



**Welcome Remarks**

Delivered By

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Director

Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce

**“SHIFTING THE PARADIGM OF THE PRACTICUM”**  
**TUESDAY 30 OCTOBER 2012**  
**8:30 AM – 10:30 AM**  
**LEON AGOSTINI CONFERENCE HALL**  
**CHAMBER BUILDING**  
**WESTMOORINGS**

**Good morning to all,**

**It is my pleasure to deliver some brief remarks on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce. I would like to begin by welcoming the facilitators of today's event and all representatives of the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business. I would also like to thank the Graduate School for working with the Chamber to launch this initiative.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, the Chamber believes that it is a national responsibility to prepare our students for the next stage in their professional lives. We are therefore pleased that this new practicum model, known as the Joint Practicum Model, has been designed by the Graduate School to assist in this process. The new model is a step in the right direction as its main objective is to transform A-Class "Students" into A-Class PROFESSIONALS.**

Through this new practicum model, Arthur Lok Jack GSB students not only learn to analyze problems and the developmental challenges within organisations but also, by working directly with companies, they can move beyond the stage of simply gathering and analyzing data and making recommendations, to being an active participant in the problem solving process. In this way, this new model of learning will teach the graduate how to make wise business decisions which, oftentimes, are difficult and which are not always neatly laid out in a text book or clearly identified through case studies. From all indications, the programme has therefore been reviewed to teach students how to effectively deal with modern day dynamics.

As experienced business people, we know at times you have to trust your instinct to make the right decision to a solve problem. We also understand that the business world is one of constant change. Some of these changes are inevitable and harsh. The impact of the global economic crisis has highlighted the vulnerabilities of businesses in today's global marketplace. This is just one example, but many external factors can pose challenges to an organization; others include natural disasters, political upheavals or instability, crime, and

**the list can go on. Apart from these there are also internal factors which may adversely affect an organization.**

**It is clear, therefore, that ALL businesses must learn to adapt and be flexible in order to ensure their very survival. We need to be constantly re-evaluating our organizations and asking, for example - What are the new trends on the market? What is the outcome I want? What are my current obstacles or what stands in my way? This level of questioning and critical thinking must also be exercised by business students, and, indeed, future business leaders and entrepreneurs, if they are to find the solutions to these challenges and lead successful organisations.**

**The Chamber is in full support of the new model proposed by the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business, as we expect that it will certainly prepare graduates for the unpredictability and dynamism of the business environment. We look forward to learning more about the Joint Practicum Model during today's event.**

**I invite you to enjoy the session and to participate in our Q & A segment which has been included on the agenda to answer your questions or concerns.**

**Thank you.**