

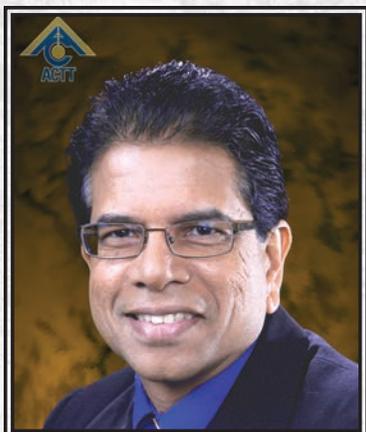
Senator the Hon. Fazal Karim
Minister of Tertiary Education and
Skills Training

Message from Senator, the Honourable Fazal Karim Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training (MTEST)

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago, in developing a framework for sustainable development and competitive growth, has outlined seven (7) interconnected pillars. These pillars will propel the country's human resource and economic development. The education pillar supports the continual upgrade of a "People Centred" education system.

The Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training (MTEST), along with the agencies under our purview, is committed to cultivating a 'more diversified, knowledge intensive economy – building on the native genius of our people.' To meet the mandate MTEST has harmonised the higher education sector into a seamless system that integrates tertiary education, technical and vocational education (TVET) and lifelong learning. This will facilitate the target of 60% participation in higher education by our citizens by 2015.

MTEST fully supports scholarly discourse in quality assurance and accreditation, to aid in the successful development of quality and integrity within our higher learning institutions. I wish to commend ACTT for establishing this forum which will support government's thrust to develop the human resource potential of our citizens. This journal also has the potential to nurture a research-based approach to informed policy formulation for higher education.



Message from Michael Dowlath, PhD Chairman, ACTT

It is my great honour to extend sincere congratulations to The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) on the publication of the inaugural issue of the Journal of Quality Assurance in Higher Education (JQAHE). It is most fitting that ACTT has launched this new journal which will create a platform for the dissemination of current trends in quality assurance in the higher education sector. This is an extremely dynamic and rapidly evolving field as evidenced by the heightened level of innovation and activity in the international arena. In this light, agencies such as the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) and the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) are key stakeholders with whom ACTT proposes alliances in upcoming issues.

I congratulate the JQAHE Executive Committee and the esteemed editors who worked assiduously towards the production of this inaugural issue. Further, I thank our contributors who generously devoted the time and effort necessary to pursue publication in this peer reviewed journal. This journal was borne out of the inspired leadership of the Executive Director of ACTT, Michael Bradshaw, and I extend special congratulations to him, as we celebrate the culmination of the hard work and dedication which went into the project. I am confident that the higher education sector, locally, regionally and internationally will find great value and utility in the contributions to the JQAHE, in this and future issues.



Message from Michael Bradshaw

Executive Director, ACTT

The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago is mandated by Chapter 39:06 of the laws of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to develop, implement and monitor national quality standards for the higher education sector. The remit of ACTT therefore provides a tremendous opportunity for our most recent venture – the publication of an international scholarly refereed journal in quality assurance of higher education, titled the Journal of Quality Assurance in Higher Education (JQAHE). This journal will be the first of its kind for the higher education sector in Trinidad and Tobago and will extend the conversation into the Caribbean region.

This journal will serve as a platform for the dissemination of scholarly discourse on theory, practice and policy in the area of quality assurance in higher education in the Caribbean, in the context of broad international trends and developments. Higher educational professionals including educators and administrative personnel, and quality assurance practitioners will contribute to the content and publication of the journal through readership, article submission, peer review and editorial committee membership. Further, we intend to form international alliances with other quality assurance agencies to enhance the capacity and reach of ACTT through the publication of this high profile and relevant journal.

Our contributors to this inaugural issue are professionals at the top of their field who have conducted significant and relevant research from which we may build upon the existing knowledge base. We have engaged several esteemed professionals of international reputation to serve on our board of editors. We have also committed to maintaining international standards in blind peer reviews of all submissions for publication by engaging equally reputable professionals.

It is my pleasure to introduce this journal and to invite you to visit our website for the e-publication and to purchase a subscription. I am certain that on perusal of the abstracts of our current issue you will be compelled to join us on this journey. The introduction of the JQAHE by ACTT promises to enhance the higher education sector through dissemination of scholarly writing on quality assurance research trends and innovations.