



INSIDE TVET

TVET - Key To A WorldClass Workforce

UNDER THE THEME *TVET: Enabling and Supporting the Development of a Competent and Competitive Workforce*, the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council will commemorate the 15th anniversary of its establishment with a week of celebration from September 20 to 26, 2009.

The activities commence on Sunday, September 20, with a church service at the Mount of Praise Wesleyan Holiness Church, Tudor Bridge, St Michael, where the TVET Council's staff, Council members and stakeholders will gather at 9:45 a.m. to give thanks and praise for 15 years of achievement.

Other major activities for the week include the National Skills Day Showcase on Wednesday, September 23, the TVET Review Meeting 2009 on Thursday, September 24, and an Anniversary Dinner on Saturday, September 26.

The TVET Council's role is to co-ordinate and manage technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in Barbados. In keeping with this role, the objectives of the week of celebrations are to:

- Highlight the importance of TVET to economic development and align key stakeholders to a single vision for technical and vocational education and training,
- Enhance awareness and understanding of TVET through the National Skills Day Showcase, and
- Encourage young people to become trained with the knowledge and skills for the specific area of work in which they are interested.

It is in this light that the TVET Council, whose mission is *To develop a competent and competitive workforce in Barbados and the wider Caribbean*, will host two of the major activities for the week: the National Skills Day Showcase and the TVET Review Meeting 2009. The skills day showcase and the TVET Review Meeting are intended to help the Council advance efforts to achieve its mandate of workforce development, by drawing attention to the work of the Council and creating an interest in the promotion and support of TVET.

The skills day showcase is targeted at fourth and fifth form students of the secondary schools identified to participate in the pilot of the Level 1 Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ), the regional equivalent to the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ). The CVQ is the competence-based certification that will soon be piloted by the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development in collaboration with the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC).

CVQs, as do NVQs, exist from Level 1 (entry level) to Level 5 (senior management level) and are awarded to individuals who are trained and assessed against national



FLASHBACK 2008: Teachers of the St Lucy Secondary School participating in a discussion during a Teachers' Professional Day presentation by the TVET Council on 'NVQs: Changing The Way We Certify Students'. (GP)

TVET Council celebrating 15 years

occupational standards, and are able to demonstrate competence in a real, or realistic work environment.

The showcase takes place at the **Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre (LESC)**, Two Mile Hill, St Michael, starting at 9 a.m., and will include display/demonstration booths featuring the occupations of automotive technology, cosmetology, bartending, graphic design, floristry and screen printing.

There will also be presentations by practitioners and professionals on the knowledge, skills, qualification and other requirements, and job opportunities associated with occupations including fashion design, theatre arts, the automotive industry (motor sport), the agricultural industry, carpentry, masonry, accountancy and the legal profession.

The TVET Review Meeting takes place at the **LESC** on the following day from

9 a.m. and will provide a forum in which stakeholders of the TVET system seek to share and collect information that will help identify the weaknesses, strengths, opportunities, and challenges of the TVET system in the present economic environment.

There will be a series of panel discussions on skills development in the context of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) **Report V: Skills For Improved Productivity, Employment Growth And Development**, and the ILO **Recommendation 195 (Human Resources Development: Education, Training And Lifelong Learning)**.

Two of the featured presenters will be Robert Gregory, former chief executive officer of the HEART Trust/National Training Agency, Jamaica, and president of Jamaica Trade and Invest, and Dr Hassan Bata Ndahi, senior specialist, skills and employability, ILO Sub Regional Office for the Caribbean.

The feedback and recommendations received from the stakeholders participating in the September 24 review forum, will inform future strategic TVET decision-making to ensure that an effective and efficient training system is at the heart of economic competitiveness and sustainable development in Barbados.

The TVET Council sees the review meeting as central to helping to turn policy into practice and thus enable the development of a productive, inclusive and quality-driven local TVET system.