

INSIDE TVET



TVET Council's executive director Trevor King (sixth from left) and Chairman Dr Hensley Sobers (eighth from left) pictured with staff at the conclusion of the recently held Christmas luncheon. Inset, chairman Sobers addressing staff at the luncheon. (GP)

Busy year winds down for Council

MEMBERS AND STAFF of the **TVET Council** recently gathered to reflect and give thanks for the achievements of another busy year during the organisation's annual Christmas luncheon.

Chairman of the Council Dr Hensley Sobers, while expressing thanks to the staff for their contribution, noted that an infrastructure was now in place to promote **technical and vocational education and training (TVET)** locally. This, he said, was in keeping with the Government's emphasis on the discipline which stood to contribute much to Barbados' development.

In a brief recap of the year's achievements, the chairman said the Council had signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the Barbados Vocational Training Board (BVTB), the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic (SJPP) and the Barbados Community College (BCC) which would help to "solidify the partnerships with the three organisations and create governance protocols that would facilitate closer working relationships".

Dr Sobers also used the opportunity to informally thank executive director Trevor King for his years of dedicated service, noting that he would be officially retiring next year but would go on leave at year end.

During the vote of thanks King encouraged the uptake of the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) and Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) programmes stressing that they added a much needed dimension to the quality and type of qualifications available to Barbados' qualifications landscape with their emphasis on enhancing job performance.

THE HEALTH AND BEAUTY INDUSTRY is considered to be one of the fastest growing sectors in the world. The growth in this sector has led to a worldwide demand for quality staff with high standards of education, training and experience which are reflected in qualifications that are internationally recognised.

As a result, the Semaj International School of Cosmetology and Trichology, situated at Cavans Lane, Bridgetown, has joined the ranks of local training institutions that deliver competence-based education and training (CBET).

CBET is education and training that prepares students/trainees to meet internationally benchmarked occupational standards which have been developed in collaboration with industry experts (that is, employers and practitioners).

The school was established in 2005 and is registered with the Barbados Accreditation Council. The school's director Wildina James told **INSIDE TVET** that future plans included applying to become an approved **National Vocational Qualification (NVQ)** Assessment Centre.

In the meantime, it had begun to offer students a curriculum that is based on the standards which comprise the **Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) in Cosmetology Level 2**.

The CVQ is the regional equivalent of the NVQ.

James noted that at present there were 14 students enrolled in the above-mentioned nine-month basic cosmetology programme that were due to complete in April 2011.

Students who successfully complete the 760 hours of training, which includes a three-month job attachment with a recognised salon, achieve a certificate in cosmetology. James added that some students also had the opportunity to work with salons on weekends.

James, who is a locally trained teacher with 27 years experience as a licensed instructor for cosmetology in the state of California, noted that the school's



COSMETOLOGY STUDENTS at the Semaj International School of Cosmetology and Trichology complete facials as part of continuous assessment for the competence-based cosmetology course. (GP)

The road to competence



SEMAJ'S COSMETOLOGY STUDENTS showing the results of their efforts at the completion of the facials performed as part of the continuous assessment for the nine-month competence-based cosmetology programme. (GP)

programmes included formative and summative assessments, the latter of which included external examiners from the local Barbados Association of Beauty Culturists. In addition, she added: "Semaj also offers a 520-hour cosmetology course that is based on the

Milady's Standard Cosmetology programme." Milady's is a United States-based educational organisation that prepares persons for state licensing and certification exams to practice in the field of cosmetology.

In keeping with the **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council's** mandate to promote and support education and training to national, regional and international standards, the **TVET Council** is subsidising the cost of Semaj's competence-based cosmetology course through the **Employment and Training Fund (ETF)** which is managed by the Council.

The ETF provides training grants to applicants who comprise employers, registered training institutions and employer/employee associations that have met specified criteria. Key criteria include up-to-date National Insurance (NIS) contributions and training that is conducted according to a competence-based format utilising occupational standards.