



Trinidad & Tobago IFC

Financial Sector Development

Trinidad and Tobago IFC a Sponsor of ICATT's Conference

As part of its mission to support the expansion of the financial sector, the Trinidad and Tobago International Financial Centre (IFC) was one of the sponsors of the International Finance and Accounting Conference, the premier financial conference held in this region.

The conference was hosted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Trinidad and Tobago (ICATT), established 44 years ago to develop, promote and regulate the local accountancy profession. The 2014 conference themed "Agents of Change – Shaping the Future," addressed the major drivers of change in today's finance and accounting environment, including the evolving technology and how it is transforming and globalising the sector.

Varun Maharaj, chief executive officer, Trinidad and Tobago IFC, stated it was important for the Trinidad and Tobago IFC to support the conference, which was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel from October 14-15. Approximately 450 senior financial professionals from both the private and public sectors attended the conference, with a large number of these professionals registering with the Trinidad and Tobago IFC for inclusion in the agency's database.

"For the third consecutive year, the Trinidad and Tobago IFC has participated as a sponsor of the International Finance and Accounting Conference and we commend ICATT on another successful forum," Maharaj said. "Our participation was part of a strategy to raise awareness with ICATT for the opportunities that the Trinidad and Tobago IFC is creating in the financial support services industry and the capital market."

Speaking at the event, Senator the Honourable Vasant Bharath, Minister of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications, endorsed the agency's work, pointing specifically to the creation of 1,000 jobs through finance and accounting back-office processing operations such as Scotiabank's BPO hub in Chaguanas. Some of the Trinidad and Tobago IFC's more recent achievements include launching a pilot-training programme for the Finance and Accounting (F&A) Business Process Outsourcing (BPO)



Alphanso Williams, IT Administrator, Corporate Services, shares information with conference attendees who stopped by the Trinidad and Tobago IFC's booth to learn more about the organisation, during the 2014 International Finance and Accounting Conference held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

industry, generating genuine interest from leading global F&A BPO players in establishing operations here; partnering with UTT to offer financial training in conjunction with New York Institute of Finance (NYIF); and positioning Trinidad and Tobago as an emerging international financial centre to global markets, by participating in a series of fora attended by international financial-thought leaders.

Maharaj added: "These initiatives offer exciting opportunities for our finance and accounting professionals, who are the source of this country's most critical competitive advantage in attracting investment in the financial sector. The human capital available locally is a key factor with not only F&A BPO service providers in their decision to locate operations here but also it is essential for our capital market to function effectively."

About the Trinidad & Tobago IFC:

The Trinidad and Tobago International Financial Centre (Trinidad and Tobago IFC) is an investment promotion agency created to foster the development of Trinidad and Tobago's financial sector. A national agency, the Trinidad and Tobago IFC works closely with the Government to facilitate the growth of the sector through two key areas – the creation of a financial support services (FINeSS) industry and the development of the capital markets. Well-resourced and positioned as an integral component to the Government's long-term economic strategy, the Trinidad and Tobago IFC is staffed by financial and policy specialists, and draws on international expertise in finance, nearshoring, business process outsourcing and capital markets development.