

PRESS RELEASE

UNESCO Forum hosts regional meeting in Trinidad

The Regional Scientific Committee for Latin America and Caribbean of the UNESCO Forum for Higher Education, Research and Knowledge will hold its second research seminar in **Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago** from **July 19 – 20, 2007**. The seminar will focus on “Research and Higher Education Policies for transforming societies: perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean”. The seminar is co-organized with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education, facilitated by the UNESCO Office in Kingston, Jamaica and the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO of the Ministry of Education.

This event constitutes an opportunity to raise the profile of the work of the UNESCO Forum in the Caribbean.

The theme, *“Research and Higher Education Policies for transforming societies: perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean”* has been specifically chosen to examine policies and practices from across the region that have been successful and are seen as examples of good practice. Under this broad heading, policies and practices with specific regard to the development of Research Capacity, Research Productivity and Relevance and Utility of Research will be examined, in the framework of the ongoing discussion on those themes launched at a Colloquium which was held at the UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France in December.

The primary aim of the Research Seminar to sensitize regional governments and higher education institutional heads from Latin America and Caribbean to existing “best practices” in the development of research capacity, research productivity and utilization of relevant research in Latin America and the Caribbean. Such information, it is hoped, will inform the adoption and formulation of future research and higher education policies.

A secondary aim is to facilitate the exchange of ideas and facilitate further interaction among members of institutions and governments in the Caribbean and the country representatives and learned speakers from various organizations in Latin America.

Opening remarks from Senator the Honourable Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education and Senator the Honourable Hazel Manning, Minister of Education, will be made.

Participants include representatives from Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, the United Kingdom, Venezuela and from the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The event is by invitation only and has been booked to capacity. Persons interested in receiving full papers coming out of this event are asked to contact the National Commission at ntncunesco@tstt.net.tt.