

# ACTT Opens South Outreach Office in San Fernando

and Launches its Digital Map of Registered/Accredited Higher Education Institutions



The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) opened its South Outreach office, at #108 Independence Avenue San Fernando on Saturday April 28, 2012. This office brings ACTT services closer to residents of South Trinidad from Icacos to Guayaguayare to Couva providing increased efficiency in meeting the needs of all stakeholders.

Speaking at the opening were Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education; the Honourable Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan, Minister of Public Administration and Member of Parliament for San Fernando West; Dr Michael Dowlath, Chairman, ACTT and Michael Bradshaw, Executive Director, ACTT.

In addressing the guests at the ceremony, Minister Karim stated that the time has come to examine tertiary education institutions to ascertain whether they are supplying suitable candidates for the nation's workforce. Minister Karim explained that the opening of this office would position ACTT closer to institutions and other stakeholders that are situated in the South and Central parts of Trinidad. This would provide for wider coverage and greater efficiency. Further, ACTT services would now

become more accessible to stakeholders residing in the southern parts of Trinidad.

Minister Seepersad-Bachan, MP for San Fernando West, stated in her remarks "that it is important to recognise that this office opens up so many opportunities for new institutions and new programmes to come to the southland and that by increasing the tertiary level participation rate to 60 percent by 2015, we will create the type of environment in which the native genius of our citizens is given further opportunity for creativity, innovation and critical thinking. These are absolutely imperative if we are to move Trinidad and Tobago forward."

In his address, Dr Dowlath underscored the point that for far too long the residents of Central and South Trinidad have had to journey to Port of Spain to conduct formal business or access state resources. He reiterated the view of the earlier speakers that the new office, conveniently located here in San Fernando, was an important step towards meeting the needs of the many young persons striving to

advance themselves through the acquisition of post secondary education and skills training.

In addition to opening this office, ACTT also launched its Digital Map of Registered and Accredited Higher Education Institutions in Trinidad and Tobago. Utilising Google Earth, this map displays the location and information of all ACTT's registered and accredited institutions on an up-to-date virtual map of Trinidad and Tobago.

#### CAPTIONS:

1. Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education.
2. The Honourable Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan, Minister of Public Administration and Member of Parliament for San Fernando West.
3. Dr Michael Dowlath, Chairman, ACTT.
4. Dr Bhesem Ramlal presents the Digital Map.
5. Senior officials ACTT, welcome Ministers Karim and Seepersad-Bachan.
6. The ribbon is cut to declare the South Outreach Office open.
7. Zellon Bethel, Senior Operations Assistant, ACTT, attends to a student.