



Trinidad & Tobago IFC

Financial Sector Development

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PRESS RELEASE

The UWI–Trinidad and Tobago IFC partnership to provide essential professional training

The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine (The UWI) and the Trinidad and Tobago International Financial Centre (T&T IFC) recently signed an historic memorandum of understanding (MoU) to solidify the strategic alliance between the two entities. The agreement secures the future of the financial sector by facilitating an important mandate of the T&T IFC – to ensure the local labour supply meets the requirements of global Finance & Accounting (F&A) Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) organisations being attracted to this country, specifically in Professional Soft Skills.

The MoU was signed on Wednesday 5th July at the Campus Principal's office at The UWI.

With a goal to diversify the economy, the signing of this MoU is a major part of the T&T IFC's strategy to prepare the workforce and generate high-value employment. Initially, graduates from the Department of Management Studies will benefit from the new programme which provides essential professional training for those entering the job market. Subsequently, the training will be available to students in other faculties of the university, once approved by their respective faculty and departmental heads.

Speaking at the signing, Campus Principal and Pro-Vice Chancellor, Brian Copeland, restated his vision of the university as part of the 'Triple-A' strategy for greater alignment between what is taught at The UWI, and how it engages with business and commerce in the country. Richard P. Young, Chairman of the T&T IFC, views the collaboration as more than a partnership between the two entities; instead, he identifies it as one that impacts the fabric of this society.

"Employers have often lamented the fact that young professionals are technically competent, but they lack the people skills to effectively and successfully navigate in the



Professor Brian Copeland, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Campus Principal at the UWI, shakes the hand of Richard P. Young, Chairman of the T&T IFC, after signing an agreement that will boost the country's financial sector.

workplace or to self-reflect and improve in order to retain their jobs," said Aliyah Jaggassar, who spearheads the development of the local F&A BPO sector as the Vice President - BPO Shared Services Development at the T&T IFC.

Dr. Acolla Lewis-Cameron, Head of the Department of Management Studies at The UWI, under whose department the MoU is piloted, spoke of plans to engage CEOs from the corporate sector more meaningfully and have these captains of industry share their journeys with students. That activity will be captured in the department's initiative, "Conversations with CEOs".

In addition to Copeland, Young, Jaggassar, and Lewis-Cameron, attendees at the signing included Sharan Singh, Debra Coryat-Patton, Shiraz Mohammed and Dr. Marlene Attzs, who all represented The UWI, and Rachael Mason, Manager - Business Process Outsourcing/ Shared Services Development, and Rudolph Hanamji, Manager - Marketing and Communications, attending on behalf of the T&T IFC.

About the Trinidad and Tobago IFC:

The Trinidad and Tobago IFC aims to develop a robust financial services sector that would generate significant revenues and sustainable, high-value employment for the people of this country. As the main vehicle driving the expansion of the financial sector, the Trinidad and Tobago IFC has worked assiduously to achieve this goal through developing the Capital Market and creating a Financial Institutions Support Services (FINeSS) industry.