



Welcome Remarks

To be delivered by

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CEO

**Trinidad and Tobago Chamber
of Industry and Commerce**

CSR ONE TO ONE

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES

WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY 2014

LEON AGOSTINI CONFERENCE HALL

8:30am – 12:00NOON

- **Donna Ramsammy – Senior communications and Public Affairs Consultant
Virtually Yours T&T Ltd.**
- **Sheldon Daniel – Principal Consultant SXD Leadership Communications Ltd.**
- **Chair - Anil Seunath and Vice Chair - Robert Baur of the Corporate Social
Responsibility Committee of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry
and Commerce**
- **Other members of the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee**
- **Gold Investor – Atlantic LNG**

- Gem Investors – Angostura, RBC Royal Bank, Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
- Specially invited guests
- Chamber members and other participants
- Media partners

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce it is my privilege to welcome you this morning to CSR One to One – the first event in the Personal Development Series which will be followed by two other consecutive sessions this year.

I would like to warmly welcome our distinguished facilitators Donna Ramsammy and Sheldon Daniel who both have been invited to guide participants on the principles of CSR and the best practices of the profession. They both complement each other and share the common vision of Corporate Social

Responsibility as a means to promote good business ethics, sustainability and growth.

Donna and Sheldon welcome and thank you for taking the time to address and update our membership on new CSR trends.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the CSR Committee lead by Committee Chair Mr Anil Seunath made the decision to host the Personal Development Series to generate awareness and understanding of CSR practices amongst the Chamber's membership, in particular our SME members.

The Committee was established in 2007 as one of the Chamber's special focus committees providing support and assistance in the specialized field of CSR.

The Committee's mission is "to build a platform for learning, advocacy and technical assistance that enables every business to be an active partner in creating a socially and environmentally sustainable Trinidad and Tobago."

Over the last 7 years the Committee has been able to achieve this through its involvement in projects such as the CSR National Policy, Trinidad and Tobago

Corporate Governance Code, raising awareness on the ISO 26000 on Social Responsibility and the CSR Xchange programme which was developed by the Committee.

However last year the Committee did some restructuring and recruited new members to carry on the committee's work. It is therefore pleasing to see the Committee fulfilling another one of its main objectives which is to provide training and learning on CSR.

To many who are unfamiliar with the term – Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR) – it may seem to be a philanthropic endeavor which is practiced by some organizations, but in reality it encompasses much more than simply financing or funding a cause or community project.

CSR is strongly linked to sustainability, productivity and competitiveness and when an organization invests in CSR it distinctly sets itself apart from the rest.

It also says that an organization understands that business goes beyond just a narrow focus on the bottom line. It also entails developing meaningful long-lasting relationships with all stakeholders.

In Trinidad and Tobago, Corporate Social Responsibility is a relatively new field of expertise, and therefore the role of the Chamber's CSR Committee becomes more salient in emphasizing that businesses whether small medium or large have a social, environmental and ethical responsibility which if met leads to sustainable development. Although CSR may be still in its embryonic stage, it has gained momentum particularly in the private sector. Public sector organizations of course have been heavily involved in this area in the past but now more than ever the private sector is fulfilling their role as socially responsible corporate entities which promote sustainable development – a theme which I am sure will be continuously addressed during this session and the others to come.

With this in mind, the Chamber as the voice of business endorses the Personal Development Series which stands to benefit the business community and enhance the way in which we view and practice the principles of Corporate Social Responsibility.

I wish to encourage Chamber members and all other participants to use the information from today to create and establish appropriate and viable CSR strategies in their organizations.

Before I close I would like to acknowledge our investors Atlantic LNG – Gold Investor, and Gem Investors - Angostura, RBC Royal Bank, Association of Chartered Certified Accountants who have made this session possible and who recognise the importance of placing CSR initiatives to the forefront of business.

With this said thank you for your time and do enjoy the rest of the session.