



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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NEWS RELEASE:

EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2009 – DAY 1

“A quiet revolution has been in the making and so far it has begun to transform Trinidad and Tobago’s approach to education in a way that already produces young people who are smarter, faster and better able to cope than people of a previous generation ever were” so said Minister of Education, Esther Le Gendre at the opening of the Ministry of Education’s Conference 2009, “Focus on the Schools”.

Addressing more than 700 educators, technical experts, school supervisors and principals, the Minister outlined the National Education Policy of Trinidad and Tobago aimed at establishing a seamless, self-renewing, high quality education system.

Also addressing the opening day of the 2-day conference was Dr. Lennox Bernard who addressed the essentials for Creating High Performing Schools and Dr. Didacus Jules, Registrar of CXC who came in from Barbados to speak on “Priorities in Education”.

Professor Brian Copeland, Chairman of the National Training Agency explored the Caribbean Vocational Qualification Trinidad and Tobago students in 2008 became the first in the region to be awarded certificates in the special programme which is a competency based programme of education and training which prepares participants for the work force.

Professor Copeland declared that the programme, currently deployed through 37 secondary schools over 24 technical subject offerings, is a launch-pad for wealth generation which he saw as the true purpose of education.

Dr. Gillian Paul, Vice President of Academic Affairs, addressed the issue of “Curriculum Reform” – offering a view “from the trenches” to provide valuable insights to potential stumbling blocks to implementing curriculum reforms.

Day 2 of the conference expects participants of some 1,500 teachers.

21 January 2009

