



TVET - Key To A WorldClass Workforce

# INSIDE TVET

## Building a better life through TVET



**CHALLENGE TROPHY WINNERS:** Students of the Princess Margaret Secondary School, overall winners of SCAICT 2008.

THE Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council was once again pleased to be the main sponsor of this year's **Schools' Industrial Arts, Craft and Technology (SCIACT)** Exhibition which was held at the **Sherbourne Conference Centre** earlier this month.

The council's mission is to promote the growth of TVET as part of ensuring a productive workforce. This is done by subsidising the cost of on-the-job training to employers, encouraging private and public training institutions to offer courses that fill skill shortages in national priority areas and supporting the growth of standards-based training and certification through the development of National Occupational Standards (NOS).

However, the TVET Council supports the premise that 'an education makes you trainable and training makes you employable'. It is on this basis that the Council sees the inclusion of Vocational Education and Training (VET) on the school curriculum as very important and views SCAICT as a means whereby excellence in VET can be both highlighted and rewarded.

During the delivery of the sponsor's remarks at this year's prize-giving ceremony, the TVET Council's Senior Technical Officer (STO) Wendy McClean reminded the students that to be truly competent they needed to possess both technical skills and other skills such as "the ability to manage

multiple tasks while maintaining composure and contingency planning skills".

Stressing that "a holistic approach to competence" was the TVET Council's goal, McClean said that such competence also included possessing the right attitude and a good character.

The STO also spoke to the role that the Council played in helping Barbados to build a competent workforce. She explained that the NOS represented employer expectations and were used to inform curricula as well as to develop National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs); certification awarded to candidates who demonstrated competence when assessed against the NOS.

She noted that the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ), the equivalent of the NVQ, was also being developed at the regional level and was intended to prepare recipients to function competently in the workplace. "The CVQ Level 1 is being offered to secondary school students. The premise is that secondary education should prepare students for higher or further education as well as to function effectively in the workplace."

During delivery of the opening remarks, Chief Education Officer Wendy Griffith-Watson pointed out the need for students to possess both academic subjects and TVET, noting that the latter needed to be coupled with general

education and soft skills. There was a need for "academic work to support the work skills", Griffith-Watson stressed.

Minister of Education and Human Resources Development Ronald

Jones, who delivered the feature address, supported this viewpoint adding: "The cognitive can't stand by itself. TVET - skills - employ (both the) cognitive, the brain, as well as manual skills."



**MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT Ronald Jones, accompanied by Ministry officials, examining one of the exhibits at the Schools' Industrial Arts, Craft and Technology Exhibition earlier this month.**



**TVET Council's Senior Technical Officer, Wendy McClean, and Master of Ceremonies at the SCAICT 2008 prize-giving ceremony, Paul Puckerin, viewing the craft on display.**



**CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER Wendy Griffith-Watson admiring a wooden replica of the Concorde at SCAICT 2008.**

## Registration open for train-the-trainer workshop

REGISTRATION is currently open for the fourth **Train-the-Trainer Workshop on Competence-based Training and Assessment** hosted by the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council in collaboration with the **Barbados Community College (BCC)**.

The 11-day workshop, which will run from **March 18 to April 29, 2008, 1 to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays**, is designed to promote competence-based training, assessment and certification using occupational standards of competence to assist in closing the gap between the needs of employment and the outcomes of occupational training.

The workshop is geared towards corporate trainers or training consultants, employers, managers and other human resource personnel who either have responsibility for training or who have some experience or formal training as trainers.

Topics to be covered include:

- The concepts underpinning competence-based training and assessment;
- The national occupational standards of competence;
- Using national occupational standards and/or other performance-based standards to design, deliver and assess training outcomes;
- Adult Learning Principles: Implications for the Training Setting.

For further information, interested persons should contact the BCC at telephone number **426-2858, ext 5240**, or email **shackett@bcc.edu.bb**.