



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

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**NEWS RELEASE:**

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## **Education Minister holds strategic talks with President of the General Conference of UNESCO**

Dr. the Honourable Tim Gopeesingh, Minister of Education and President of the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO, received Bahamian Ambassador Dr. Davidson Hepburn on 05 July, 2010 at his St. Clair office on Alexandra Street, Port-of-Spain. Ambassador Hepburn, who is also President of the General Conference of UNESCO, was in Trinidad for the UNESCO Regional Consultation of National Commissions for Latin America and the Caribbean, 5-7 July, 2010. The Consultation was held to prepare the draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (36 C/5) which is expected to deepen efforts towards the achievement of the overarching and strategic programme objectives of the Medium-Term Strategy, while also responding to newly emerging needs and priorities in a rapidly changing international environment.



Dr the Honourable Tim Gopeesingh and Ambassador Dr Davidson Hepburn, President, General Conference, UNESCO

Minister Gopeesingh and Ambassador Hepburn agreed, during their meeting, that it is imperative that the need for strong national commissions be reinforced, as they can move a country forward. The Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010.

Consultations such as the one held this week, allows for the input of ideas and recommendations on priority areas made by member countries. Discussions also centred around the fact that UNESCO connects with the whole social, cultural and intellectual fabric of communities with which it works and as such it is important that there be a greater sense of cooperation among nations.

Also of interest was the ratification of three UNESCO Culture Conventions: the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage; the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage; and the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultrual Expressions.

The priority issues agreed upon at the Consultation will be presented at the UNESCO General Conference to be held in October 2011.