

# ACTT PRESENTS THE DRAFT NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND CREDIT FRAMEWORK (NQCF)

## REGISTER, IT'S THE LAW

The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) hosted a Public Consultation on Friday October 11, 2013 at the National Academy for the Performing Arts, South Campus. In addressing participants, Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training emphasised the importance of the NQCF to improving the higher education system. These include:

- improving the transparency of qualifications and credit systems through standardisation and the use of explicit learning outcomes
- improving labour mobility by reducing barriers. This includes improving regional integration of economies and also the ability of workers from developing countries to find jobs that commensurate with their education and training
- increasing private sector involvement in Education and Training
- providing a reference for Quality Assurance, thus improving accountability and promoting public and professional confidence in national qualifications systems



Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, delivers the opening address at the Public Consultation



Michael Bradshaw, Executive Director, ACTT, presents the objectives of the consultation

Dr Michael Dowlath, Chairman, ACTT, delivers the welcome address at the NQCF Public Consultation.

He ended his address with a strong message to those institutions operating in Trinidad and Tobago without proper legal standing. "REGISTER, IT'S THE LAW!" He stressed that ACTT who serves as a gate keeper of the higher education sector and as mandated by Chapter 39:06 must protect the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago who may be affected by institutions who are operating outside the law.

At this event, ACTT sought to engage stakeholders at all levels of education in a dialogue on the draft National Qualifications and Credit Framework. The NQCF will assist in standardising qualifications by classifying titles, identifying the formula for calculating credits and facilitating the transfer and relationship between qualifications. The NQCF also supports the development of qualifications that are based on learning outcomes. Further, the NQCF will highlight progression routes to academic, vocational as well as professional qualifications.

With the establishment of the NQCF, ACTT will also introduce mechanisms to accommodate the development of new qualifications on par with international standards. The framework will benefit the nation by:

- establishing a coherent system for credit accumulation and transfer
- assisting providers to design programmes that lead to internationally recognised qualifications
- facilitating an outcomes-based approach to teaching and learning
- facilitating transfer and articulation for learners among institutions and countries

ACTT will also be hosting two more Public Consultations on the NQCF to be held on October 17, 2013 in Tobago at the Department of Infrastructure and Public Utilities and on October 25, 2013 at the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business.

Audience listens attentively to the presentation of the draft NQCF



ACTT's NQCF Committee at the Question and Answer segment of the Public Consultation