



TVET - Key To A WorldClass Workforce

INSIDE TVET

WorldSkills Barbados to promote excellence

THE UPCOMING **WorldSkills Barbados Competition 2012** is intended to promote strategic partnerships between businesses and public sector and private sector organisations delivering technical and vocational education and training.

Chairman of the TVET Council, Dr Hensley Sobers, stated this during welcome remarks made at the recent cocktail reception held for sponsors of the competition at The Crane Residential Resort, St Philip.

“We are confident that this will promote excellence in skills development and positive attitudes to technical and vocational education and training (as well as) accentuate the value of technical and vocational skills and training to making Barbados a competitive world class destination,” he said.

He added that the inaugural **WorldSkills Barbados Competition**, which is being held under the theme **“Shaping A World Class Workforce Through: Innovation, Creativity and Skills Development”**, would also help to increase the participation of employers in technical and vocational education and training and associated competence-based methods; as well as, improve the competence and performance standards of the workforce.

The preliminary round of the **WorldSkills Barbados Competition** was held in December 2011 and saw 31 students going forward to the March 7 – 9, finals. The finalists, who are between the ages of 16 and 25 years, will compete in front of a live audience and will be judged in the areas of culinary arts, fashion technology, beauty therapy, automotive technology and hairdressing.

Dr Sobers said: “This premier event will offer its young participants opportunities to compare the skills being taught in Barbados against the highest global standards set by countries around the world (and) allow young skilled professionals in Barbados to showcase their job skills in a ‘real world’ competition setting.”

The cocktail reception’s guests saw the launch of the **WorldSkills Barbados’** promotional jingle, which was created compliments of the Barbados Community College’s music department, and, the Competition’s website www.worldskillsbarbados.org.bb.

TVET Council’s Executive Director Henderson Eastmond thanked the sponsors for their support.

“I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all those sponsors who have so far answered the call to help make the inaugural **WorldSkills Barbados Competition 2012** a success. I also thank our tertiary training institution partners for eagerly and readily agreeing to participate in the hosting of **WorldSkills Barbados**,” he said, adding, “such collaborative efforts will help to build a strong, successful national TVET system and a competent and competitive Barbados workforce for the 21st century.”



JOANNA ROBINSON, Director of Marketing, The Crane Hotel, announced that one of the winners of the upcoming WorldSkills Barbados Competition 2012 will be guaranteed a year-long internship at The Crane Residential Resort. (GP)



THE BARBADOS VOCATIONAL TRAINING BOARD'S finalists and coaches in the Fashion, Culinary Arts, Hairdressing and Automotive categories of the **WorldSkills Barbados Competition.** (GP)

MANY COUNTRIES are redeveloping their Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) strategies in an effort to bring about increased economic development, and Barbadians must be made aware that the acquisition of technical and vocational skills is an asset in this new economy.

Minister of Labour and Social Security, Dr Esther Byer Suckoo stated this as she delivered the feature address at the sponsors’ cocktail reception for the **WorldSkills Barbados Competition 2012** on January 7 at The Crane Residential Resort, St Philip. The event was co-hosted by the **Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council (TVETC)** and the Crane, which sponsored it.

Dr Byer Suckoo stressed that worldwide technical and vocational skills played a critical role in economic development.

“Countries around the world are intensifying their individual and collective efforts and activities to rebound from the still on-going global economic recession. A major activity in which countries have been engaging on this front has been the development, or redevelopment, of national and regional TVET strategies that are in keeping with their economic development needs,” she said.

The Labour Minister pointed out that Barbados and CARICOM were doing likewise, with the assistance of the International Labour Organisation and other United Nation organisations.

“Together with the Barbados Human Resource Development Strategy for 2011-2016, the National TVET Strategy will serve as the blueprint for taking Barbados’ education and training system to a truly world class level,” Dr Byer Suckoo said, adding that this would facilitate the training, assessment and certification of workers to world-class competency standards.

Noting that the **WorldSkills Barbados Competition** would allow young people to demonstrate the best of their vocational skills, Dr Byer Suckoo said: “It will create

Vocational skills valuable in new economy

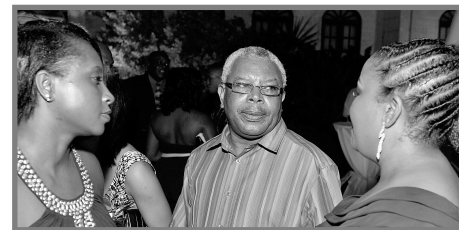
a general awareness in Barbados of the essential contribution that skills and high standards of competence can make to the achievement of economic success and individual fulfilment.

“That for me is a key point. Barbadians in all sectors, all spheres of activity, all walks of life, must be made aware of the value of skills in the new economy; they must be taught to ascribe greater significance to the acquisition of skills for themselves, their children, and their employees,” she said.

The minister also congratulated the competitors, drawn from the Barbados Vocational Training Board, Barbados Community College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic (SJPP), who had successfully moved on to the finals of the **WorldSkills Barbados Competition** which takes place March 7 – 8 at the SJPP’s Willey, St Michael, campus and March 9, 2012 at the BCC’s Hospitality Institute, the PomMarine Hotel.

The **WorldSkills Barbados Competition 2012** is a uniquely modeled competition targeting students in the 16 – 25 age group enrolled in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions. It is patterned after the **WorldSkills International Competition** – a global “skills Olympics” – which is held every two years in one of 55 member countries to provide young people ages 16 to 22 the opportunity to compete and demonstrate their excellence in skilled professions.

While the **WorldSkills International Competition** has participants in over 45



TVET COUNCIL'S CHAIRMAN Dr Hensley Sobers (centre) pictured with sponsor Barbados Light and Power Co. Ltd's representatives Gail Ann King (left) and Alicia Chandler at the sponsors' cocktail reception. (GP)

categories, the local competition will see 31 students compete in culinary arts, fashion technology, beauty therapy, automotive technology and hairdressing.

Dr Byer Suckoo also praised the sponsors’ for their support of the inaugural **WorldSkills Barbados Competition 2012**, stressing that private-public sector partnerships were critical to the development of Barbados’ technical and vocational education and training system.

The **WorldSkills Barbados Competition** is being organised by the **TVET Council.**



MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY Dr the Hon. Esther Byer Suckoo (centre) pictured with the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic's finalists in the Hairdressing category of the WorldSkills Barbados Competition, scheduled to take place March 7 to 9. (GP)



THE BARBADOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S finalists and coaches in the Fashion and Culinary Arts categories of the **WorldSkills Barbados Competition.** (GP)