



News from the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **MOVING THE TERTIARY EDUCATION SECTOR FORWARD**

### **Launch of the Online Institutional Profile Database 2012**

On Wednesday July 25, 2012, the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training (MTEST), in conjunction with The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT), launched the Online Institutional Profile (IP) Database at the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, Level 18 Tower C, Waterfront Complex, #1A Wrightson Road, Port of Spain. The database is a secured portal through which institutions can input and update information required by both ACTT and the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training on an annual basis.

Addressing the formal launch, Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training indicated that the Online IP Database is a manifestation of a centralised data repository which was identified as a need in the Tertiary Education Policy which gained Parliamentary approval in January 2011. Minister Karim explained that it will facilitate significant manpower savings for both the Ministry and the Council and will create a reliable data pool upon which data-driven strategic planning for the higher education and training system can be predicated. Minister Karim suggested that as a future developmental phase the database will be expanded into a wider Education Management Information System which can be equated to the Integrated Post Secondary Education Data System used in the United States. The Minister urged all present to utilize the database so that the information can help move Trinidad and Tobago up international indices such as the Global Innovation Index and the Global Competitiveness Index.

Mr Jaggernauth Soom, Permanent Secretary, TEST indicated that the Tertiary Education and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TETVET) Sector has undergone expansive demographic changes, which to a large extent, has not been captured and recorded for further analysis. The establishment of this Online Institutional Profile Database is a concrete step in rationalizing data collection efforts, reducing duplication and bolstering efficiency in the dissemination of information.

ACTT's Chairman, Dr Michael Dowlath emphasised that the "Institutional Profile Database will ensure more accurate information, curtail the response time to requests for information and provide an opportunity for time series research into institutional and/or sector development". Further, ACTT's Executive Director, Michael Bradshaw, stated that this signature event was testimony to the commitment of all the agencies involved in this initiative to ensuring a more efficient system for the collection, disbursement and management of information about higher education institutions. He also stressed that information submitted by higher education institutions will be treated with the strictest of confidence and access will be limited to authorised users within the Ministry and ACTT. All stakeholders were urged to make use of this database, noting that its success depended on their input of accurate data.

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