



Welcome Remarks

To be delivered by

Ms Catherine Kumar

CEO

Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry
and Commerce

India – Trinidad and Tobago

“Building a New Partnership”

Business Seminar

Wednesday 20 March, 2013

7:30 am-12:30 a.m.

Chamber’s Conference Centre, Westmoorings

- Senator the Honourable Vasant Bharath – Minister of Trade, Industry and Investment;**

- **His Excellency Malay Mishra – High Commissioner for India to Trinidad and Tobago;**
- **Other representatives of the Indian High Commission**
- **Other representatives of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment**
- **Mr. Kelvin Mahabir – CEO of invesTT**
- **Mr. Shayamal Chandradatsingh – Manager, Investor Sourcing, invesTT**

- **Other representatives of invesTT**
- **Mr. Ronald Hinds – Member of the Chamber Board of Directors**
- **Esteemed Chairmen and Panelists of the Focus Group Sessions**
- **Members of the business community**
- **Members of the media**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

- **Good morning,**
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- **I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to this morning's India - Trinidad and Tobago Business Forum, and a special welcome to members of our panel. Today's session has been organized by the Indian High Commission of Port-of-Spain, the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce**

and InvesTT. The Chamber's strategic plan has identified economic development as the second pillar of focus over the next two years with high priority being placed on increasing Trinidad and Tobago's presence in the world market. With the paradigm shift in economic power from the traditional sources in North America and the European Union – to the emerging

markets of the East, rich opportunities are now generating worldwide interest many of which can be capitalized on by our local private sector.

- With India's emergence as part of the BRICS grouping, it is expected that both India and China will supersede the US as the largest economies by 2050. However as there continues to be flat economic growth in the West,**

we may witness an earlier than expected prediction. Trinidad and Tobago and India have historically enjoyed bilateral relations, and the time has come for both economies to develop an even stronger exchange, not just of ideas but also of meaningful trade and investment relations. With both Governments shifting policy arrangements to promote specific areas of focus, the

three sectors which have been identified for possible mutual business development opportunities are Agro Processing, ICT/BPO and Clean Technology.

- Government support in Trinidad and Tobago has been championed by the Prime Minister's visit to India in 2012 where she led a trade delegation with the intention of further solidifying economic ties between the two**

countries. Today, there will be a deeper exploration of economic and other opportunities that have come to the fore since that visit. To further advance these goals, we have with us the Minister of Trade, Industry and Investment – the Honorable Vasant Bharath who will shed some more light on the value of increasing trade with India. We are also fortunate to have two of our panelists speaking

on Clean Technology, who are employees of the Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs, and have participated in an international training session in India in this specialised field, under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme. They will share with us the knowledge and experience that they have gained during their time in

India, so we certainly look forward to hearing more on that.

- Currently, many local businesses remain unaware of the rich possibilities that exist by engaging the Indian economy. Today's seminar will provide insight and knowledge that will enhance your awareness of these opportunities. Three panels consisting of esteemed and knowledgeable speakers will discuss**

- the opportunities for the above-mentioned sectors between Trinidad and Tobago and India. Practitioners who have experience in doing business with India and who understand the benefits that can accrue from increased bilateral relationships, will highlight the possibilities between both countries.**
- There will also be a period for questions and answers during which**

the panelists will be able to help you address specific concerns.

- **Following the three panel discussions, Dr. Satnarine Balkaransingh will provide us with a summary of the keynotes and points from the panelists. After which, The Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Jwala Rambarran will present the macroeconomic outlook for**

increasing the scope of bilateral relationships between India and Trinidad and Tobago.

- The Chamber remains committed to bringing opportunities to our Members and the wider business community, so as to assist in the national efforts to achieve sustainable economic growth in Trinidad and Tobago**

- In closing, I wish to thank each of our feature speakers and panelists for agreeing to be part of this Business Forum, and I thank our participants for your interest. I urge you all to use this opportunity to engage in discussions with our speakers, particularly during the Focus Sessions.

- Thank you

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