



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION**

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NEWS RELEASE:

**OAS FINAL PROJECT MEETING – SCHOOL MANAGEMENT AND
CERTIFICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ACCREDITATION OF
LABOUR COMPETENCIES AT THE UPPER SECONDARY LEVEL**

The Ministry of Education wishes to advise that it will be hosting the **Final Organisation of American States (OAS) Project Meeting on School Management and Certification for Development and Accreditation of Labour Competencies at the Upper Secondary Level** on **Thursday 5th and Friday 6th January, 2009** between the hours of **9am-5pm** at the **Hotel Normandie, St. Anns.**

The meeting will bring together representatives from the Caribbean, Central America and the Mercosur regions where the focus will be on three areas; 1) Development of a guide, 2) Training of all personnel involved in bringing the Caribbean Vocational Qualifications (CVQ's) to fruition and 3) Sensitisation of school management to the process.

This final meeting is the product of the **III Meeting of Education, held in Mexico City in August of 2003**, where ministers of education agreed, "to make the necessary efforts to expand the coverage of secondary and high-school education, particularly in the technical area, including the elements necessary for preparing our young people for life, citizenship, and the workplace, and incorporating into that learning process broad elements of creativity, innovation, and the development of entrepreneurial skills, together with an understanding of economic and educational realities, free enterprise, the role of the state, civil society, and the media, and the development of skills and virtues for their incorporation into those realities. All this must be accompanied by a

system to certify the knowledge and skills of those students who graduate from these levels of education”.

These priorities have emerged from an evolving economic and political context that includes free trade agreements, multilateral accords, rapid flows of financial capital, migrations, and the changing nature of economic production. This context requires not only national but also regional and hemispheric initiatives in linking school to work.

Some of the **international presenters** that will be arriving in the country this week for the meeting are **Mr. Paul Payne**, Principal of Montserrat Community College, **Mrs. Paulette Dunn-Smith**, Senior Director of CANTA/NCTVET/HEART-NTA of Jamaica, **Mr. Otavio Augusto de Araujo Tavares** of the Federal Centre of Technology Education of Rio Grande North, Ministry of Education, Brazil and **Mr. Jaime Biella**, Federal University of Rio Grande North, Ministry of Education, Brazil, who all worked as consultants on the project.

Some of the **local presenters** are **Mrs. Dipwatee Maharaj**, Director of Curriculum, Ministry of Education and **Mrs. Pauline Whiteman**, Manager at the Project Implementation Unit, National Training Agency.

2 February 2009

