

2009: ARTHUR LOK JACK

Arthur Lok Jack was born in Trinidad on 25 June, 1944 and is the son of Arthur Lok Jack Snr., a Chinese immigrant shopkeeper and Edna Cockerton whose mother was from India. Young Arthur began his education at the Eastern Boys Government School on Nelson Street and later Queen's Royal College. He then began to work for Barclays Bank after which he joined Sterling Drugs International as a Sales Representative and worked his way up to becoming the Marketing Manager. At the age of 23, Arthur Lok Jack left Sterling Drugs and was appointed a Director of Taurel & Co., in charge of the Food, Hardware and Drugs Division. After leaving Taurel he was one of the investors in the Fairways development that purchased the land of the St. Andrew's Golf Club at La Seiva, Maraval and developed it into building lots for housing.

When the well known businessman Vernon Charles decided to sell out his interests in Trinidad this signaled the start of Arthur Lok Jack's involvement in the manufacturing business – Associated Brands Investments Ltd., which after thirty-two years was to become one of the largest privately owned businesses in the region. He took over Charles Candy from Vernon Charles, built a factory and started manufacturing candy. Capturing the market from Cadbury, he diversified the company's raw material base, which was the beginning of Sunshine Snacks.

In 1982, Charles Candy invested in the island of Malta in a joint venture with the Maltese government in an existing chocolate plant. From Malta, Sunshine Snacks/Associated Brands Ltd., exported chocolates, biscuits and snack foods to thirty countries throughout North Africa and Europe. Associated Brands also started up Universal Foods, which produces breakfast cereals.

In addition to being Chairman of Associated Brands (Investments) Ltd., he serves as Chairman of Guardian Holdings Ltd. and the Neal & Massy Holdings Group of Companies as well as several regional Private and Public Companies including Almond Resorts Inc. He was appointed the Chairman of BWIA West Indies to undertake the transition of that Company to Caribbean Airlines of which he is now the Chairman.

He has played a pivotal role in the transformation of the economic landscape of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean region through his roles as the first Chairman of the TT Export Development Corporation; Chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Export Credit Company (now EXIMBANK); President of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association and Chairman of the Trinidad Free Zone Company. He also serves on the board of the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business. In 2003 the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago appointed Mr. Lok Jack Chairman of a Multi-Sectoral Core Group which was established to formulate a National Strategic Plan which would make Trinidad and Tobago a developed country by the year 2020.

His contribution to business was recognised by the University of the West Indies which named him one of the fifteen Caribbean luminaries for 2002 at a gala ceremony in New York. The title of Master Entrepreneur was bestowed on him by Ernst & Young in 2001 and, in November 2002, he was presented with a Doctor of Laws Degree (Hon.) by the University of the West Indies in recognition of his immense contribution to, and impact on the economy of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean. In August 2004, he was awarded the Chaconia Medal Gold (the country's second highest honour) for his contribution to Business, and in December 2004 was inducted into Queen's Royal College (his *Alma Mater*) Hall of Honour. He has also been honoured by the Queen's Park Cricket Club and the Clydesdale Club.

Mr. Arthur Lok Jack has been married for forty-two years to Mrs. Glenda Tong Lok Jack. They have three sons; Gregory, Christopher and Nicholas who are all involved in various aspects of the company's business. Not a man of many hobbies, he devotes himself for the most part to his business activities but certainly enjoys a good movie. He also enjoys weekends down the islands, where sometimes on the jetty, he plans his next business strategy. A most generous benefactor to the University of the West Indies, the Institute of Business on campus was named "The Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business" in his honour. At the office, when he is heard whistling a happy tune, his staff know that they must get ready, as this is a sure signal that a new project is on the horizon!

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce is indeed honoured to induct Mr. Arthur Lok Jack into the Business Hall of Fame on this 11th November 2009.