrastructure to hone their willingness and talents remained woefully inadequate.

As a result of the shortage, he stated that the Ministry was seeking to encourage youths to view nursing and allied health generally as a meaningful, lucrative and rewarding profession. However, in his view, this would not be achieved if the country remained challenged by the tendency of nurses to take advantage of local training, only to then migrate to greener pastures.

The Minister gave an indication of the gravity of this problem by referring to a study by the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean – ECLAC – which revealed that the Caribbean represented the eighth largest suppliers of professional nurses – registered nurses and midwives – to the United Kingdom during 2001-2002, with Trinidad and Tobago providing the largest number of first time applicants.

He ended by wishing that the outcome of the symposium would further place Trinidad and Tobago on a path to providing the best possible health care to empower the people to live healthier, longer and more productive lives.

Local and Foreign Forces Join Hands



*Left: Sen. the Hon. Martin Joseph
Minister of
National Security*

A contingent of two hundred (200) personnel from the United States Army South (USARSO) is in Trinidad and Tobago to undertake various community-related and humanitarian projects in partnership with the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force.

The exercise codenamed "Beyond the Horizon 2008," which commenced on March 10, is being conducted over a three-month period and runs to June 15, 2008.

The US Army team includes Army Reserve personnel from the Delaware Engineer Unit, New York Engineer Unit and other specialist arms of the military service comprising medical staff, engineers, rotary wing (helicopter) pilots and security staff.

The joint team of United States and approximately sixty (60) Trinidad and Tobago Regiment personnel will carry out construction and renovation works on the Princess Elizabeth Home, at Ariapita Avenue; the St. Mary's Children's Home, in Tacarigua; the Sangre Grande Extended Care Hospital, the Regimental Barracks of the First Infantry Battalion of the Trinidad and

Tobago Regiment; and the Youth Training Academy at Mausica. The teams have already commenced medical training exercises at Chaguanas and Laventille. These will be expanded to Arima, Sangre Grande and Toco.

Similar projects were conducted in Trinidad and Tobago through this joint partnership project with the United States Army in 1992, 1993, 1997, and 2000.

The Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier Edmund Dillon, expressed his full support for this humanitarian initiative between foreign and local Forces.

Better Quality of Life for the Elders

*Pictured: The Honourable Alicia Hospedales
Minister of State
Ministry of Social Development*



Senior citizens of Trinidad and Tobago will soon see four new senior activity centres established in Barataria, Laventille, Couva

and Diego Martin. Government, in partnership with non-governmental and community-based organisations, have already established five of these centres in Chaguanas, St James, Rio Claro, Pleasantville and Maloney. The centres provide the able-bodied elderly with access to activities such as Tai Chi, aqua-aerobics, computer and craft training and other activities that offer physical, social and mental stimulation.

Minister in the Social Development Ministry, the Honourable Alicia Hospedales, confirmed this at a public forum on taking care of the elderly held on April 2nd, 2008. The Minister added that Government was keeping with the National Policy on the Ageing Division's

recommendation to introduce recreational opportunities for the elderly.

Director in the Ageing Division, Jennifer Rouse, said that the five centres that were already established were running excellently and encouraged NGO's to submit proposals so that centres could be established nationwide.

The actual completion dates for these four centres are yet to be determined. Hospedales continued that another of the Ministry's major undertaking for 2008 was training care givers in Homes for Older Persons and care facilities for the aged.

New Passport Appointment Service



Members of staff at the High Commission, London, examine the proposed capture site for the issuance of machine readable passports here in the UK.

The Immigration Division of the Ministry of National Security has announced the introduction of its Trinidad and Tobago Passport Appointment System.

The new system makes it more convenient for citizens of Trinidad and Tobago to apply for and renew their passports. The system became effective on Tuesday April 29th, 2008.

To facilitate this service the Immigration Division is utilizing the TTPost Call Centre, which will receive calls from the public and schedule the appointments for the various immigration passport offices.

Under the new system, citizens of Trinidad and Tobago will be able to make appointments via telephone to visit any of the passport office locations in Port of Spain, San Fernando, Sangre Grande or Tobago.

All applicants will be required to provide a valid form of identification. Persons with confirmed appointments will get a reference number, which they must present when visiting the passport office.

The new passport appointment service is expected to improve the process of applying for and renewing a passport as well as address the concerns expressed by citizens about the long lines and processing times to

Please note that this service is not yet available at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London.

Commissioners Sworn in

Right: His Excellency Professor George Maxwell Richards President



Commissioners of the Equal Opportunity Commission took the oath of office on April 22nd, 2008, at the President's House, with the aim of providing restitution in instances of discrimination. The Commissioners were sworn in by President George Maxwell Richards TC. CMT. PhD.

Commissioners sworn in on that day included, Professor John La Guerre, Dr Eastlyn McKenzie, Ms Stephanie Daly, Ms Beverly Ann Marie Beckles and Dr Hamid Ghany .

Guests invited to the swearing-in included Attorney General Bridgid Anisette-George and her Permanent Secretary Cheryl Blackman.

TT Film Industry Moving Up

The local film industry generated \$11.6 million last year and, if current trends continue, this is expected to increase in the upcoming fiscal year. This was stated by Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Roslyn Khan-Cummings, during a speech at the Trinidad and Tobago's Film Company awards ceremony held at the Movie Towne Entertainment and Shopping Complex, on April 7th, 2008.

She indicated that Government had recognized the importance of developing the film industry, by introducing the Production Assistance and Script Development Programme (PASD) which was launched in 2004. The grant programme has disbursed some \$2.4 million in funds facilitating a total of 72 projects.

Some noteworthy productions which received funding from the PASD were screened at several international film festivals. They include Jab, Sista God, Hit For Six, Sign of the Loa and the local soap series, Westwood Park to name a few.

Youth Ministers meet in Sri Lanka

The Honourable Gary Hunt, Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs, lead a Trinidad and Tobago delegation to the 7th Commonwealth Youth Minister's Meeting (CYMM), in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 27th to 30th April, 2008.

The overall objective of the meeting whose theme was "Youth and Peace-Building," was to provide policy direction for the Commonwealth Programme and Youth Development strategies for the period 2008- 2012. A total of forty-one member countries were in attendance at the meeting.

The CYMM was officially opened by President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa, who underscored the importance of such an international gathering, whose focus is the development of young people. Other keynote speakers at the meeting included the Secretary General, His Excellency Kamalesh Sharma, (Outgoing) Pan Commonwealth Youth Caucus Chairperson, Mr. Mobafa Baker, (Outgoing) Chairperson of the CYMM, Minister of Youth of the Bahamas, Mr. Byran and Trinidad and Tobago's Minister Gary Hunt.

Minister Hunt used the opportunity to promote the upcoming Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF) 2009, which will be held in Trinidad and Tobago in the wings of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference. In his presentation to CYMM, the Honourable Minister extended a warm welcome to all member states to send their delegates to what he proposed, will be the best CYF ever.



The Hon. Gary Hunt paid a visit to the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London, while in transit, on his way to Sri Lanka. Pictured above with Ag. High Commissioner Victoria Farley.

Some of the matters deliberated on at the CYMM were: the Commonwealth Youth Programme budget for 2008 - 2012; the strengthening of Centres of Excellence within the Commonwealth; new strategies on youth mainstreaming; and strengthening youth structures. At the meeting, it also agreed upon to have regional meetings of Ministers of Youth at least once every two years and a Mid-Term Review Committee comprising two Ministers per region. Trinidad and Tobago was nominated by fellow Caribbean Ministers to be one out of two countries to have membership on this Committee.

Other members of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation were Youth Officer 3, Mr. Anthony Greenidge, Regional Youth Caucus Representative, Mr. Ato Augustine, Project Coordinator and (Outgoing) Pan Commonwealth Youth Caucus Chairperson, Mr. Mobafa Baker, and representative of the National Secretariat for CHOGM 2009 Ms. Shariffa Ali.

Trinidad and Tobago represented at key Immigration Conference

Advanced technologies in dealing with the issuance of new e-passports were among several measures discussed at the two day "Security World Conference 2008" which took place at the New Connaught Rooms, Convent Garden, London on April 22nd and 23rd 2008.

The Conference dealt with matters deemed pertinent to Trinidad and Tobago - the implementation of e-Passports, which covered the legal framework; building blocks for secure ID document solutions; visas; and law enforcement.

Ms Meg Hillier, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Identity, UK Government and Mr. Duncan Croll, Marketing Director, Lockheed Martin Transportation & Security Solutions, delivered the two Keynote Addresses at the Conference.

According to Mr. Nirmal Bhaggan, Immigration Attaché at the London High Commission and Trinidad and Tobago's delegate at the Conference, the information gained will serve to supplement the new security measures that have already

been implemented by the Trinidad and Tobago Government, in keeping with international agreements.

While at the Conference, Mr. Bhaggan took the opportunity to discuss several matters pertaining to the new measures with other delegates among them being Dr. Gregory Feldman, a well known scholar in the field of immigration and a Professor of International Migration at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.



Trinidad and Tobago to host Second Roundtable on Sustainable Cocoa

by Roanna Gopaul

Trinidad and Tobago will host the second Roundtable on a Sustainable World Cocoa Economy in Port of Spain in March 2009. This Roundtable is expected to bring together more than two hundred participants from twenty-five countries, spanning the five continents and including representation from cocoa farmers, cooperatives, traders, exporters, warehouse keepers, processors, manufacturers, governmental and non-governmental organizations, financial institutions and donor agencies.

Pursuant to the first Roundtable held in Accra, Ghana, in October, 2007, an early indication of interest was expressed by the Cocoa and Coffee Industry Board (CCIB) of Trinidad and Tobago for the second roundtable to be held in Trinidad and Tobago. This oral indication of interest was enthusiastically received by the Council of the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO), and in February 2008, Dr. Jan Vingerhoets, the Executive Director of the ICCO, formally approached the High Commissioner, London, to request the assistance of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in hosting the second Roundtable.

The High Commissioner immediately recognized the benefits which would

accrue to Trinidad and Tobago from such an undertaking in that it would serve to raise the profile of Trinidad and Tobago as a cocoa producer at the international level and it would also be of benefit to the local cocoa industry. The High Commission therefore lent its full support to the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources and the Cocoa and Coffee Industry Board to obtain early approval for the meeting to be hosted



in Trinidad and Tobago.

Following Trinidad and Tobago's agreement to host the Roundtable in 2009, Dr. Jan Vingerhoets paid a preliminary visit to Port of Spain from April 27th to May 2nd to initiate logistical arrangements for the meeting. While in Port of Spain, Dr. Vingerhoets held meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources and members of the Cocoa and Coffee Industry Board. Dr. Vingerhoets was also able to visit

the Cocoa Research Unit at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, and to tour some cocoa plantations.

Trinidad and Tobago's cocoa is one of the most sought after in the world and consistently fetches the highest premium on the international market. In addition, Trinidad and Tobago is already well known for its contribution to cocoa research and continues to play a lead role in initiatives to promote sustainable cocoa.

Since 1930, Trinidad and Tobago has been regarded as a source of new cocoa production technology. In fact, cocoa research was a pivotal activity of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, the predecessor of the University of the West Indies. Today, Trinidad and Tobago manages one of the world's largest and most important cocoa gene banks, the International Cocoa Genebank, Trinidad, (ICG,T) and the Cocoa Research Unit at the University of the West Indies continues to gain recognition for its work in genetics. The various research activities of the Cocoa Research Unit are well documented and have been of enormous value to cocoa researchers worldwide and to the global cocoa industry.

**ATTENTION
NATIONALAS**

Nationals Meetings are held on the
last Wednesday of every month
unless otherwise advised.

**JUNE:
Wednesday 25th June, 2008
@ 6pm**

**All nationals of Trinidad and
Tobago are welcome**



The Congregation at the All Saint Church, London



Apostolic Patriarch His Grace Norris V. Ashton of the New York Arch dieses, with Reverend Patricia Stephens, organiser of the event.



Her Excellency Glenda Morean Phillip lights a candle at the Shouter Baptist service for the fifth and last time.

A Baptist Farewell

The Spiritual Baptist Movement in the UK gave Her Excellency Glenda Morean Phillip, a grand farewell at the 5th annual celebrations of the Spiritual Baptist Liberation Shouters Day on April 12th 2008 at the All Saints Church, Ladbroke Grove, London.

In his tribute to the outgoing High Commissioner, guest speaker Professor Gus John said:

“Your Excellency, some four and a half years ago, you had the foresight to formally recognize the Spiritual Baptist Faith in the UK and to encourage leaders and elders in the Faith to mark the anniversary of the lifting of the Order prohibiting the practice of the Faith in Trinidad and Tobago, just as the nation has done in the Republic annually on what is now a public holiday, Spiritual Baptist (Shouter) Liberation Day.

Your personal support and that of the High Commission for this annual celebration over the last four years and your presence at the celebration have provided tangible evidence of your respect for the Faith and your acknowledgment of its origins and of its relevance to this society.

Your Excellency, you were the first High Commissioner for your beloved country, called to the Court of St James, who officially recognized the Spiritual Baptist Faith in Britain.

High Commissioner Glenda Morean Phillip, in her address told the members, “My dear brothers and sisters, you have won the right to make a joyful noise unto the lord, as the psalmist exalted us to do. You are now on the march to beautiful, beautiful Zion. I know that the road is a long, winding and narrow one and would be filled with trials and tribulations. However, it is quite apparent that you are not deterred and are continuing to build on the legacy which has been bequeathed to you by the founders of your faith. A faith which is built on solid ground.”

Her parting words were “And so, distinguished ladies and gentlemen and children, as this is my last address to you before I proceed to take up my position as Ambassador for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to Washington D.C., to the United States, Mexico and the Organization of American States, I wish to thank you for providing me with the opportunity to further enrich my spirit and my soul. My husband and I have enjoyed being a part of your celebrations as you have made a joyful noise unto the Lord. We will miss you all.”

Also in attendance were: H.E. Señor Rene Juan Mujica Cantelar, Ambassador for the Republic of Cuba; Miss Agnes Adonis, Acting High Commissioner for Dominica and Mr. Adonis; H.E. Dr. Carl Roberts High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda; (from the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London) Miss Victoria Farley, Head of Chancery, Miss Roanna Gopaul, First Secretary, Mrs. Allison Quong Sing, Administrative Attaché, and Public Affairs, Culture and Tourism Assistant Attachés Mrs. Donna Philip-Forde and Mr. Donald Chambers.

Transplant Links Charity Conducts Pilot Mission in Trinidad and Tobago

In April 2008, Transplant Links Community (TLC), a United Kingdom registered charity, created history by carrying out the first ever successful live kidney transplants on three children in Trinidad and Tobago.

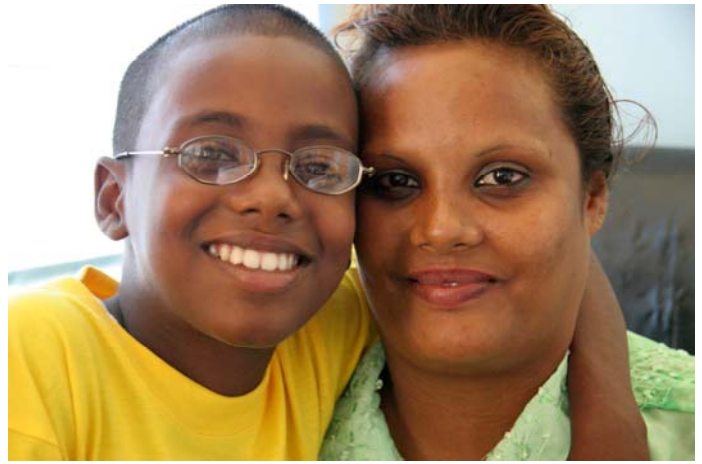
TLC was established with the principal objective of saving lives through living renal transplantation in developing countries. Trinidad and Tobago was selected for the charity's pilot mission because of the recently established national organ transplant unit and the fact that Trinidad and Tobago was seen to have a dynamic and robust economy with fast emerging health sector which would be ready to embrace new medical technologies.

On learning that children and adolescents were among those patients not yet benefiting from the transplant programme in Trinidad and Tobago, TLC approached the High Commission, London, in October 2007 with a proposal to provide assistance to this group of patients. The proposal received the full support of former High Commissioner, H.E. Glenda Morean Phillip, who believed that Trinidad and Tobago stood to benefit greatly through the resultant development of medical expertise in living transplantation in Trinidad and Tobago as well as the alleviation of the burden on the health care system of patients seeking costly dialysis treatments.



The TLC Team to Trinidad and Tobago

It was felt that the project would also establish a beneficial and long term link with the University Hospital of Birmingham, the largest transplant unit in Europe and the largest live donor programme in the United Kingdom, where key members of the TLC team are based. The High Commission is confident that this linkage would be useful for ongoing support and development of Trinidad and Tobago's organ transplant programme.



Rameal says 'Thank you Mummy for my new kidney.'

In light of the clear benefits to be derived from the mission, the High Commission worked diligently to get the endorsement of the Ministry of Health for the team to visit Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, the High Commissioner used her good offices to ensure that the members of the team were able to obtain preferential hotel rates while on their charitable mission and that they were able to transport equipment and supplies for the mission to Trinidad and Tobago without undue hindrances.

With the assistance of corporate sponsorship, the TLC team travelled to Trinidad and Tobago in early April 2008. There, the team successfully carried out transplants on three children at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex in Mount Hope during the week of April 21st 2008 using the latest in keyhole surgery.

On returning to London, Dr. Andrew Ready, transplant surgeon and Medical Director of TLC, indicated that "The transplant operations all went very well thanks to the excellent teamwork between TLC and local medical teams". Dr. Jennie Jewitt-Harris, CEO of TLC, further noted that TLC was continuing to collaborate with the team in Trinidad and Tobago and was already making plans and beginning fundraising to return and help more children in Trinidad and Tobago next year as well as to continue to support and teach the skills involved.

Transplant Links Charity relies fully on charitable donations to pay the costs of the travelling medical teams who are all volunteers using their own time. Trustees of TLC include Dr. Jenny Jewitt-Harris, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Andrew Ready, Consultant Surgeon, University Hospital of Birmingham, and Dr. Dwomoa Adu, Consultant Nephrologist, University Hospital of Birmingham.

More information on the charity is available at www.transplantlinks.org

In response to numerous calls from our subscribers, we provide a brief background of the newly appointed Ministers of State and Parliamentary Secretaries who are not members of Cabinet in the Government of Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Ministers of State & Parliamentary Secretaries



The Hon. Alicia Hospedales is the Parliamentary Representative for Arouca/Maloney and is also the Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Development. She holds a Master of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice and BSc – Social Work. She is a former Social worker with the Ministry of Education.



The Member of Parliament for La Brea is **the Hon. Fitzgerald Jeffery**. Mr. Jeffery was appointed Minister of State in the Ministry of Science Technology and Tertiary Education. Before entering the political arena, Mr. Jeffery served the youth of La Brea as a teacher and school Principal for over 25 years.



The new Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning, Housing and the Environment is **Senator the Honourable Tina Gronlund-Nunez**. She served as a Councillor in the San Fernando City Council and also worked in a leading commercial bank in Trinidad and Tobago.



Within the short period between November 2007 and March 2008 **the Hon. Donna Cox** served as Minister of State in the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs and in April took up her new assignment as Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security.

Ms Cox is the Parliamentary Representative for Laventille East/Morvant and she holds a BA in History/Management (Hons) from UWI and MA in Public Relations from the Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom. She is former employee of National Flour Mills having served as Corporate Communications Manager.

Ministers of State & Parliamentary Secretaries

Laventille West's new Member of Parliament is **the Hon. Ni Leung Hypolite**. He was appointed Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Works and Transport. Mr. Hypolite is well known for his community service in Laventille and is a former member of the Trinidad and Tobago Cadet Force and Port of Spain Lions Club.

The steelband fraternity will be represented by **the Hon. Junia Regrello** the Parliamentary Representative for San Fernando West. Mr. Regrello is a recipient of the Chaconia Medal Gold for his contribution as member of the team that invented the G- Pan. He also served as an Alderman in the San Fernando City Council and is founder/Captain of the Skiffle Bunch Steel Orchestra. Mr Regrello is the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs.

The Hon. Roger Joseph was appointed almost five months after the General Elections as the Minister of State in the Ministry of Works and Transport. He is Member of Parliament for La Horquetta/ Talparo. Mr. Joseph has served as an Alderman and Deputy Chairman in the Tunapuna/Piarco Regional Corporation before taking up his new appointment. He also served on several State Boards.

Senator the Honourable Wesley George is the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health. He is former student of the University of the West Indies (UWI) and he has been involved in several youth activities in Trinidad and Tobago.



EPA – A Good Agreement

Eye on Trade...



Chargé d’Affaires of the European Union Delegation in T&T, Stelios Christopholus, at the recently concluded Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between Cariforum and the European Union (EU) said that it was a good agreement.

He stated that the EPA would provide benefits to the region such as increasing trade between the two regions and an increase in the quality of manufactured products in the Caribbean. The EPA covers issues such as market access, service and investment, trade related issues and legal and institutional issues.

Christopholus indicated that the agreement was also about developmental co-operation, since the Caribbean did not have all that it needed to make sure its products were up to standard to take advantage of the free access to the European market. Therefore larger companies would provide services for the Caribbean which would be co-financed or totally financed in the context of the development co-operation envelope that accompanies the EPA.

He explained that the agreement was not set in stone and that there was room for revision should the need

arise, suggesting that these requests come from the region.

According to Mr. Christopholus, the EPA would raise the quality of manufactured goods in the region and give the opportunity to consumers to have access to products from Europe that were of good standards even more competition with American imported foodstuff.

Mr. Christopholus further stated that now that the negotiations for the EPA had been successfully concluded, the region is in a stronger position to negotiate other free trade agreements in the future.

Trinidad and Tobago chooses Bouygues Construction, Alstom and RATP to develop its railway system

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the National Infrastructure Development Company Limited (NIDCO) have chosen the Trinitrain consortium made up of Bouygues Construction, Alstom and RATP Développement, to design, build, operate and maintain an express train railway system on the island of Trinidad.

The project includes the construction of two express train lines with a total length of 105 kilometres (including approx. 20 kilometres of viaducts) and around ten stations. One line will link the capital Port of Spain to the south of the island (San Fernando), while the other

will cross the island from east to west, from Port of Spain to Sangre Grande.

During the first phase of the contract, worth US\$70 million, the consortium will conduct preliminary design studies to finalise the route and the detailed specifications for the railway system selected. Following this pre-design phase, which is expected to last 20 months, the cost and scheduling of the project will be agreed with Nidco.

Construction will then be managed by Bouygues Travaux Publics (a subsidiary of Bouygues Construction) for the civil engineering and Alstom Transport for the railway system and the supply of

rolling stock over an estimated four-year period. RATP Développement will handle the operation and maintenance of the service for 15 years.

This project illustrates the operational and commercial partnership put in place since April 2006 by Bouygues Construction and Alstom to jointly develop and offer solutions that combine the expertise of the two groups: civil engineering and construction for Bouygues Construction and systems, equipment and services for power generation and rail transport for Alstom.

NIDCO is a state enterprise created by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago with responsibility for the

procurement and implementation of infrastructure projects.

The Trinitrain consortium is made up of the French companies Bouygues Travaux Publics (a subsidiary of Bouygues Construction), Alstom Transport and RATP Développement (a subsidiary of RATP). It will draw on the support of the following international partners: Covic, a subsidiary of CREC (China Railways Engineering Corporation, the leading construction company in China), Daynco, a Trinidad and Tobago-based construction company, and the Canadian engineering consulting firm Dessau.

Atlantic LNG Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited and The University of Trinidad and Tobago win award at the 'Getenergy' Conference, London, 2008

Trinidad and Tobago took centre stage at the recently held 'Getenergy' Conference in London. Atlantic LNG and the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) won the first global education and training award for oil and gas in the category University Partnership 2008. The award, determined by votes, was given to recognise a new partnership between an oil/gas company and a university or college which shows significant promise.

A delegation comprised of representatives from Atlantic LNG, UTT and Petrotrin also participated in the conference. Apart from two booths, Carol David, General Manager, Human Resources, Petrotrin, Jennifer Sampson, Senior Advisor, UTT and Arlene Lynch, Human Resource Manager, Atlantic LNG, presented papers and shared their experiences on successful education-industry partnerships.

Now in its fourth year, the 'Getenergy' Conference, held at the Business Design Centre, London, is a networking event aimed at finding the best fit between organisations that train (universities and training providers) and companies looking for education and/or training programmes in the oil and gas industry.

The Event attracts more than 400 people from over 35 countries representing national oil and gas companies, international oil and gas companies, governments, universities and training providers.



At the Conference: Attaché Dionne Ligoure with the UTT's Jennifer Sampson (seated at left) and other representatives from the University of Trinidad and Tobago and Atlantic LNG.

'As a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago, I was proud of the achievement of Atlantic LNG and UTT. It was a real delight to see the commitment of the organizers of this event to education, and more so, providing a forum to facilitate partnership and networking between academia and industry, especially given the dynamic realities of the energy sector,' stated Commercial Attaché, Dionne Ligoure. Ms. Ligoure attended the event on behalf of the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, along with Assistant Attaché, Luan John.



Trade Attachés gather in Sweden

Commercial Attaché, Dionne Ligoure (pictured) recently attended the Swedish Chambers, Chamber Academy training for Trade Attaches from developing countries. These training activities are offered as

part of the trade promotion programmes in Scandinavia.

In Sweden, staff at business support organisations and official representatives of developing countries accredited to Sweden are offered, free of charge, opportunities to participate in the Chamber Academy.

About 50 diplomats and representatives participated in this month's Academy which included sessions and workshops on:

- How to promote business in Sweden;
- Trade facilitation and supply chain security;
- Tourism as trade;
- Using the internet to find trade statistics and business partners; and
- Trade finance and investment.

The seminar style events were facilitated by some of Sweden's leading authorities in the areas listed.

Continues on page 14.

Cultural Commandments

by Dionne Ligoure

We have all heard of the world being referred to as a global village. With the advent of the Internet and the rapid development of technology, working in real time across time zones and cultures has become the norm.

Although technology has increased the speed at which business is done, it has not facilitated a broad understanding of the cultural nuances of different countries. Doing business across global cultures requires a level of sensitivity and understanding of the culture of the countries with which one does business.

Over the next few months, a series of articles will look at the business cultures of the countries to which the London Mission is accredited (Denmark, Finland, Germany,

Northern Ireland, Norway, Sweden). First up is Sweden, and a look at the Do's and Don't of the Swedish Business culture.

Business Culture Sweden:

Just as different countries speak different languages, the way business is done varies from place to place. There is ultimately no right or wrong business culture, but it is useful to know and understand the norms and practices of various countries.

Knowing what the Swedish way is can help prospective businesses achieve success in Sweden.

Continues on the next page.

Sweden Trade conference continued...



Trade Attachés at the event in Sweden.

The Academy also included a visit to Atlas Copco GDE, a division of the Atlas Copco Group, one of Sweden's leading companies in Geotechnical Drilling and Exploration.

On the visit to Atlas Copco GDE (exploration drilling and ground engineering), the participants were greeted by the President Hans Liden. Mr. Liden delivered a presentation on the Atlas Copco Group. The Marketing Manager, Anders Gustafsson, provided further details on Atlas Copco GDE. Production Manager, Mats Bergstrom, then took the group on a tour of the plant. This particular plant located in Marsta, Sweden includes the manufacture of

diamond drill bits as well as underground drill rigs, surface drill rigs and drill rig pumps.

'The training was quite enlightening. It was extremely useful getting this information first hand from professionals and business people who are very well respected in Sweden. Meeting with these key stakeholders will also facilitate a much needed boost to the trade relations between Sweden and Trinidad and Tobago. Already, preliminary discussions have been held with respect to doing a country presentation on Trinidad and Tobago at the Stockholm Chamber later this year.

"Sweden and Scandinavia are important tourist markets for Trinidad and Tobago, therefore we must continue to work assiduously to promote the numerous investment opportunities available." *Quote from Commercial Attaché, Dionne Ligoure on her return from the Training Academy.*



Left: Atlas Copco GDE Production Manager, Mats Bergstrom shows off one of the finished rigs on display.



The Do's and Don'ts

Be honest in all things

Swedes expect everyone they work with to be honest. If the person a Swede is doing business with does not keep his/her word, tries to cheat the Swede or seems to expect a bribe of some sort, this will ruin the business relationship with the Swede.

Even if you cannot be expected to say everything during a negotiation, anything that you do say is expected to be true.

All agreements in writing and signed

Your Swedish contact will want any agreement you have made to be put in writing and to be signed.

It is uncommon to give and receive valuable gifts

The giving and receiving of valuable gifts is not common among business contacts in Sweden. The tax laws make it difficult to give or receive valuable gifts in the course of doing business and such gifts may be viewed as bribes. Do not be insulted if you do not receive gifts in Sweden like you would in other countries.

Come to all meetings exactly on time

Be on time. This makes a good impression. Do not show up even ten (10) minutes late as this may be interpreted as your being unreliable.

Inform of delays right away

For example, if you have given a specific delivery date but later find out that there is an unexpected delay, inform your Swedish business contact immediately. Waiting will only make matters worse as they may not want to deal with you again. However, if you are upfront about the delay, they will appreciate it and may likely want to continue working with you.

Do not be over-ambitious when estimating delivery times

This is common sense and somewhat universal. It is best NOT to give an unrealistic early date in the hope of impressing since Swedes expect delivery exactly when you promised. Instead give a realistic time frame of when the order will be finished and ready to go.

How to succeed in your business with Swedes and Sweden:

You can succeed at doing business with Sweden if you keep a few basic points in mind:

1. Swedes are more interested in business than small talk.
2. Swedes will focus on your company's speed, price, quality, organisation, logistics, reputation, supply chain and your offer, rather than gifts from supplier to purchaser.
3. Remain calm at all times and allow the Swede to avoid conflicts and uncomfortable situations.
4. Allow everyone enough time to come into the conversation, and do not expect to be interrupted.
5. Do not see silence as negative.
6. Be honest.
7. Swedes tend to be inflexible on price negotiations, since they feel they are starting at a 'fair' price.
8. Don't stand too close or touch too much.
9. Swedes tend to treat everyone as equal regardless of status and don't often use titles like Ms./Mr/ etc. Don't be insulted if they use your first name. They are not being rude or disrespectful.
10. Be aware that Swedes like to make decisions in groups and your contact may need to contact their group to make a decision.

(Elements of the content provided by the Swedish Chambers publication 'From Contact to Contract').

Foreign Exchange Rates as at May 13 , 2008

Currency	Counter: Buying	Selling	Notes: Buying
Pound Sterling	12.0046	12.4812	11.3000
US Dollar	6.1066	6.2898	6.000

Source: Scotiabank Trinidad & Tobago Limited

**WTI Cushing Spot Crude Oil Price
on May 13, 2008
\$124.23 per barrel**

Irie Television - 'Carnival All Year Round'



Irie Television is a new digital channel set to launch later this year and is dedicated to providing the best in Caribbean entertainment to the growing Caribbean and Latin American population in the UK. According to the channel's Managing Director Andrew Laird, Irie Television will broadcast innovative content that represents the music, culture, and lifestyle of these regions.

Irie Television challenges benchmarks in the broadcasting industry. "We are committed to presenting programming that is not being delivered on the mainstream music television channels in the United Kingdom and it is our intention to offer a unique, original, and entertaining alternative to the content currently being played in rotation by those channels".

The channel aims to achieve this goal through the transmission of music videos, using a jukebox-broadcasting model similar to the Box, Kiss and Channel U among others. Viewers have the opportunity to request their favourite video via their phone lines or by text messaging and while the video is playing, the viewer is also given the opportunity to purchase the ring tone. Programmes from television networks from the Caribbean and Latin America will also be broadcasted on the channel, as well as the channel's own high quality produced in-house programmes.

Irie Television will offer music genres such as Soca, Calypso, Steel Pan, Zouk, Reggae, Ska, Salsa, Rumba and Reggaeton among others and this will form the foundation of the channel's broadcast content. Irie Television also intends to offer alternative perspectives on Caribbean news and current affairs.

The Irie Television venture grew out of a partnership with the creator of Irie Television, Andrew Laird, who

has a background in Marketing and Multimedia Design, and Alex Joseph, who is a Sound Engineer within the film industry. Andrew's innovation mirrored the creative vision of his business partner and the production team that Alex assembled. That vision is to meet the viewing needs of an audience which to date has been largely ignored by the mainstream media outlets.

The following extract from OFCOM's website relates to the provision of programming aimed at ethnic minority communities and the factors surrounding it. This highlights the need for a channel to provide ethnic diversity within their genre-specific services.

"BBC research has found support amongst ethnic minorities for specifically targeted programming. The broadcasters are only partially delivering on both fronts, and their failure can be seen by the preference among ethnic communities for digital channels - and not only those specifically targeted at them".

Andrew saw in the management and production teams the necessary skills and drive that would ensure the success of this project and a partnership to launch Irie Television was entered into. Once the team was assembled, Andrew enlisted the services of Soca DJ Martin Jay to provide support to the management team and the project.

The Irie Television team is confident that their energy and drive, combined with a commitment to providing cutting edge broadcast solutions to its audience will lead to the success of this venture. Keep reading the London Mission for further updates on the channel.

For further information on Irie Television contact Andrew Laird on 07793 023 587 or email andrew_laird74@yahoo.co.uk.

Calypso, Steelpan and Limbo... While others may have them... We invented them

An Introduction to the culture of Trinidad and Tobago

by Donald Chambers

With Photographs by Andrea De Silva

Our Unique Mix

Trinidad and Tobago boasts a rich and diverse culture. The arts and customs of the land reflect the cultural footprints left by the African, Indian, Chinese, Middle Eastern and varying European inhabitants of generations past.

Home of the Best Carnival in the World

And speaking of footprints, "...we chippin* down de road," there's no place in the world to enjoy Carnival like Trinidad and Tobago. Often described as the eighth wonder of the world, Trinidad and Tobago Carnival takes place every year, the Monday and Tuesday before Ash Wednesday on the Roman Catholic Calendar. The colours, sights, sounds and culinary delights of this Caribbean melting pot will undoubtedly get your senses going.

Creativity with purpose

As the home of the steelpan, calypso and limbo, our cultural ingenuity is unmistakable. An astute people, Trinbagonians (the people of Trinidad and Tobago) have fashioned a rich history into a thriving industry. Exponents of the arts and culture are supported by a well organised industry, awash with theatres, art centres, workshops and organising bodies that cater to artistic development and expression.

Did you know?

If you have moved your hips to calypso, celebrated the triumph of light over darkness at a Divali festival, or read the literary works of Nobel Laureate V.S. Naipaul, then you too have participated in the culture of Trinidad and Tobago. So why not come and experience multiculturalism at its cohesive best?

So what should you do?

Indulge your appetite for fun and satisfy your yearning for a powerful cultural experience. Get your plane ticket, as your destination is certain... Trinidad and Tobago.

For more information on the arts and culture of Trinidad and Tobago please visit:

www.tthighcommission.co.uk

www.gotrinidadandtobago.com

www.cdcga.gov.tt

www.trinidadandtobagofilm.com

*Chippin – to move in a leisurely fashion to the sound of music



Photographs by Andrea De Silva

Scholarship Winner- An Investment in the Future

Tanisha Williams was awarded the De La Rue Scholarship to pursue a Masters of Science in Economics on Thursday April 17th, 2008 at the Central Bank. Governor of the Central Bank, Mr. Ewart Williams said that the award to 23 year old Tanisha was an investment in the youth of the nation. He described her as an excellent example of the academic vanguard in Trinidad and Tobago.

Tanisha graduated with first class honors, was the Public Relations Officer of the Economics Society and also a community volunteer.

The company De La Rue provides cash handling equipment and software solutions to financial institutions globally and has been awarding this scholarship for the past five years.

Dr Shelton Nicholls, deputy governor, policy and research, described the scholarship interview process as rigorous but was impressed with Mitchell's determination to succeed, her mentorship of SEA students and her passion for monetary policy.

Mitchell said that the field of economics transcended into our daily lives, and that basic decisions were grounded on



Central Bank Governor Ewart Williams (left), congratulates Tanisha Mitchell, winner of the De La Rue scholarship. To the right of Mitchell are Leo Quinn, CEO of De La Rue Currency, and Dr Shelton Nicholls, Deputy Governor, Policy and Research

economic principles, thereby making it a fascinating field of study for her.

Are you a young citizen of Trinidad and Tobago, pursuing your studies or working in the United Kingdom? Please send us your success story.

**Mr. Ashton Ford, Attaché - Public Affairs, Culture & Tourism,
High Commission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
42 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8NT**

Note: Please also submit Letters to the Editor to the said address.

Thank U Celebrates Maya Angelou at 80



Baroness Howells OBE. and the Thank U Committee
request the pleasure of your company

7th Annual 'Exclusive' Pre-Launch Dinner
in aid of

The Maya Angelou (@ 80) Milestone Children's Libraries
in South Africa, Ghana, Trinidad & Tobago

"Thank you to the Thank U Organisation and to all the supporters of children and their thirst for nurture and education. I am pleased, beyond the telling of I, by the countries of Ghana, South Africa and Trinidad and Tobago. The decision to name the children's libraries in my honour, delights and humbles me. I am grateful." -- Maya Angelou

When: Saturday 24th May 2008

Where: The South African High Commission

Tickets: £55 each (including raffle tickets)

For More information and to buy tickets,
please visit the Thank U website at
www.thanku-uk.com or call 07889 859292.
Cheques made payable to **Thank U** and sent
to: Maya Angelou Milestone Libraries, Thank
U, 20 Abbey Gardens, London W6 8QR.

T&T's Jason Scotland hailed for his achievement at Swansea City

Trinidad and Tobago's Jason Scotland ended the 2007/8 football season on a high note for his club Swansea City Football Club having scored 29 goals which helped the team capture the coveted League One title in the English Football Association.

Scotland was in stunning form this season. Apart from being the leading goal scorer he won the player of the month prize on two occasions and also copped the man of the match award several times during the season.

His most outstanding performance came in the month of March, netting nine goals in eight league games. Such a brilliant performance by the dashing forward got good reviews from Chris Kamara, Chairman of Powerade Player of the Month Awards panel, who said: "Nine goals in eight games says it all. Jason's performances have been improving all season and there's no doubt that he is capable of playing at a higher level."

Mr. Kamara is a well known television broadcaster who covers major football games in the English Leagues from Premier Division to League Two and also international matches for Skysports Television.

Scotland said that he had enjoyed playing this season "because I worked hard with the team." He also stated that he was looking forward to taking on the English footballers while wearing the red, white and black of Trinidad and Tobago national team, at an international friendly, carded for June 1, 2008, at the Haseley Crawford Stadium, Trinidad.

Two other players from Trinidad and Tobago, Dennis Lawrence and Kevin Austin, also played a pivotal role in ensuring the team's success this year.

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission also paid tribute to the young footballer and his colleagues when Attaché for Public Affairs, Culture and Tourism Ashton Ford, paid a visit to the Club on April 20th to witness the



Above: Jason in action for Trinidad and Tobago.

Swansea City/Yeovil encounter.

Following the game, Mr. Ford addressed members of the Board of Swansea City and also took the opportunity to promote Trinidad and Tobago as an ideal tourist destination. Mr. Ford indicated that football was very popular in Trinidad and Tobago, stating that the national team had qualified for the world cup finals for the first time - in Germany. He distributed several products, books and leaflets dealing with Trinidad and Tobago.

Among the items distributed to the Chairman of the Board of Swansea City, Manager of the team and the three Trinidad and Tobago players on the team, were T&T's prestigious 1919 rum, internationally acclaimed Angostura Bitters, sweets from KC Confectionary, steelband CDs, DVD on Tobago and books outlining business ventures in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Huw Jenkins, Chairman of the Board, thanked Mr. Ford for his support and indicated that the three players from Trinidad and Tobago displayed discipline and professionalism as members of the team, pointing out that they definitely contributed to the Club's success this year.

He said, "We have a great young manager Roberto Martinez and collectively we have a united football club working together to ensure one thing – that Swansea City Football Club grows from strength to strength."

Having won the League One title, Swansea City will be promoted to the Championship Division of the English Football Association next season.

John survives stern test in final game of the season for Southampton

Stern John grabbed the headlines on the sports pages of the British press on May 5th for his heroics in Southampton's final game in the Championship Division of the English Football Association.

The Trinidad and Tobago forward scored two vital goals for Southampton that saved the club

from humiliation. A draw or lost would have seen Southampton being demoted to the League One Division.

John goals for the club came after their rivals Sheffield United held the lead and looked set to win the game. "We are Stern up!" (Sun newspaper) was just one of the many headlines in the daily newspapers that praised the

player for his sterling performance at the St Mary's Stadium.

John rounded off the season in grand style for his club having won the "Player of the year" award for Southampton. He scored 19 goals this season.

Focus on the Mission



T&T football trio at Swansea City: Jason Scotland, Dennis Lawrence and Kevin Austin with Attaché Ashton Ford.



Above: Her Excellency Glenda Morean Phillip is blessed by His Grace Norris V. Ashton, at the Shouter Baptist church service.



Left: Mr. Hew Jenkins, Chairman of the Board, Swansea City, is presented with a bottle of Angostura bitters by Attaché Ashton Ford.

Below: young members of the Spiritual Baptist community in London, singing at the church service.



Right: Assistant Attachés Rasheda Morton and Beverly Awonaya pose with outgoing High Commissioner Morean Phillip, after a luncheon that was held in her honour.



Above: Her Excellency Glenda Morean Phillip is presented with a gift from the staff at the High Commission, London, by Head of Chancery, Victoria Farley.



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