



in this issue

THE FIFTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS HIGHLIGHTS
US President Barack Obama in Trinidad and Tobago

STEELPAN TAKES WASHINGTON DC BY STORM
BP Renegades performs to a sold-out audience at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

LAUNCH OF THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE
T&T Hits The International Financial Stage

IMPORTANT NEW INFORMATION
Embassy of T&T Launches the First Mobile Immigration Unit

COVER

Honourable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago greets US President Barack Obama during the Fifth Summit of the Americas which was held in April 2009 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

2009 was quite a year! Indeed, it is no secret that, at the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago in Washington DC, we brought the last decade to a close with great momentum in every sphere of development.

From the forging of closer relations with the US Administration led by President Barack Obama to the effective engagement of the business community in Washington DC, 2009 provided lucrative avenues for positioning Trinidad and Tobago as a key player in this dynamic and competitive global market.

Trinidad and Tobago is now on the lips of influential persons in varied quarters. Many international economists, social development experts, political scientists and business leaders in Washington DC are now determining their own strategies for playing a role in the many innovative developmental initiatives which are being implemented by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

It is our fervent hope that, after reading of the exciting developments in our beloved country, you, our valued reader, will also decide the role that you will play in this unprecedented development thrust.

In this issue, you will learn of the stellar undertakings of the Embassy under the astute guidance of Her Excellency Glenda Morean Phillip, to strengthen Trinidad and Tobago's relations with the United States and the international community.

Of course, an account of this year's highlights would not be complete without a showcase of the Embassy's cultural initiatives. In many unprecedented ways, our national instrument, the steelpan, was brought to the forefront of Washington DC's international culture. The showcase began in Spring with more than 12, 000 people visiting the Embassy during an 8-hour period on May 17, to hear the sounds of DC Pan Jammers. Traffic on Massachusetts Avenue came to a standstill and the lines of people trying to take in the rhythms were 3 blocks long. But this gave

only a glimpse of the greatness and versatility of the only acoustical musical instrument to have been invented in the 20th century.

The culmination of our steelpan showcase came in the Summer with the performance of the BP Renegades Steel Orchestra with three of Trinidad and Tobago's leading opera singers at Classics and Steel – a phenomenal, sold-out concert at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Words will not do this experience justice – I can only quote one of the producers at the Kennedy Center who said that, in 3 decades of music, "I have never experienced anything this fantastic."

I must emphasize that this 2009 Year In Review is not just about our achievements here at the Embassy, but equally important, about you, our valued readers.

This is why, we have once again, included our Diaspora Focus and Cultural Showcase to highlight the work of those nationals who are courageously taking the leap forward in displaying to the world the unique talent of our nation. The interviews with Mr. Ewart Rouse, writer, and Dr. Anthony Kalloo, renowned gastroenterologist, are inspirational, beyond measure, and we encourage all readers to take the time to read about the huge impact that they are making on this continent.

I do hope that you will enjoy this 2009 In Review and I feel confident that you will be proud of our nation and of our people. With a new decade at our doorstep and the many new prospects before us, it is indeed a great time to step forth and embrace all that our beautiful country has to offer.

Nationals, always remember your unique value proposition – **You Are A Trini.**
God Bless you all.

Monique McSween
Editor in Chief
Information Attaché
Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago
Washington DC



GREETINGS FROM THE AMBASSADOR

Dear Nationals, Friends and other Supporters,

As we embrace 2010, the start of the next decade, I take this opportunity on behalf of all of us at the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago in Washington to extend to all of you our congratulations for your many positive achievements over the past year and wish you continued health, happiness and success in all your endeavours.

For us at the Embassy, 2009 was a hectic year. This, along with staff constraints, contributed to our failure to keep you informed in a timely manner, through our quarterly newsletter, of events occurring both at the Embassy and in Trinidad and Tobago. Nevertheless, in this review of the events of 2009, I trust that we have captured some of the outstanding events of the past year, which Trinidad and Tobago has undertaken both in Washington and at home.

Three major events that stand out are the hosting of the Fifth Summit of the Americas in April, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in November and the opening of the state of the art National Academy for the Performing Arts in our capital city of Port of Spain. The hosting of these two major conferences as well as the up-grading of the infrastructure, has justified the Government's thrust to position Trinidad and Tobago as a major conference destination in the Caribbean. In addition, the establishment of the National Academy For The Performing Arts lends credence to our country's already acknowledged reputation as being the Cultural and Entertainment Centre of the Caribbean. Also, the range of native talent and the versatility of our national instrument, the steelpan, were powerfully displayed by the three classical singers – Anne Fridal, Rene Solomon and Marvin Smith – and the BP Renegades Steel Orchestra at the concert "Classics and Steel" which was held at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington DC in August.

Many of you have contributed directly or indirectly to the success of our activities and events. For this

we commend you. In particular, we at the Embassy express heartfelt appreciation to our young people, who have brought a new vibrancy to the promotion of our cultural, trade and educational agendas in Washington and in the wider USA. Your contribution does not stop there. The Embassy is inundated with accounts of the successes of our young achievers, scholarship winners and other young nationals of Trinidad and Tobago who are consistently making the honour roll, winning scholarships and awards and occupying top positions in their chosen fields throughout the United States. The successes of the past year point to a bright decade ahead for us provided that we continue in the same spirit of collaboration and cooperation that pervaded our relationship this past year.

It is incumbent on you, the nationals of Trinidad and Tobago who reside in the first world, to position yourselves as leaders, not just followers, and to take your place at the top in every chosen field. As I stated in a meeting of nationals held at the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago in February 2009, we must step forward, we must not hide our light behind the proverbial "bushel" and we must get involved in our communities. By getting involved, we take a measure of control and handle our systems of education, social development and economies actively and not passively.

It is my fervent hope that I, as well as the staff of the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago, would have the opportunity to partner with you in this ascendance to the top. Let us fashion the theme of this new decade around community and prosperity so that together, we can aspire and together we will achieve.

Glenda Morean Phillip
Ambassador

Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago
Washington DC

Trinidad and Tobago - the first Caribbean Nation to Host the Summit of the Americas



Trinidad and Tobago was honoured to host the Fifth Summit of the Americas from April 17-19, 2009 and to welcome all thirty-three (33) Heads of State and Government and their delegations to the capital city of Port of Spain. The Summit, under the theme “Securing Our Citizens’ Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability”, has been deemed a success in many quarters characterized by frank dialogue among the thirty-four (34) Leaders in a spirit of mutual respect and a willingness to forge constructive paths amidst continued engagement. On April 19th, the Leaders agreed to adopt the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain of the Fifth Summit of the Americas which addressed the core areas of the thematic pillars as well as the strengthening of public security, democratic governance and Summit of the Americas follow-up and implementation effectiveness. At a Heads-only Retreat, other issues were also discussed such as the reintegration of Cuba in the Inter-American system, the global financial crisis and support for the funding of development programmes in Haiti and are recorded in the Statement of the Chairman.

The outcome of the Fifth Summit was the product of partnership and collaboration



with a wide cross-section of hemispheric actors. At the 39th General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) held two months after the Summit, the Head of Trinidad and Tobago’s delegation stated that Trinidad and Tobago was “...unwavering in our efforts to bridge the ideas and find common ground on which collective action could be taken, and we promoted widespread inclusiveness by consulting and engaging with all our stakeholders. The fact that every member state participated at the highest level at the Summit and that citizens from across the Americas participated in meetings of civil society, youth, workers, the indigenous people and the private sector is testimony of the new beginning that Trinidad and Tobago pursued for our Americas.”

“ The fact that every member state participated at the highest level at the Summit and that citizens from across the Americas participated in meetings of civil society, youth, workers, the indigenous people and the private sector is testimony of the new beginning that Trinidad and Tobago pursued for our Americas. ”



TOP RIGHT
Honourable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister, addresses members of the media at Press Conference held for the Closing of the Fifth Summit of the Americas on April 19, 2009.

Honourable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister, in discussions with President of the United States, Barack Obama.



FROM TOP LEFT TO RIGHT
Honourable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister, and President of the United States, Barack Obama share a light moment.

President of the United States, Barack Obama at the Summit of the Americas.

Patrick Manning, Prime Minister, in talks with United States Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton.

Bèlè dancers display the vibrant culture of Trinidad and Tobago at the Summit's Cultural Extravaganza, held on April 19, 2009.



The Declaration of Commitment therefore represents issues which resonate with people throughout the Americas, such as:

- The global economic situation;
- Managing the environment and mitigating the effects of climate change;
- Ensuring reliable and affordable supplies of clean energy;
- Promoting conditions conducive to decent work;
- Expanding economic opportunities for the Youth;
- Strengthening social protection and poverty eradication programmes;
- Building human capacity and competencies through the strengthening of the education system at all levels – early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary;
- Improving access to comprehensive, quality healthcare;
- Strengthening public security systems;
- Preventing and combating the global drug problem;
- Addressing the criminal gang problem and its effects on the society;
- Care of the elderly, the disabled and other vulnerable groups;
- Increasing competitiveness, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship;
- Protection and promotion of human rights.

Acutely aware of the economic challenges facing many states, the hemisphere's leaders also recognized the need for tighter coordination and resource mobilization and so instructed (paragraph 92 of the Declaration) Ministers of Finance or pertinent authorities to "...explore ways to ensure that international financial institutions, regional development banks and other international bodies take due account of the Summit mandates in their lending policies and technical assistance programs for the Hemisphere." The institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group¹ were also called upon (paragraph 93) "...to develop coordinated programmes of action aimed at achieving the goals for the Americas" set out in the Declaration of the Fifth Summit.



¹ The Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) comprises OAS, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the World Bank, International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (OIM), Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF).





Addressing a meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) in September 2009, Trinidad and Tobago's Foreign Minister, the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon called for the commitments undertaken to be made meaningful through implementation by countries. Minister Gopee-Scoon also noted that "We aspire to mutual goals, and as we move along our individual development paths, stronger partnership and cooperation will lead to strengthened and more sustainable implementation. And, as we learn from our national development initiatives, collaboration with institutions, civil actors and business sectors is also essential at the regional level."

In September, Trinidad and Tobago transferred the mantle of leadership of the Summits process to Colombia and gave its commitment to work with that country towards the continued strengthening of hemispheric cooperation aimed at achieving prosperity for all in the Americas. The perspective of the Honourable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, is relevant in respect of finding transnational solutions to transnational challenges to development: "...in this increasingly inter-connected world where many uncertainties abound and change is constant, pursuing development cannot be an insular exercise."

The Summit has been hailed as a defining moment in hemispheric relations which is testimony to the contribution made by OAS member states, other hemispheric partners such as the Organization of American States and members of the Joint Summit Working Group, civil society representatives, labour and the private sector.

- 1 *Calypso King of the World, The Mighty Sparrow performs for Heads of State and Government at the Cultural Extravaganza.*
- 2 *This Fancy Sailor displays the detail and beauty of "Ole Time" carnival at the Cultural Summit.*
- 3 *Heads of State and Government at the Diplomatic Centre.*
- 4 *Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago (CENTRE) is flanked by Secretary General of the Organization of American States, José Miguel Insuzla (LEFT) and Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago to the United States, Her Excellency Glenda Morean Phillip (RIGHT).*
- 5 *World Class Cricketer, Brian Lara, shows President Barack Obama some "tricks of the sport".*
- 6 *This Indian dancer proves the multi-ethnic culture of Trinidad and Tobago.*
- 7 *President of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, (LEFT) with Mr. Gerard Greene, then Chief of Protocol, Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the Diplomatic Centre on April 19, 2009.*
- 8 *President of Argentina, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, arrives at the Diplomatic Centre on April 19, 2009.*

On September 21, 2009, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, spoke at the Second Meeting in 2009 for the Summit Implementation Review Group at a Ministerial Level.

Addressing the meeting, Minister Gopee-Scoon said it had been “an honour and a privilege” for Trinidad and Tobago to have hosted the “historic event” of the Summit. “The outcome of the Fifth Summit would not have been possible were it not for the invaluable spirit of partnership and cooperation of each member state and our other hemispheric partners – the Secretary General, the Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States and the Summit of the Americas Secretariat, other institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group, and representatives of the peoples of our countries – civil society, the youth, labor and the private sector.”

The formal transfer of the Chair was marked by the passing of the statue “Inukshuk”, described by Minister Gopee-Scoon as “the Symbol of the Summits of the Americas Process, a creation of one of the first peoples’ of the Americas. It was originally used as a landmark. To travelers moving across a wilderness, it was a welcome sight, for it meant that “someone was here, you are on the right path”. For us, it is also a symbol of guidance, cooperation and the unity of our peoples. It now continues on its journey which began in Canada, with a sojourn in Argentina, then in Trinidad and Tobago and now on to Colombia.”



TOP
Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon greets Minister of Foreign Affairs of Columbia, Jaime de Bermúdez at the Organization of American States on September 21, 2009.

Minister Gopee-Scoon hands over the Inukshuk to Minister Jaime de Bermúdez.

From left to right, Ambassador of Columbia, Luis Alfonso Hoyos Aristizabal, Minister Gopee-Scoon, Secretary General of OAS, José Miguel Insulza, Minister Jaime de Bermúdez, Ambassador Morean Phillip and Honourable Mariano Fernández, Minister of External Affairs of Chile.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

In the Trade and Investment arena, 2009 saw a stellar year for the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago in Washington DC. Under the guidance and leadership of Her Excellency Glenda Morean Phillip, the Embassy was able to lend its resources and expertise in facilitating two significant trade missions to Trinidad and Tobago and host a presentation by Senator the Honourable Mariano Browne, Minister of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the Washington Intergovernmental Professional Group.

There can be no doubt that 2008 and all of 2009 tested the mettle of most developed and developing countries. We have all witnessed the near collapse of the global banking system and serious convulsions in world economic systems. The Caribbean economies have not been spared. Remittances, investments, tourist arrivals

and government revenues have all experienced serious decline in 2009. Consequently, unemployment, social and political tensions together with crime, violence and insecurity have marched alongside these developments.

Trinidad and Tobago has not been immune from these challenges. Like the rest of the Caribbean region, T&T is, and remains a small developing country and it is therefore impossible to escape the effects of global developments. In recalling the following excerpt from the country's 2010 Budget Statement, presented by the Honourable Karen Nunez-Tesheira, Minister of Finance, "The Government recognizes that in the present international climate, countries like T&T are challenged to do more with less and we must strengthen our export potential." - a realization the Embassy has already firmly embraced and implemented.

June 2009

NS&J Advisory Group Trade Mission to Trinidad and Tobago

In June 2009, Mr John Woods of the NS&J Advisory Group in collaboration with the Embassy prepared for and eventually led a US delegation to Trinidad and Tobago that included representatives from the Washington DC city government as well as business leaders from construction, manufacturing, tourism and ICT sectors - all persons interested in developing strategic partnerships with their counterpart Trinbagonian businesses. Meetings were held with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, E-Teck, the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) and a host of other local, private and public sector companies. This was not the first visit of Mr Woods and the NS&J Group to T&T and will certainly not be their last.



Launch of the Trinidad and Tobago International Financial Centre

Trinidad and Tobago, widely considered by the world's finance and investment experts as the economic tiger of the Caribbean and as the region's beacon of economic development, is now attracting the attention of heavy-weight international investors. With a growing reputation as one of the leading emerging markets in the Caribbean region, Trinidad and Tobago has justifiably earned its glowing reputation. This reputation was created, in no small measure, through the Government's implementation of innovative, yet prudent measures for diversifying the nation's economy, thereby reducing its dependence on oil and gas.

The latest of these measures is the implementation of the Trinidad and Tobago International Financial

Center (TTIFC). The US Launch of this monumental financial initiative was held at the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago in Washington DC, under the auspices of Ambassador Glenda Morean Phillip, on June 6, 2009. The launch was organized by Washington DC based consultants, AGA LLC.

The establishment of the TTIFC promises to boost Trinidad and Tobago's position in the international financial world; solidify its reputation as the finance and investment capital of the Caribbean; establish the city of Port of Spain as a major international financial market for trading financial products and services; boost economic activity; create optimal investment conditions and increase job creation.

The auspicious TTIFC launch was attended by the crème de la crème of Washington DC's business community, who came to witness Trinidad and Tobago's quantum leap in the global financial market. To a packed audience, Mr. Sam Martin, Chairman of the TTIFC, explained the importance of the TTIFC in Trinidad and Tobago's journey toward Developed Nation Status.

According to Mr. Martin, Trinidad and Tobago's strategic location between North and South America will assist in promoting a regional captive market as significant amounts of foreign funds will be encouraged to flow through the TTIFC as a regional alternative to New York and Miami. In explaining the benefits of establishing an IFC, Mr. Martin emphasized that the opportunity to manage foreign earnings from a captive market will create several lucrative benefits, including the provision of much needed capital to small and micro enterprise, regional governments and larger companies that require funding at competitive rates and other investment management opportunities.

More information about the TTIFC can be obtained on www.finance.gov.tt.





Minister Mariano Brown makes his presentation to the Washington Intergovernmental Professional Group.

August 2009

Honourable Mariano Browne, Minister of Trade and Industry, Convinces Washington's Business Elite to "Do Business in Trinidad & Tobago"

The feedback from Washington DC's business leaders is that Trinidad and Tobago is the leading destination in the English-speaking Caribbean region for trade and investment. This came after a stirring presentation delivered by the Honourable Mariano Browne, Minister of Trade and Industry, to members of the Washington Intergovernmental Professional Group (WIPG) at the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago in Washington DC on Tuesday, August 11, 2009.

Among those in attendance at the presentation were officials from the International Monetary Fund, Federal Transit Authority, International Trade Administration, World Bank and the US-Saudi Arabia Business Council, as well as Chairperson of the WIPG, Nelson Garcia, who is also Executive Director of the Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA).

MEMA represents motor vehicle parts suppliers, the nation's largest manufacturing sector and the largest manufacturing employer in seven states. These jobs contribute to 3.29 million private sector jobs across the United States, and the suppliers manufacture the parts and technology used throughout the US in the production of more than 11 million new cars and trucks each year, and the aftermarket products necessary to repair and maintain more than 247 million vehicles on the road today.

In his presentation, Minister Browne outlined Trinidad and Tobago's unique value proposition as an energy leader, the largest exporter of methanol and ammonia from a single site, and a highly industrialized nation that is quickly heading for Developed Nation Status. Minister Browne also outlined the many initiatives that are being successfully implemented by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to position the nation as the Cultural and Entertainment Centre, as well as the Conference Centre of the Caribbean. These initiatives include the hosting of two major international conferences – the Fifth Summit of the Americas and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. According to Minister Browne – "Trinidad and Tobago is open for business."

Following the Honourable Minister's presentation, WIPG's Chairman, Nelson Garcia, expressed his appreciation to Minister Browne and Her Excellency Glenda Morean Phillip for having the business and political acuity to proactively promote Trinidad and Tobago to the lucrative market of business leaders which is based in Washington DC and stated that the Association "looked forward to furthering discussions on how its members may pursue and materialize the business opportunities which Trinidad and Tobago readily presents."

December 2009

The Global Business Cooperative Conducts Trade Mission to Trinidad and Tobago



From December 3rd-6th, 2009, the Global Business Cooperative (GBC) in Washington DC conducted a Trade Mission to Trinidad and Tobago. The Mission was headed by Dr. Patricia Newton of Newton-Thoth Inc. International Meeting and Event Management, and Mrs. Kim Jones, President of Jones International and was comprised of seven (7) delegates. Activities of the Mission were coordinated by Ambassador Glenda Morean Phillip and Mr. Garth Lamsee, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago in Washington DC.

Dr. Newton described the Mission as a resounding success, which fulfilled the following objectives:

- Strengthened the trade relations that exist between Washington DC and Trinidad and Tobago;
- Created greater awareness and understanding of the business culture in Trinidad and Tobago;
- Built collaborative business relationships between these US exporters and the local business and public sector communities.

During their four-day visit to Trinidad and Tobago, delegates of the Mission met with influential business leaders in the public and private sectors, with a view to exploring opportunities for business, trade and investment. The Mission's schedule featured meetings, events and other activities including:

- A welcome reception hosted by the Tourism Development Company Ltd. (TDC), which was attended by representatives of the US Embassy in Trinidad and by members of the local business community. Mr. Jeff Mazur, recently appointed Chief of the Political-Economic Section of the US Embassy in Trinidad, addressed the attendees and provided the Embassy's perspective on the socio-economic climate in Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. David Constant, Head of the Convention Bureau of the TDC, welcomed the delegation on behalf of the TDC.

- A series of talks with several private sector companies, that revolved around the topic "Doing Business in T&T", chaired by Mrs. Shurla Henry-Gibson, Manager of Investment and Promotion at eTeck, as well as a presentation by the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) on the role that the Chamber plays in supporting American businesses and consultants who seek local business expansion.

TOP
Garth Lamsee receives a token of appreciation from Dr. Kim Jones (right) and Dr. Pamela Newton.

Ambassador Morean Phillip with Dr. Jones and Dr. Newton.

- Presentations by the Caribbean Consulting Group and the Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Services Industries (TTCSI).

- A networking session with local business counterparts as well as representatives from related government Ministries. This was organized by the Ministry of Trade and Industry with the help of state agency eTeck. The areas of focus for the business meetings were:

- o Youth violence prevention program
- o Medicine and medical supplies
- o Tourism
- o ICT
- o Telecommunications
- o Visual Arts
- o NGO assistance
- o International Event Planning

- A visit to Tobago, which was hosted by the Tobago House of Assembly (THA). Delegates met with THA Chief Secretary the Honourable Orville London, Ms. Jean Nichols - Director, Enterprise Development Department at the THA, the President of the Tobago Hotel and Tourism Association - Mrs. Carol Ann Birchwood, and members of the Tobago Chamber of Commerce.

- In Tobago, delegates were also given a tour of the Cove Eco-Industrial and Business Park by Mr. Earle Baccus, Chief Executive Officer of the Eco-Industrial Development Company of Tobago.

For 2010, Ambassador Glenda Morean Phillip has already committed the Embassy's best efforts and resources to furthering and strengthening Trinidad and Tobago's image and bilateral trading agenda with the US as a priority undertaking.

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Mr. Garth Lamsee and Ambassador Morean Phillip with members of the Global Business Cooperative Trade Mission.

Statement by the Honourable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference

17 December, 2009
Copenhagen, Denmark



Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Heads of State, and
Heads of Government
Other Heads of Delegations
Delegates, distinguished ladies and gentlemen,
Good evening.

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to address this historic Copenhagen Climate Change conference where much is expected. The outcomes of this conference will have significant impact now and in the future on every citizen of the world.

I extend my deep appreciation to the Government and people of Denmark for the warm welcome accorded to me and my delegation, and for the excellent arrangements and hospitality which we have enjoyed since our arrival.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, as we enter the high level segment to this most important meeting on climate change the

significance of this meeting weighs heavily on us as leaders to take control of the outcome to this meeting.

The urgency for a decision is dictated, in my mind, by the plight of the most vulnerable nations. What we can do at this point requires an understanding of the circumstances in which major emitters from the developed and some emerging countries find themselves.

Many are unable, and some unwilling, to make the deep commitments required, both for mitigation and financing. For some the need for an agreement now in Copenhagen that becomes operational immediately, is an exercise in academic dialogue, while for others- the most vulnerable amongst us- it is a matter of survival, and life or death.

I believe that as leaders of nations we must think in terms of possibilities and use our collective wisdom and experience to push for an agreement that takes us forward with hope.

Two weeks ago in Port of Spain Trinidad, at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting the leaders of 51 nations united around a consensus on climate change when many thought and expressed the view that this would not happen. Well it did. We produced over a three day meeting period the Port of Spain Climate Change Consensus: The Commonwealth Climate Change Declaration.

As Chair of that meeting I saw the way leaders of the Commonwealth took a broader view of their national interests to agree on a statement in support of this meeting here in Copenhagen. Then, as now, I believe that we have it in us to agree on what is required within the time allotted to us as heads.

There are many proposals before us on mitigation measures and fast track financing, among other

“ I believe that as leaders of nations we must think in terms of possibilities and use our collective wisdom and experience to push for an agreement that takes us forward with hope. ”

critical elements for an agreement. Yet we see a breakdown occurring that threatens to derail the focus on achieving agreement now. It is important to emphasize that without an agreement there will be no efforts to reduce emissions at levels that can halt the slide toward climate crisis.

And most importantly for many vulnerable nations no money will be made available to fund the implementation of critical adaptation measures and again for the worst affected, the relocation of citizens. We must proceed with these realities in mind. As leaders we have the capability to leave here with an agreement. We did it in Port of Spain, we can do it in Copenhagen.

We note that over the years, and more recently, over the last two weeks, a lot of work has gone into formulating a text for an agreement. Yet the breakdown occurs in part where some believe that key countries must increase significantly their commitments to reduce their emission of harmful green house gases.

We urge those nations to increase their commitments to reduce green house gas emissions, and to recognize their responsibilities as the nations listed among the biggest emitters, based on total emissions to do even more. We categorically reject any attempt to measure emissions on a per capita basis. This discriminates against countries with small populations and favours those with large ones. Climate change does not take place on a per capita basis but on the basis of absolute emissions. The consequence of not doing so is increased trauma and peril for many of our friends in the Pacific islands and other SIDS and African countries, among others. A meaningful agreement at Copenhagen requires a consideration of national issues in the context of how what we do as nations impact our neighbours. Ladies and gentlemen, let brotherly love prevail.

Additionally, alongside the call for more ambitious commitments we call for a system of oversight on mitigation actions in line with commitments made so that progress toward achieving change can be evaluated to ensure we are addressing the climate challenge.

Such a verification system should involve a combination of international and national mechanisms for ensuring that nations adhere to commitments agreed upon. In the absence of such a verification system we will not be able to monitor progress toward eventually reversing the climate challenge. Without verification in place we will not know if what we do at these meetings is enough.

“ A matter of concern to us as nations, and particularly so for vulnerable nations, is the need for an agreement that results in immediate actions being taken by developed and developing countries on mitigation and adaptation, as well as on the short term funding arrangements. ”

“ We urge those nations to increase their commitments to reduce green house gas emissions, and to recognize their responsibilities as the nations listed among the biggest emitters, based on total emissions to do even more. ”

On the issue of funding for climate change we have acknowledged that there are proposals on the table for fast start funding constituting grant funding mainly for adaptation. This was part of the Port of Spain Climate Change Consensus where Heads proposed a Copenhagen Launch Fund at \$10 billion per year starting in 2010. Fast start funding for adaptation should be focused on the most vulnerable countries, and should be scaled up beyond 2012.

We propose that a workable governance arrangement to allow quick access to such funds already exists in regional development banks. We support Ethiopia's call therefore for regional development banks to be the place to manage climate change funds.

These institutions are already equipped to satisfy the governance arrangement required for transparency, accountability and quick disbursement that are critical to implement what we agree here in Copenhagen. There is a need for deeper discussions on the way forward for long term financing and the framework for this should be agreed here in Copenhagen. This is possible and as leaders we can achieve what is required of us. We did it in Port of Spain, we can do it in Copenhagen.

A matter of concern to us as nations, and particularly so for vulnerable nations, is the need for an agreement that results in immediate actions being taken by developed and developing countries on mitigation and adaptation, as well as on the short term funding arrangements.

“ This aspiration to a high quality of life for our citizens is of paramount concern for all of us as leaders. We therefore aspire to the same goals for our citizens. In my country, our motto is Together We Aspire Together We Achieve. ”

To do this we as leaders must unravel the complex issues around the transition from Kyoto to Copenhagen. The urgency of action now from all nations suggests that a lag time for implementing what we agree here is not acceptable. I believe that a solution lies in our hands as leaders. Let us commit to implement, without delay, nationally appropriate actions as developing countries, and to agreed targets for developed countries so that there is real, meaningful and immediate action toward reducing green house gas emissions.

A deeper study of this is of course required but the goal is for all nations to take action now. Many are already doing so, but we need all nations involved to solve this global crisis. As I close let me share with you our national position on this critical issue. In Trinidad and Tobago we have a vision for developed country status on or before the year 2020. Our vision includes continued investment in industry, and we have achieved world excellence in exports in ammonia, methanol and LNG. However we are mindful that the industrialization paradigm needs to be refocused on efficiency and the development of technologies that would reduce or avoid carbon emissions.

In this regard we support the further consideration of Carbon Capture and Storage in geological formations (CCS) with a view to include this and other technologies that have the potential to take significant amounts of carbon dioxide from our atmosphere, in any outcome of this conference and thereby support the achievement of ambitious emission reductions. As an energy producing country we power our development in large part using natural gas, which is one of the cleanest fossil fuels. We can and will do more. For example, we have embarked on a program to increase the accessibility and encourage the use of compressed natural gas to power vehicles.

In Trinidad and Tobago we are examining our situation and are willing to make deep cuts in our emissions of green house gases as far as technology and human behaviour change efforts will allow. In addition, with respect to renewable sources of energy, we are looking currently at the potential to include solar and wind energy as alternative energy sources. We are also pursuing an increased reforestation program which has been undertaken in the past under two programs. The avoidance of deforestation will also be pursued with greater intensity and we commend the progress on discussions on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries (REDD) and look forward to positive decisions coming out on these issues.

We are determined to make our contribution to world prosperity in all of its meanings; these include healthy social and natural environments for all citizens in every nation to enjoy a high quality of life in spaces of their choice.

This aspiration to a high quality of life for our citizens is of paramount concern for all of us as leaders. We therefore aspire to the same goals for our citizens. In my country, our motto is Together We Aspire Together We Achieve. These words were commended to Heads at the Commonwealth meeting in Port of Spain by the very distinguished UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon.

I commend these words to the world, and specifically to leaders here gathered. Let us make a greater effort to achieve that to which we all aspire. We did it in Port of Spain two weeks ago we will do it here in Copenhagen.

May Almighty God bless you all.

Washington DC Celebrates the History of the Steelpan with an Oral Pictorial Presentation by Dr. Kim Johnson



The diplomatic, business, professional and academic communities came together at “A Celebration of the Steelpan – The National Instrument of Trinidad and Tobago”, on Monday, November 16, 2009. This event was the first of its kind, held at the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago in Washington DC, to comprehensively showcase the dynamic history of the only musical instrument invented in the 20th century.

This unique celebration was part of a series conceptualized by Mr. Vonulrick “Von” Martin, President and Chief Executive Officer of Caribbeana Communications Inc. (CCI), and is the first speaker series presentation of the Maryland based nonprofit media broadcasting company. Established in 2008, CCI’s key focus is on Caribbean affairs and issues affecting the Caribbean Diaspora.

The highlight of the event was a feature presentation by Dr. Kim Johnson, a Trinidad and Tobago national and Senior Research Fellow at the University of Trinidad and Tobago.

Dr. Johnson offered a historical assessment of the Steelpan through a collection of photographs demonstrating its evolution from the “tamboo bamboo” to the oil drums, to the now shiny chrome versatile instrument into which it has evolved. He gave perspectives on the many innovative ways in which the steelpan has been and continues to be instrumental in engendering a sense of cultural identity in the Trinidad and Tobago community. In addition, Dr. Johnson covered the early beginnings of the Steelpan as “a cultural hybrid of the Caribbean African drum being enveloped with European, Indian, Chinese, Portuguese influences” and vividly described a little-known aspect of Steelpan’s history “as an iconic evolution of Caribbean slaves’ survival through natural rhythmic beat into sheer engineering ingenuity of the modern day Steelpan.”

Dr. Johnson’s presentation was further enhanced by his massive collection of photographs which captured the human interest stories associated with the history of the steelpan. Indeed, this pictorial presentation offered an invaluable opportunity for the audience to learn about the instrument’s evolution and about the great pioneers, players and cultural promoters of Steelpan, including Sonny Roach, Ellie Mannette, Bertie Marshall, Roy Harper, as well as early Steelbands such as Casablanca, Intruders, Invaders, Desperadoes, USS Bad Behavior (later Trinidad All Stars), Dixieland, and Highlanders.

The Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago was proud to host this uniquely educational experience in its continued drive to position the Steelpan to take its place in the mainstream of musical instruments.

The Washington DC community can look forward to future events which feature educational aspects and opportunities for further learning about the dynamic culture of Trinidad and Tobago.



TOP
Dr. Johnson delivers his pictorial presentation.

Mr. Von Martin introduces Dr. Kim Johnson.

Her Excellency Gillian Bristol, Ambassador of Grenada (left) and Ambassador Glenda Morean Phillip.

Lennard Jack displays the musical wonders of the steelpan.



THE DIASPORA CELEBRATES



A Photo Compilation of National Celebrations Held at the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago, Washington DC in 2009

Spiritual Shouter Baptist Liberation Celebration

On May 5, 2009, the Embassy brought the national community together to celebrate Spiritual Shouter Baptist Liberation. According to Ambassador Glenda Morean Phillip –

“We are honoured to commemorate a very significant milestone in our nation’s history – the repeal of the Shouter Baptist Prohibition Ordinance of 1917, in 1951, some 58 years ago. This milestone was finally commemorated several decades later with the establishment of March 30 as the Spiritual Baptist Shouter Liberation Day. As a prominent feature of the Afro-Caribbean syncretic landscape, the Shouter Baptist Faith is an important aspect of our African heritage and the repeal of the Prohibition Ordinance signifies a measure of freedom - freedom of

worship and expression – that resonates not only with the Spiritual Baptist Community, but also with Afro-descendants and Caribbean people everywhere, who take an active role in honouring their heritage and culture.

We recognize the value of each group that has added a new dimension to our cultural tapestry and to our rich ethnic, spiritual, and artistic lexicon and legacy. One of our core values is togetherness or, otherwise stated, inclusiveness, in all our endeavours and we consider the Spiritual Baptist community, along with every other recognized creed and race, as serving a very important role in the strengthening of the Diaspora of Trinidad and Tobago nationals in Washington DC.”

TOP LEFT
The Alter

Ms. Jillian Moore opens the celebration with the ringing of the bells.

Pastor Earl Moore (right) greets His Excellency Anthony Johnson, Ambassador of Jamaica (centre) as Ambassador Morean Phillip (left) looks on.

These ladies join in the celebratory singing.

OPPOSITE: TOP LEFT

Her Eminence Archbishop Dorothy Hercules provides an inspirational account of the significance of the celebration for the national community.

King Shepherd Callender delivers a stirring feature address.

Episcopus Archbishop Dr. Barbara Gray-Burke addresses the audience.

Bishop Myrtle Bristol sings as she approaches the lectern to deliver prayers.



THE DIASPORA CELEBRATES

Indian Arrival Day Celebration



The Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago hosted its very first official Indian Arrival Celebration on Friday, May 29, 2009. The event was hosted in association with Pundit Bhisham Persad and the Islamic Society of the Washington Area to commemorate the 1845 journey of our East Indian ancestors to our nation's shore and the invaluable contributions which our East Indian brothers and sisters have made since their arrival on the shores of our beloved country.

TOP
Ambassador Morean Phillip delivers the feature address.

Ms. Babita Singh, wife of Pundit Bhisham Persad, (far right), leads this singing group.





LEFT
Pundit Bhisham Persad delivers Welcome Remarks and opening prayers at the celebration.

TOP RIGHT
Imam Faizul Khan greets Ambassador Morean Phillip and Ambassador's spouse, Mr. Oscar Phillip (left of the Ambassador) on their arrival at the Riggs Road Hindu Temple at which the celebration was held.

BELOW
This group of young men, including the talented son of Pundit Persad – Mr. Sanjay Persad, plays to the delight of the audience.



THE DIASPORA CELEBRATES

Independence Celebrations



TOP
Ambassador Glenda Morean Phillip addresses the audience at *Classics and Steel*. To Ambassador's left is Mrs. Monique McSween, Information and Cultural Attaché at the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago who spearheaded the production of the concert.

Anne Fridal performs the *Habenera* from the musical *Carmen*, composed by Bizet.

On the weekend of August 29 – 30, 2009, the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago elevated the musical and spiritual landscape of Washington DC in ways that can only be described as truly representative of Trinidad and Tobago's unique, dynamic and vibrant culture.

Classics and Steel

The excitement began with ***Classics and Steel*** a sold-out concert, featuring the award-winning BP Renegades Steel Orchestra, at the world-famous John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington DC on Saturday, August 29, 2009.

This concert, the first of its kind to be hosted at the John F. Kennedy Center, was designed to showcase the versatility of the steelpan – the only acoustical musical instrument invented in the 20th century, as an instrument which can display the beauty of classical, reggae, pop, latin, soca and many other musical genres.

On the night of the concert, the Center's management made a request for the return of the steelpan in the near future, to an even larger stage at the Center.

Performing with BP Renegades were the very best of our nation's vocalists, dramatic soprano - Anne Fridal, lyric soprano - Renee Solomon and lyric baritone - Marvin Smith, all of whom have performed on nationally and internationally renowned stages.

Accompaniment was provided by accomplished classical pianist, Timothy McReynolds.

Since the staging of this unique musical showcase on August 29, the Embassy has received rave reviews from government officials, business persons, cultural enthusiasts and many other different market segments – all endorsing the superb talent which was displayed by the BP Renegades Steel Orchestra.





TOP
The trio performs with the steelpan.

BELOW
Anne Fridal sings.

LEFT
Renee Solomon sings with the accompaniment of Timothy McReynolds

RIGHT
Master of ceremonies, Luis V. McSween.



BELOW
Marvin Smith sings to his heart's delight.



BOTTOM RIGHT
It's Jump Up Time! BP Renegades perform a medley of hits including Til Morning Come by Biggy Irie and Michael Jackson's You Are Not Alone.



THE DIASPORA CELEBRATES

Celebratory Inter-faith Service



Ambassador Morean Phillip addresses the congregation.

The grand finale of the Embassy's 2009 Independence Celebrations was an Inter-Faith Service, on the eve of Independence Day – Sunday, August 30, 2009 at the Foundry United Methodist Church in downtown Washington DC.

Themed as “A Call To Serve”, the Officiating Minister of this year's Inter-Faith Service was Pastor Dr. Wintley Augustus Phipps, Senior Pastor of the Palm Bay Seventh-day Adventist Church and founder of the U.S. Dream Academy, Inc. The Dream Academy is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a values-based, interactive, tutorial and remedial education program targeted at children and youth-at-risk through community Family Learning Centers located in various states.

Pastor Phipps has performed for American Presidents Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George

H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama at several National Prayer Breakfast events and other distinguished celebrations. He performed for: the 1984 and 1988 National Democratic Conventions, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and President Nelson Mandela.

The standing room only congregation comprising members of the diplomatic corps, Trinidad and Tobago nationals and well-wishers from the Washington DC-based Caribbean Diaspora enjoyed the inspiration and wisdom of Dr. Phipps as well as the music of BP Renegades Steel Orchestra who delivered stirring renditions of many spiritual classics including *Ave Maria* and *Jesu Joy of Man's Desire*, as well as the *National Anthem of Trinidad and Tobago* and *God Bless Our Nation* which were sung by of dramatic soprano - Anne Fridal and lyric baritone - Marvin Smith.

BP Renegades fills the church with the sweet sounds of the steelpan.





FROM TOP LEFT TO RIGHT
Sherwyn Wilson, President of the
Howard University Caribbean
Student Association, reads the first
reading.

Her Excellency La Celia Prince,
Ambassador of St. Vincent and the
Grenadines, reads the second reading.

Mr. Rooknudeen Ali, representative of
the Islamic Faith, delivers his
contribution.

Mr. Alvin Seecharan represents the
Hindu Faith.

Pastor Earl Moore, representative of
the Spiritual Shouter Baptist Faith,
prays with the congregation.

Pastor Dr. Wintley Phipps delivers
his sermon.

BOTTOM
The packed to capacity church.



THE DIASPORA CELEBRATES



TOP
Ambassador Morean Phillip delivers her Divali Feature Address.

BELOW AND OPPOSITE RIGHT
Children play a key role in the celebration of the Festival of Light.

Divali Celebrations

On Friday, November 13, 2009, the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago, Washington DC partnered with Pundit Bhisham Persad to host its 3rd Annual Divali Celebrations.

The Celebration, which was held at the Embassy, was attended by more than 125 persons of the Hindu faith, who reside in the Washington DC Metropolitan area, as well as staff of the Embassy.

Pundit Bhisham Persad opened the evening's proceedings by reiterating the true meaning of the Festival of Light - the triumph of Light over Darkness and the importance of the celebration in restoring and strengthening a sense of community.

The key highlight of the event was the feature address delivered by Ambassador Morean Phillip, the focus of which was the Government of Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to the celebration of the unique diversity of Trinidad and Tobago. In emphasizing the diversity of our country, Ambassador Morean Phillip outlined the heterogeneous nature of Trinidad and Tobago, which holds to its credit an ethnically and culturally diverse citizenry of more than 5 religions. According to the Ambassador – "Trinidad and Tobago is comprised of believers of many different persuasions - Roman Catholic 26%, Hindu 22.5%, Anglican 7.8%, Baptist 7.2%, Pentecostal 6.8%, Muslim 5.8%, Seventh Day Adventist 4%, other Christian 5.8%,



other 10.8%, unspecified 1.4%, none 1.9% (2000 census).”

The Ambassador further stated the appreciation and commitment of all at the Embassy towards ensuring that the opportunity to celebrate this unique quality of our people and of our beautiful country did not go unrecognised.

The evening’s proceedings were not without the music and dancing of talented young persons, as well as the opportunity to enjoy the culinary delights which are typical of Diwali.



^{TOP}
Pundit Bhisam Persad says the opening prayer.

Deputy Chief of Mission, Ms. Donna Henry, delivers the vote of thanks.



Caribbean Glory

A Tribute to World War II Caribbean Heroes

On Friday, June 19, 2009, Her Excellency Glenda Morean Phillip hosted an event to honour and celebrate five Caribbean heroes for the significant roles they played in World War II.

Right Honorable Baroness Scotland of Ashtal, who was born in Dominica. The Honourable Baroness became the United Kingdom's first black female Queens Counsel (QC) at the age of thirty-five.

Ambassador Morean Phillip (centre) with Baroness Scotland of Ashtal (left of Ambassador), Honouree, Ulric Cross (left of Baroness). To the front are Honourees - Twistleton Bertrand (left) and Wendell M. Christian (right). Partially hidden, to the rear left of Ambassador are Gabriel Christian and Oscar Phillip, spouse of Ambassador, (rear right of Ambassador).

Appropriately held at Andrews Air Force Base during Caribbean American Heritage Month, the event, "**Caribbean Glory**" was a tribute to five Caribbean veterans who served in World War II, including our own Retired Justice of Appeal, Philip Louis Ulric Cross. This dinner and awards presentation, the brainchild of attorney-at-law and writer, Dominican national, Gabriel J. Christian, was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, Caribbean members of the US Military Corps and the business community.

Caribbean Glory Honourees were:

Trinidad and Tobago national, Judge Philip Louis Ulric Cross, DFC, DSO, Royal Air Force.

Ulric Cross, was the only black man in his squadron, rising through the ranks to become its leader. He led his squadron over the skies of Europe and was honored at Buckingham Palace by King George VI with the Distinguished Service Order (DSO), and later given command over the demobilization of all colonial forces. He held many legal and

The keynote address was delivered by the Attorney General of England and Wales, the



judicial positions in Africa before becoming a judge of the High Court of Justice of Trinidad and Tobago and later a Justice of Appeal. He subsequently served as High Commissioner to the UK and ambassador to France and Germany for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Flight Lieutenant Dudley Thompson QC, OJ - Royal Air Force (Jamaican)

Dudley Thompson, Rhodes Scholar and Oxford graduate flew over Europe to defeat fascism and famously defended and freed former Kenyan leader Jomo Kenyatta from jail. He served for many years in the Jamaica parliament.

Dominicans Wendell M. Christian, LSM and Twistleton Bertrand – British Army South Caribbean Forces

Wendell Christian and Twistleton Bertrand served in the South Caribbean Forces which were created to secure the southern part of the region closest to Trinidad's oil industry and the vital refineries in Curacao, then under attack by marauding German U-Boats.

Flight Lieutenant Cy Grant – Royal Air Force (Guyana)

Cy Grant boasts a daring and courageous story. Shot down over Holland, interrogated by the Gestapo, this son of Guyana was able to survive prisoner of war camps and was liberated by the advancing Red Army in 1945.

When caught, the unbelieving Germans took a look at his dark complexion and publicized his photo in a national Nazi paper with the caption: "A Captured RAF Officer of Indeterminable Race." Later, a lawyer and brilliant actor, Grant was the first person of color to have a show on the British Broadcasting Corporation. He acted alongside notables of the stage such as Laurence Olivier and Richard Burton.

The following are the remarks delivered by Her Excellency Glenda Morean Phillip, delivered remarks to the audience:

In addition to this welcome opportunity to celebrate our Caribbean Heroes, this evening's event has also

assumed greater significance by the time and place at which it is being held. First, the recent achievement of the recognition of Caribbean American Heritage Month in June of each year with effect from 2007 has provided an ideal and appropriate timeframe in which the historic achievements of these Caribbean Heroes of 70 years ago can also be acknowledged. Second, a premier military installation, Andrews Air Force Base, in a great nation that is now home to a large Caribbean Diaspora, many of whom continue to serve with distinction in the American military, has provided an ideal and appropriate location at which members of a Caribbean diaspora who have served another great and friendly nation in the past can be honoured.

It is this convergence of past and present glory, which we celebrate so lustily tonight, that will most certainly serve to inspire our achievements in the future. It is therefore most appropriate that we have chosen tonight to pay tribute to these courageous Caribbean Men who reflected our glory during World War II, and at the same time express our appreciation to a woman and man, a balanced reflection of our modern reality, who continue to keep that glory alive through their ongoing achievements.

As the principal representative in the United States of America of the Government and People of a Caribbean nation, I feel deeply honoured to share in acknowledging and celebrating the contributions of all of tonight's awardees to the peace and prosperity that we all enjoy today. However, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as the principal representative of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, I must also express my special appreciation to the Honourable Mr. Justice Squadron Leader Phillip Louis Ulric Cross, who is the recipient of the Chaconia Medal Gold, awarded in 1983 by the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Order of Merit of Cameroon, awarded by the Republic of the Cameroon and the Distinguished Flying Cross and Distinguished Service Order, awarded by the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The transatlantic experience and impact, that has connected our Caribbean jurisdictions with the nations of the North such as the United Kingdom and the African Continent is therefore as evident in the ancient history of the Caribbean as it is in the achievements and acclaim

of this distinguished son of Trinidad and Tobago, who has also served in the field of post-colonial jurisprudence in Ghana as Senior Crown Counsel, the Cameroon as Attorney General and Tanzania as the founding Chairman of the Industrial Court.

Tonight's very distinguished gathering also reflects the richness and enduring connectedness of our diverse Caribbean history, with the presence of the Right Honourable Baroness Patricia Scotland of Ashtal, Queen's Counsel, Attorney General of England, and the

Ambassadors and other Diplomatic Representatives of several African and Caribbean nations.

I therefore wish to conclude by congratulating tonight's distinguished and deserving awardees, commending the organizers of tonight's event and committing to support events such as this occasion to highlight Caribbean Glory, that honour our rich and diverse Caribbean Heritage.

I thank you.



TOP
Honouree Ulric Cross (left) greets the Right Honourable Baroness Scotland of Ashtal (right).

Her Excellency Glenda Morean Phillip (right) greets the Right Honourable Baroness Scotland of Ashtal.

RIGHT
From left to right - Director General of the Inter-American Defense Board, Brigadier General Ancil Antoine, Judge Irving André, Attorney Gabriel J. Christian, Colonel Anthony Phillips-Spencer. Seated - the Right Honourable Baroness Scotland of Ashtal.



Anthony Kalloo, M.D.



Dr. Anthony Kalloo - at right.

In this issue of the T&T Diplomat we are pleased to feature Trinidad and Tobago national, Dr. Anthony Kalloo.

On November 13, 2009, Trinidad and Tobago national, Dr. Anthony Kalloo was awarded the Caribbean American Heritage Award, by the Institute of Caribbean Studies for his pioneering work in the field of Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

Dr. Anthony Kalloo is professor of medicine at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, division of gastroenterology. He is the director of the division of gastroenterology and hepatology with special interests in natural orifice surgery, therapeutic endoscopy, biliary and pancreatic diseases and sphincter of Oddi dysfunction.

He was an Associate Editor of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and he has authored multiple scientific papers and book chapters. He has pioneered and has several patents including the use of Botulinum Toxin in the gastrointestinal tract, endoscopic cryotherapy and the winged biliary/ pancreatic stent. He is the pioneer of Natural Orifice Surgery, a technique that will enable abdominal surgery without the use of incisions.

Dr. Kalloo is a past Panel Chair for Gastroenterology and Urology Devices with the United States Food and Drug Administration. He is a member of the Apollo group, a think-tank endoscopy group. Dr. Kalloo and the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology aim to advance the understanding, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of gastrointestinal and liver disease through patient care, education and research.

He is the founder and immediate past medical director of The Hopkins Gastroenterology and Hepatology Resource Center (www.hopkins-gi.org), a 3000 page multilingual web resource for patients and physicians.

After receiving his medical degree from the University of West Indies Medical School, Dr. Kalloo interned at Port of Spain General Hospital in Trinidad and Howard University Hospital in Washington, D.C. He completed his fellowship training program at the combined Georgetown University, VA Medical Center and NIH program. He was an Instructor in Medicine at Georgetown University prior to joining the faculty at Johns Hopkins in 1988.

As nationals of Trinidad and Tobago we are proud of son of the soil, Dr. Anthony Kalloo.

The Embassy Spreads the Word - Trinidad and Tobago is the Cultural and Entertainment Centre of the Caribbean!

On October 29-30, 2009, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Louisiana, the Honourable Mitch Landrieu hosted Government Ministers, Ambassadors, Cultural Leaders, members of major media networks and other key stakeholders from Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the United States at the third World Cultural Economic Forum (WCEF) to discuss - "The Intersection of Culture and Commerce". During this two-day Summit, public and private sector stakeholders worked to actively promote the creative and cultural industries in their respective countries.

It was at this forum, held in New Orleans, Louisiana, that a delegation led by Her Excellency Glenda Morean Phillip had the opportunity to spread the word that Trinidad

and Tobago is, indeed, the "Cultural and Entertainment Center of the Caribbean".

The Delegation, which included Monique McSween, Information and Cultural Attaché, discussed with more than 100 delegates from countries around the world the best practices in the development of cultural economy; new ways in which to explore partnerships and cultural exchanges between countries; and opportunities for the expansion of potential markets for cultural entrepreneurs.

Out of this forum has arisen several tangible, new opportunities and paths for the development of Trinidad and Tobago's Cultural Economy and Culture-based exchanges in education.

Education Exchanges

The Signing of A Letter of Intent – Early Childhood Education Programs

On October 29, Ambassador Morean Phillip signed a Letter of Intent which will facilitate the collaboration of schools in Trinidad and Tobago and Louisiana in the exploration of new Early Childhood Education Programs. This collaborative program is an initiative of the University of New Orleans.

Ambassador Morean Phillip (center) signs a letter of Intent at the University of New Orleans. To Ambassador's immediate left is the Minister of Social Development of Grenada, Honourable Sylvester Quarless and to her right is His Excellency John Beale, Ambassador of Barbados to the United States.



Visit to Xavier University Preparatory School (XUP) –

Ambassador Morean Phillip met with a delegation of 60 students of the Xavier University Preparatory School. The delegation was led by the School's Junior Ambassador's program. The 1-hour meeting which was held at the School featured a question and answer session on Ambassador Morean Phillip's role in representing Trinidad and Tobago and a brief tour of the School as well as a presentation on the programs offered by XUP.

Twice recognized as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the US Department of State, the Xavier University Preparatory (XUP) School offers a college preparatory education to female students in grades 7 - 12, regardless of race, colour, religion, or national origin. The focus of X.U.P's program is the development of Christian girls through a harmonious blending of their spiritual, moral, intellectual, emotional, and physical strengths.



Opportunities for Trade and Investment

Presentation at the World Trade Center

On Thursday, October 29, Ambassador Morean Phillip delivered a presentation titled “Doing Business in Trinidad and Tobago”, to an audience of leaders in the sectors of energy, tourism, manufacturing, trade and transportation.

The presentation was delivered at a luncheon hosted by the Managing Director of the World Trade Center of New Orleans (WTC), Mr. Eugene Schreiber.

The World Trade Center (WTC), New Orleans is a non-profit organization of over 1,600 corporate and individual members.

The mission of the World Trade Center is to add wealth and jobs in Louisiana through international trade, port development, and allied activities. The WTC New Orleans is the first stop for international business services and assists international companies seeking trade and investment opportunities in Louisiana.

The Ambassador's presentation provided details on the lucrative opportunities for trade and investment which Trinidad and Tobago offers.

In a question and answer session following the presentation, there were expressions of interests from various members of the audience on the organization of a trade mission and the pursuit of meetings with business leaders in Trinidad and Tobago with a view to establishing trade linkages.

This Presentation at the World Trade Center in New Orleans is just one of many public opportunities embraced by the Embassy to create tangible trade and investment linkages between Trinidad and Tobago and lucrative market the United States.

Ambassador Morean Phillip with Mr. Eugene Schreiber, Managing Director of the WTC in New Orleans (right) and a members of the WTC. Note that Ambassador is wearing the Order of the Plimsoll medal which was presented to her by Mr. Schreiber. This medal is presented to the WTC's most distinguished guests.

Cultural and Entertainment Exchanges

Film Industry Opportunities: Meeting with Ms. Sherri McConnell, Executive Director of Entertainment

On Friday, October 30, Ambassador Morean Phillip met with Ms. Sherri McConnell, Executive Director of Entertainment of the Louisiana Film and Television Office.

Ms. McConnell spearheads the work of the Louisiana Film Office (LFO) and is responsible for pursuing the business of major film production companies with a view to increasing the number of major motion pictures which are filmed and produced in Louisiana. The LFO has been successful in attracting hundreds of major motion pictures through an aggressive marketing strategy which includes attractive tax incentives.

The LFO will work with the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago in establishing exchanges with the Trinidad and Tobago Film Company and in pursuing major film projects for Trinidad and Tobago.

Panel Discussions on The Business of Carnival and The Role of Culture in Society

The Trinidad and Tobago delegation also participated in panel discussions on the Business of Carnival and The Role of Culture in Society. The purpose of the panel discussions was to outline the ways in which Carnival contributes to economic development and to determine the role of Culture in social development.

Courtesy Visit with Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana, The Honourable Mitch Landrieu

Ambassador Morean Phillip paid a courtesy visit to Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana, the Honourable Mitch Landrieu at the Omni New Orleans, on Friday, October 30. During this visit the Lieutenant Governor reiterated the commitment of his Administration to partnering with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in the development and strengthening of the cultural economies of Trinidad and Tobago and Louisiana.

There has already been follow-up on the initiatives discussed between the office of the Lieutenant Governor and the Embassy with a view to expanding the trade and cultural exchanges.



Ambassador Morean Phillip and Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana, the Honourable Mitch Landrieu.

Embassy's Immigration Department Launches Community Outreach Program

In November 2009, the Immigration Department of the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago in Washington DC proudly launched its Community Outreach Program in Los Angeles, California.

In fact, the Embassy team comprising Immigration Attaché - Stanley Hunte, Office Manager - Kelvin Tanner and Executive Assistant - Roxanne Mc Neil was the first mobile immigration unit of its kind, charged with the responsibility of processing applications for new machine readable passports for citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.

The team coordinated this highly successful initiative with the support of the Citizens and

Friends of California, which is led by Mrs. Joan Chanman Forbes and her husband, Lloyd Forbes, who played an invaluable role in communicating with and mobilizing the community of Trinidad and Tobago nationals who reside in Los Angeles and other West Coast cities including San Francisco, Nevada, San Pedro, and Las Vegas. It was through the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Forbes that the Embassy Mobile Unit was able to ensure that as many nationals as possible, had the opportunity to benefit from the services offered by the unit during their two-day stay.

Nationals on the West Coast can look forward to future visits from the Mobile Immigration team in 2010.

TOP
The Embassy Team with members of Citizens and Friends of California.

BOTTOM LEFT
The Embassy Mobile Unit Team – from left to right: Immigration Attaché - Stanley Hunte, Officer Manager - Kelvin Tanner and Executive Assistant - Roxanne Mc Neil.

T&T Nationals waiting to be processed.



Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago Hosts

The Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago believes that encouragement sweetens labour and on Friday, December 11, 2009, hosted its first-ever Long Service Staff Awards Ceremony.

The event was hosted as part of the Staff Christmas Dinner so that members of staff have the opportunity to come together to appreciate the many achievements of 2009 and, in the spirit of camaraderie, honour those colleagues who provided many years of outstanding service to the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago.

The following are the awardees:



Monica Phillip - 10 Years

Ms. Monica Phillip can be described as one of the Embassy's Key Coordinators. From handling the front desk, with the many calls from nationals to assisting with projects in the Accounts and Communications Department and providing key support in the coordination of events, for the last 10 years, Ms. Phillip has quietly been at the center of many activities at the Embassy.



Kelvin Tanner - 12 Years

Mr. Kelvin Tanner has given the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago 12 years of faithful, diligent service in various capacities.

In his most recent capacity, as Office Manager, Mr. Tanner can be called the "nerve centre" of the Embassy as he is required to ensure the efficient operation of many of the tactical and logistical activities in the office.



Christiane Steward - 14 Years

Known for her quiet disposition and sterling professionalism, Ms. Christiane Steward plays what can be considered a foundation role in the Embassy.

Indisputably the role of ensuring that all documentation is appropriately recorded is an integral role in any office, organization or Government and Ms. Christiane Steward has been unwavering in her dedication to fulfilling this important role.

Its First Ever Long Service Staff Awards Ceremony



Colleen Sampson - 14 Years

Ms. Colleen Sampson has served as an inspiration to all staff at the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago in Washington DC. A pillar of strength and a testimony to the true meaning of sustained effort, Ms. Sampson has served the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago for 14 years in the key areas of immigration, customer service and registry.



Wayne Bruce - 14 Years

Mr. Wayne Bruce is the Embassy's Resident Navigator. He is familiar with all of the routes in Washington DC and with the many logistical maneuvers which have to be accomplished at the Embassy, Mr. Bruce plays a key role in the nerve center which is run by Mr. Kelvin Tanner.



Roxanne McNeil - 16 Years

Now serving in the critical role of supporting Mr. Lennox De Leon and Mr. Stanley Hunte in the Immigration Department, Ms. Roxanne McNeil is viewed as simply invaluable to the Embassy. Her unflinching service for 16 years is very much appreciated by nationals of Trinidad and Tobago who have had the good fortune of interacting with her.



Angela Bartholomew - 26 Years

Mrs. Angela Bartholomew has been resolute, courageous, stalwart and committed in the performance of her duties at the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago for 26 years. Mrs. Bartholomew has provided sterling administrative support to the Deputy Chief of Mission, Councillor and other members of the Embassy's Executive.

Embassy Staff Awards Ceremony



Tsedale Dinke - 28 Years

Ms. Tsedale Dinke has served at the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago for 28 years and been involved in many of the developments over the years in the Immigration Division. Diligent in her service, Ms. Dinke plays an integral role in offering consistent quality service to our nationals – one of the keys to the success of our work at the Embassy. Ms. Dinke was unable to attend, however Immigration Attaché, Stanley Hunte received the award on Ms. Dinke's behalf.



Lystra Hinds - 30 Years

Ms. Lystra Hinds has a solid reputation and expertise in the management of student affairs, as well as immigration matters, and is well known by the Trinidad and Tobago community in Washington DC and, indeed, the United States. Ms. Hinds is at the core of many critical areas of the Embassy's operations and is a key resource as the Mission moves forward in serving our beloved country.



Simone Deane – 39 Years – Award Given Posthumously

Mrs. Simone Deane made her transition just recently, but the staff felt it necessary to honour Mrs. Deane for 39 years of service at the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago.

Immigration Attaché, Lennox De Leon received the award on behalf of Mrs. Deane.

*BOTTOM LEFT
Embassy staff
cheer the
awardees.*

*Awardees with
Ambassador
Morean Phillip and
spouse - Oscar
Phillip.*



Ewart Rouse

Author of *Sticky Wicket*



In this issue's Cultural Showcase, we are pleased to feature Mr. Ewart Rouse, author of "Sticky Wicket" – literary works on Cricket.

Widely regarded as the Sport of the Caribbean, Cricket is an integral aspect of the culture of Trinidad and Tobago and has greatly impacted our recreation, our family life and our colloquial language.

A national of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Rouse is a former editor at the Philadelphia Inquirer. He previously reported for the Trinidad Guardian and The Associated Press and taught journalism at Temple, Rutgers, Arcadia and Rowan Universities.

The following is an interview with Mr. Rouse, conducted by Kyle Lequay, Communications Assistant.

Can you start by telling me who is Ewart Rouse?

I am a Trinidad-born journalist and educator. I reported for the Trinidad Guardian, the Associated Press and was a reporter and editor at the Philadelphia Inquirer. I taught journalism and public relations at Temple, Rutgers, Arcadia and Rowan universities.

Can you tell us about your Sticky Wicket trilogy?

The series take a very light-hearted look at immigrants who grew up on cricket in their native countries and who want to continue playing the game of their youth in the suburbs of American cities. They run into opposition from soccer moms and baseball groups who resent the idea of foreigners taking over their fields to play a game that lasts the whole day. The local groups have the numerical

strength – and the political clout – to get them booted off "their" fields. But the main character, Freddie Watkins, a Trinidad native and a club manager, isn't about to let that happen.

In *Sticky Wicket*, Vol. 1, *Watkins At Bat*, Watkins comes out of retirement to play for his team, Fernwood Cricket Club, in a grudge match against the hotshot Jamaica Rebels Cricket Club. The game, in suburban Fernwood, is interrupted when the head of the local Little League shows up with scores of Little Leaguers demanding the cricketers get off the field so the youngsters can play. That sets the stage for the rest of the series.

Sticky Wicket, Vol. 2, *Watkins Fights Back*, is about Watkins' taking on the establishment almost single-handedly.

In *Sticky Wicket*, Vol. 3, *Watkins' Finest Inning*, matters come to a head in a win-or-lose final confrontation with the establishment.

While fighting to save his cricket club, Watkins has his own battle on the home front. His wife, Gina, who is African-American and who, not having grown up with the sport doesn't understand the importance of the game to a grown man, has given her husband an ultimatum: Either he quit his cricketing life for good and accompany her to church on Sundays, or their marriage is over.

As she tells him in the opening chapter in Volume 1; "You have to decide, Fred. Do you love cricket more than you love the Lord and your family?"

Watkins loves his wife, but he also loves cricket. Something has to give. Or can there be a compromise?

It's a serious topic, but I take a humorous, almost over-the-top approach

to it, with off-beat characters of West Indian, Indian, Pakistani and English descent.

Where did the inspiration come from?

I have been involved in cricket in the United States since I arrived here, as a player, then as manager of a cricket club. Many of the characters and situations are drawn from real life. It is as said that a writer should write what he or she knows, and it all came very naturally to me.

What message would you like this book to send to your readers?

Say the word "cricket" and watch the eyes of the typical American fog up. He thinks of it as long, boring games with impossible to understand rules. As a journalist accustomed to writing "layman's language" that everyone understands, I set out to make sure readers of all stripes understand the game.

But while they have a cricket theme, the novels are not sports books. The story is the story of every immigrant group. As the so-called new kid on the block, each group faces obstacles as it seeks hold on to aspects of its culture and to gain acceptance by the larger community.

Now that you have published this series, what's next for Ewart Rouse?

I working simultaneously on three other novels. One is a political thriller set in Trinidad; the other two are mainstream fiction set in a newsroom in pre-casino Atlantic City.



Mrs. Donna Henry Deputy Chief of Mission

Ms. Donna Henry assumed duty at the Embassy on 24th August 2009. She is the Head of Chancery and Alternate Representative to the Organization of American States (OAS). This is Ms. Henry's second posting her first being to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland from 1989-1996.

She is the holder of a Bachelor of Science degree in Government, Diploma in International Relations, the LLB and the Legal Education Certificate. She was admitted to practice as an Attorney at Law in Trinidad and Tobago in 2000.

Ms. Henry joined the Foreign Service in 1984 and since then has served in almost all of the divisions of the Ministry. From 2001-2003 she was assigned to the Human Rights Unit of the Ministry of the Attorney General. Upon her return to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs she was the Director of the Multilateral Relations and the Administration Division of the Ministry. Prior to arriving in Washington DC, Ms. Henry was assigned to the CARICOM and Caribbean Affairs Division.

Over the years Ms. Henry has gained considerable experience in the execution and management of the Foreign Policy of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. She looks forward to using those experiences and the skills gained to contribute to further enhancing Trinidad and Tobago's profile in the areas of jurisdiction of the Embassy.

Farewell to Dr. Paul Byam

Ms. Donna Henry replaces Dr. Paul Byam as Deputy Chief of Mission.

Dr. Byam has served at the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago since 2002 and has placed an indelible etch upon the diplomatic landscape in Washington DC. Well-known for the eloquence and candor with which he spoke at the Organization of American States, Capitol Hill and other spheres of influence in the US Capital, Dr. Byam, will certainly be missed by members of the diplomatic corps, the business community and the community of Trinidad and Tobago nationals in the US Capital.

DEFENCE ATTACHÉ

Colonel Roland Maunday €D

Colonel Roland Maunday assumed the position of Defence Attaché to the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago in Washington DC, United States of America on August 1, 2009.

Colonel Maunday enlisted into the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment in June 1978 and has held several positions in his career as an officer with the Regiment. He was initially trained at the Canadian Forces Officer Candidate School in Chilliwack and then at the All Arms Training School in Gagetown Canada between 1978 and 1979. He also attended the Infantry Officers Advanced Course at the United States Military School at Fort Benning Georgia and the Canadian Forces, Land Force Senior Staff Course in Kingston, Canada. In addition, he completed short courses of study at the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, Cornwallis, Canada and the United States Air Forces Special Operations School in Pensacola, Florida. As part of his local development he attended several management and leadership seminars in Trinidad. In 2004-2005 Colonel Maunday successfully completed the senior staff course at the Command and General Staff College in Leavenworth, Kansas.

He was a student of the USAID Disaster Assistance Training for Instructors Course and attended two Disaster Workshops at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and has participated in many other workshops and tabletop exercises in his country. In addition, he has participated in US sponsored Disaster Preparedness seminars at home and within the Caribbean region and Latin America. He was a member of the Trinidad and Tobago Airport's Authority Disaster

Preparedness Committee between 1992 and 1997.

He attended many professional and managerial developmental courses during his career and holds a Diploma in Management Studies, Business and Industrial Administration and Marketing, from the London Chamber of Commerce Institute (LCCI). He is also a Licentiate Member of the London Chamber of Commerce Institute and authorized to carry the letters LLCC. He also holds a Post-Graduate Diploma in Human Resources Management, which was attained at the University of the West Indies through its Institute of Business in 2000. In 2001 he received a Certificate of Completion from a Mediation Skills Workshop, facilitated and co-hosted by the Center for Conflict Management, of the Center for Law and Leadership, William Mitchell College, Minnesota USA and the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, Port of Spain Trinidad. Colonel Maunday recently completed his Master in Human Resource Management at the Arthur Lok Jack School of Business.

Colonel Maunday's experience spans 30 years of service, during which time he has been involved in training exercises and operations, both nationally and internationally. These exercises include Fuerzas Humanitarias - Disaster Exercises in El Salvador and Honduras.

In 1990 during the attempted coup in Trinidad he held the position of advisor to the Commanding Officer. During 1994 to 1995 he was involved in an operational tour in Haiti as the Operations Officer and Military Liaison Officer for the



CARICOM Forces, as part of the Multinational Force which brought peace and stability to the land. He was awarded the Medal of Merit by the US Command for his service in Haiti.

Prior to taking up the responsibility of Attaché, Colonel Maunday was the Formation Commanding Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment (the Land Force). Colonel Maunday has held positions of Platoon Command, Company Command and Battalion Commanding Officer at the varied Battalions of the Regiment. He has also held the position of Battalion Adjutant, Administrative Officer to the Commanding Officer of the Regiment and prior to his taking command of the Regiment in 2006, was the Chief Staff Officer to the Chief of Defence Staff at the Defence Force Headquarters.

In April 2009 Colonel Maunday attended the Third Seminar of Senior Officials from the Caribbean and South Pacific Islands hosted at the National Defence University, in Beijing China.

Colonel Maunday is married to Wendy and they have a daughter, Gabrielle.



Mrs. Hayda Wallen-Jaganath

Mrs. Hayda Wallen-Jaganath is assigned to the office of the Defence And Military Attaché at the Embassy of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in Washington DC as the Security Cooperation Specialist. She assumed this position in September 2009.

Mrs. Hayda Wallen-Jaganath is a graduate of the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus where she received both her Bachelor and Master of Science Degrees.

She has extensive experience in the fields of Project Management, Security and International Relations having worked with the OAS Inter American Committee Against Terrorism in the capacity of Project Manager responsible for Aviation and Tourism Security as well as the Liaison Officer for Caribbean Affairs. Prior to her attachment to the OAS she was responsible for development of Standards for the Tourism Industry at the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards and represented Trinidad and Tobago on the International Standards Organization's (ISO) Committee for Tourism Standards.

Mrs. Wallen-Jaganath brings her wealth of experience to the Office of the Defence and Military Attaché and she hopes to serve her country in a meaningful capacity by developing and strengthening bilateral and multilateral relations in the area of security cooperation.



Staff Sergeant Nadine Pompey

Staff Sergeant Nadine Pompey enlisted into the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment in 1992 and, since then, has worked assiduously at building a wealth of experience and has served in many notable capacities before assuming her position in the Office of the Defense Attaché in November 2009.

Staff Sergeant Pompey holds to her credit professional experience in the following positions -

- 1995 - 1997 Secretary to the Commanding Officer First Battalion
- 1997 - 1998 Secretary to the Vice Chief of Defense Staff Operations
- 1998 - 2000 Secretary to Staff Officer Land Forces
- 2000 - 2002 Secretary to the Chief of Defense Staff
- 2002 - 2007 Training Company - Support and Service Battalion
- Platoon Supernumerary 0301
- Platoon Sergeant Antigua/Barbuda Defense Force Recruit Training 05-0601
- Platoon Sergeant Recruit Intake 0701
- Platoon Sergeant Junior Advanced Cadre 0702
- 2007 - 2008 Administrative Sergeant Officers' and Warrant Officers' Training Division
- 2008 - 2009 Chief Clerk Support and Service Battalion

The Traditional Characters of Trinidad and Tobago Carnival

It is widely referred to as the **Greatest Show on Earth, The Ultimate Street Party** and even **Heaven on Earth**. Nothing compares to the enjoyment of “playing mas” (dancing in costume through the streets) in the Parade of Bands on Carnival Monday and Tuesday – the pinnacle of Trinidad and Tobago Carnival.

Amidst the “jumping up” and “wining down” – the 2 basic forms of dance for this wonderful festival, are the **Traditional Characters of Carnival** which have been an integral part of Carnival since the very beginning of the festival and the characters that have shaped, in many ways, the revelry and excitement. These are signatures of the Trinidad and Tobago Carnival, the stories of which are inextricably linked to the history of our nation. In fact, Carnival would not be Carnival without them.

In this **Spotlight on T&T Wonders**, we have sought to highlight – the Jamette, Moko Jumbie, Minstrel, Dame Lorraine, Jab Jab Idiable, (diable), Fancy Indians, Jab Molassie, Pierrot Grenade, Bats, Midnight Robber, Burrokeet, Bookman, Baby Doll and Sailor Mas. While these are not all of the Characters of Carnival, these characters are at the very core of the festival’s vibrant history. In fact, the mas of today represents an evolutionary process beginning with these characters.

MINSTRELS

Black and white minstrels are based on the American minstrel shows popular around the turn of the century. The faces are painted white, while the costume consists of a scissors tail coat, striped trousers, tall straw hat and gloves.

One or two minstrel bands still remain, entertaining audiences with popular old American songs such as *Suwannee River* and *Who's Sorry Now*. They accompany themselves on the guitar and the rattling bones played between the hands. They may sometimes have a dance routine.



DAME LORRAINE

The Dame Lorraine or Dame Loraine was imitative of the mas played by the 18th and early 19th century French planters, who would dress up in elegant costumes of the French aristocracy and parade in groups at private homes,

particularly on Carnival Sunday night. They also performed the sophisticated dances of the period.

The liberated slaves recreated these costumes - complete with elaborate fans and hats - in their own fashion, using materials that were readily available, such as assorted rags and imitative jewellery-type items, but emphasizing and exaggerating the physical characteristics, and dancing to small bandol and cuatro bands.

The major Dame Lorraine performers through the years however, were descendants of the French planters and persons of some respectability, who hid behind masks, mainly of the fine wire mesh variety, and found their way into the downtown Old Yards, where they paraded and danced for all and sundry.

The tune which became associated with the Dame Lorraines still exists, and is played whenever they appear in groups at cultural events.

MOKO JUMBIE

Moko is a derivation of the god "Moko", coming straight out of West African tradition. Moko is a “diviner” in the Congo language. The term "jumbie" or ghost was added by the freed slaves. It



was believed that the height of the stilts was associated with the ability to foresee evil faster than ordinary men. The Moko Jumbie was felt to be a protector of the village.

This mas is well-known throughout the Caribbean. It is an authentic African masquerade mounted on sticks. The stilt walker plays on stilts 10 to 12 feet high. His costume consists of a brightly coloured skirt or pants, jacket and elaborate hat. He would dance through the streets all day, and collect money from people on the upper floors and balconies. His dance was similar to a jig, and he was often accompanied by a drum, flute and triangle.



JAB JAB

The name of this mas is derived from the French patois for 'Diable Diable'. It is pretty devil mas. The costume consists of a Kandal or satin knickers, and satin shirt with points of cloth at the waist, from which bells hang. On the chest, there is a shaped cloth panel

which is decorated with swansdown, rhinestones and mirrors. Stockings and alpagatas are worn on the feet, while the headress consists of a hood with stuffed cloth horns. The costume can come in alternating colours and be divided into front and back panels. The Jab Jab has a thick whip of plaited hemp which he swings and cracks threateningly. These whips can reduce the costumes of other Jab Jabs to threads.



FANCY INDIANS

This mas is based on the indigenous people of North America. The wearer decides how expensive or expansive he wants this costume to be. The headpiece, in its simplest form, is worn with feathers sticking up, and more feathers making tails

down the back. More elaborate headpieces are built over bamboo or wire frames. The headpiece then becomes so heavy, it needs

to be supported by a structure that covers the masquerader's entire body. This, the masquerader's wigwam, is richly worked with ostrich plumes, mirrors, beads, feather work, papier-mâché masks, totem poles, canoes and ribbons. Bands of Indians can comprise a warrior chief and his family, a group of chiefs, or a group of warriors.

The Fancy Indian is the most popular variety of Indian mas. A feature of this mas is the language or languages they speak, in a call and response pattern, possibly adapted from the Black Indians of the New Orleans Mardi Gras and their characteristic movements. Other kinds of Indians that are disappearing are generally known as Wild Indians. These comprise Red Indians (Warahoons) and Blue Indians, which have links with the indigenous peoples of Venezuela. There are also Black Indians or African Indians.



JAB MOLASSIE

Jab is the French patois for 'Diable' (Devil), and Molassie is the French patois

for Méléasse (Molasses). The Jab Molassie is one of several varieties of devil mas played in Trinidad and Tobago carnival. The costume consists of short pants or pants cut off at the knee, and a mask and horns. The jab molassie would carry chains, and wear locks and keys around his waists, and carry a pitch fork. He may smear his body with grease, tar, mud or coloured dyes (red, green or blue). The jab molassie "wines" or gyrates to a rhythmic beat that is played on tins or pans by his imps. While some of his imps supply the music, others hold his chain, seemingly restraining him as he pulls against them in his wild dance.

The differences among the various forms of devil mas were once distinct, but have become blurred over time.

PIERROT GRENADE

The Pierrot Grenade is a descendant of the Pierrot - a finely dressed masquerader and



deeply learned scholar, who displayed his erudition by spelling polysyllabic words and quoting passages from Shakespeare. He was also a feared fighter with a whip or bull pistle, and was followed by a band of female supporters who fought on his behalf against other Pierrot groups. His descendant, the Pierrot Grenade, is a satire on the richer and more respectable Pierrot.

The Pierrot Grenade is egotistical and retains the scholarly mien, but instead of the elegant costume, he wears rags. His gown consists of crocus bag (burlap), on which strips of coloured cloth, small tins containing pebbles, and small boxes that rattle, are attached. He may wear a hat or a coloured head tie on his head, and his face is covered with a grotesque mask. The mask provides anonymity for someone who delights in making barbed comments on "respectable" members of the community.



BATS

This mas is almost extinct. The bat costume is normally black or brown and fitted tightly over the masquerader's body.

The headpiece covers the head entirely, with the player being able to see through the mouth, or being able to lift it up to his forehead. It is made of swans down with papier-mâché face, teeth, nose and round eyes. Leather shoes with metal claws for toes are normally used. Ordinary shoes can also be adapted by the use of long socks, metal claws and a second sole. The bat wings are made from wire and bamboo or cane, and are covered with the same cloth as the skin-fitted costume. These wings can extend to 12 or 15 feet, and the masquerader's arms are fastened to them. Matching gloves complete the costume.

There is a bat dance to go with the costume. In performance, the masquerader crawls, flaps, dances on his toes, and folds his wings in a series of choreographed movements, imitating the bat.



MIDNIGHT ROBBER

The Midnight Robber is one of the most beloved characters in traditional carnival.



Both his costume and his speech are distinctive. His "Robber Talk" is extravagant and egocentric, and boastful. He brags about his great ancestry, exploits,

strength, fearlessness and invincibility. This "Robber Talk" is derived from the tradition of the African Griot or storyteller, and the speech patterns and vocabulary are imitative of his former master.

He wears a black satin shirt, pantaloons, influenced by the American cowboy tradition, and a black, flowing cape on which the skull and cross bones are painted. Also painted on the cape is the name by which the robber goes. He also wears a huge black, broad-brimmed, fringed hat on which a coffin is often superimposed. In his hand he carries a weapon - either a dagger, sword or gun - and a wooden money box in the shape of a coffin. He carries a whistle which he blows to punctuate his tales of valour.



BURROKEET

Burrokeet, derived from the Spanish word *burroquito* (little donkey), is constructed from bamboo so as to give

the illusion of a dancer riding a small *burro* or donkey. This masquerade was derived from both the East Indian culture and the Venezuelan Spaniards.

The costume is comprised of a well-decorated donkey's head made from coloured paper. This head is attached to a bamboo framework. The masquerader enters through a hole at the back of the donkey's neck and carries the reins in his hands, thereby creating the illusion that he is its rider. The body of the donkey is covered in a long skirt satin skirt with a sisal tail, sometimes decorated with flowers. The bit and bridle are made of coloured cord. The rider wears a satin skirt and a large matador straw hat and dances in a way that mimicks the antics of a donkey. He also performs a dance called Burriquite, which originated in Venezuela.



BOOKMAN

The Bookman, also referred to as the Gownman or Ruler, is a feature of devil mas portrayals. The other two groups of characters in the devil band are the imps and beasts.

The bookman's costume consists of Tudor-style pants, or a richly embroidered gown made of velvet and satin, with a pleated or fluted bodice, and a flowing cape festooned with

biblical scenes. On his head is an oversized head mask which contains small horns and carries a demonic expression. The face of this mask is supposed to mirror the face of the devil himself. The bookman carries a pen and a large book in which he writes the names of prospective souls for the devil.

The bookman is the principal character in the devil band, and, in keeping with his status, his movement is waltz-like, with constant bowing. Musical accompaniment is provided by an orchestra of trumpet, saxophones, bass and drums playing conventional tunes.



SAILOR MAS

This character was introduced in the 1880s when British, French and American naval ships came to Trinidad. It is one of the more popular costumes, being lightweight and inexpensive. There are several variations on the sailor mas including Free French Sailor, King Sailor, and Fancy Sailor to name a few.



The costume of the Free French sailor consists of a black beret with the name of the ship on the rim of the beret, a tight-fitting short sleeve bow neck jersey with

horizontal blue and white stripes, long, bell-bottomed black melton pants, and black shoes.

The King Sailor's costume consists of a white drill or corduroy pants and shirt with a sailor collar. There are epaulettes on each shoulder, a red sash across the chest, a crown on the masquerader's head, cords, medals and war ribbons on the left side of the chest and a walking stick in his hand.

The Fancy Sailor was an off-shoot of the King Sailor. The fancy sailor costume consists of papier-mâché headpieces, decorated and painted to look like bird, animals or plants. The sailor outfit is decorated with ribbons, medals, braiding, swans down and other embellishments to match the headpieces.

There are several dances to go along with the sailor mas portrayal, such as the Bote, Crab, Marrico, Pachanga, Rock de Boat, Skip Jack and the Camel Walk.



BABY DOLL

The baby doll character, which is now extinct, was played up to the 1930s. The masquerader portrays a gaily dressed doll, decked out in a frilled dress and bonnet.

In her arms she carries a doll which symbolizes an illegitimate baby. The masquerader portraying the baby doll, stops male passers-by and accuses them of being the baby's father.

To experience the beauty of the **Traditional Characters of Carnival**, one must participate in the Parade of Bands on Carnival Monday and Tuesday. These are the characters that you need to know to truly understand why Trinidad and Tobago Carnival has become one of the most magnificent cultural spectacles on earth!

Credit for the information contained in this article is given to the National Library and Information System Authority of Trinidad and Tobago.



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