

## **Returning Scholars Symposium 2009**

The 2009 Returning Scholars Symposium was held at the Old Fire Station Building on Wednesday, September 30 2009. This initiative introduced Returning National Scholars to possible career paths in various Ministries and State Agencies throughout Trinidad and Tobago, and allowed them to match their skills, academic training and experience to available posts. Scholars were also able to explore various networking opportunities in both the private and public sectors in one location.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago seeks to address critical human resource and skills shortages in support of the National Strategic Plan - Vision 2020 by awarding scholarships to qualified nationals every year. These scholarships are geared towards developing innovative people and creating a culture of innovation; in return for the Government's investment, scholars are required to accept employment in the service of Government for a prescribed period. This is part of Government's continued efforts to improve the human capacity within the country. Placement within the public service ensures a constant stream of intellectual capacity that augurs well for succession planning.

Following the launch of the Professional Development Programme last year, and continuing our efforts to maintain a robust network of qualified nationals, the Scholarships and Advanced Training Division of the Ministry of Public Administration launched this year's Professional Development Programme for returning scholars during the SATD Returning Scholars' Symposium at the Old Fire Station Building, Port of Spain on Wednesday. The objectives of the launch were to:

- Inform Trinidad and Tobago Government scholars of available substantive positions within the Public and Private Sectors, and begin the process of placing the scholars in these posts;
- Introduce Scholars to the National Scholars' Alumni Association of Trinidad and Tobago;

- Inform citizens about the work of the SATD (and MPA as a whole) in developing the HR capacity of the Public Service;
- Promote scholarship opportunities through GoRTT and our partners;
- Encourage citizens to see the public service as an avenue to fully realise their potential and develop their professional skills in a world-class working environment;
- Foster links and facilitate cross-ministerial initiatives in HR development, as part of the National Public Service Transformation Agenda.

The Fair included exhibition booths from various Ministries and agencies – **Ministry of Planning, Housing and the Environment, Ministry of Education, Ministry of National Security, Personnel Department, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, Ministry of Science Technology and Tertiary Education, Ministry of Public Utilities, Ministry of Works and Transport, Ministry of Local Government, Service Commissions Department, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Tobago House of Assembly, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, TATT.**