



Rules & Resources

For Participants

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INTRODUCTION

A comment on global competitiveness:

The competitiveness landscape described by the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) in 2009 for Latin America and the Caribbean is fairly encouraging. Trinidad & Tobago GCI moved up 6 places from last year's ranking of 92 to 86. Our macroeconomic stability and financial market sophistication continue to be pillars of strength for our country. In line with Vision 2020 Trinidad & Tobago must benchmark itself against the top 20 countries in the GCI index, emulating standards which reflect "true" competitiveness and ensure national sustainability.

Other countries within this region realizing important advances in the midst of a major external shock on export demand and financing availability, brought about by the current global economic crisis and lower commodity prices were Uruguay (up 10 places), Brazil (up 8 places), Colombia and Peru (both up 5 places), and Costa Rica (up 4 places). This reflects the rather strong footing of most of the countries in the region that enables them to weather the crisis, thanks to the sounder macroeconomic fundamentals achieved in recent years. Most notable among these are reduced debt levels and increased foreign currency reserves.

The number one position in the World Economic Forum (WEF) ranking however went to Switzerland which replaced the United States in the top place in the ranking of most competitive countries for doing business. "The USA falls one place to second position, with weakening in its financial markets and macroeconomic stability," said the Geneva-based foundation.

Rounding of the top 5 positions were Singapore, Sweden and Denmark respectively followed by Finland, Germany and Japan, which moved up one place. Canada and the Netherlands closed the top 10. China edged up slightly, from number 30 in 2008 to 29 this year, while Russia dropped from 51 to 63.

For AMCHAM, the report underscores that in today's difficult economic environment it is important for Trinidad and Tobago not to lose sight of long-term competitiveness fundamentals amid short-term urgencies. Competitive economies are those that have in place factors driving the productivity enhancements on which present and future prosperity is built. A competitiveness supporting economic environment can help national economies to weather business cycle downturns and ensure that the mechanisms enabling solid economic performance going into the future are in place.

THE COMPETITION

The discussion topic is “**Towards a More Productive Trinidad & Tobago – A Roadmap for National Competitiveness**”.

Productivity was selected because a primary AMCHAM goal is the *enhancement of national competitiveness by aiding in identifying opportunities presented by globalisation*. Key to success in a global environment is PRODUCTIVITY and it is our intent to educate young people about its critical importance for sustainable national competitiveness:

- a. **Personal** - An increase in personal productivity at work means better professional and personal balance, enabling individuals to enjoy time with family, reducing stress and work-related illnesses and improving family well being.
- b. **Organization** - Greater productivity leads to lower costs, which enable firms to be more efficient and profitable. This in turn generates more jobs and career opportunities, as well as increasing demands for support services (construction, food, travel, entertainment, etc).
- c. **Country** - Economic growth results in improved standards of living for all. Efficiency lowers costs, reducing inflationary pressure and encouraging inward investment. Improved productivity in sectors such as the *judiciary* for example, means that the trial process is more efficient.

There shall be 4 perspectives represented at each Forum –

1. **Civil Society** – NGOs, CBOs, Churches, Sport, Culture.
2. **Government** – National legislation and governance, democratic process.
3. **Labour** – Unions, workers, employees.
4. **Business** – private sector enterprise, entrepreneurs.

Your school will represent one of these perspectives, which shall be assigned randomly by the AS, then confirmed in writing to the school and posted on the Forum’s Facebook page.

Students are reminded that this is NOT A DEBATE. It is a round table discussion, during which ideas and opinions will be formulated, changed and articulated. The final objective of the National Youth Productivity Forum is to present the Government of Trinidad and Tobago with a document articulating (1) the youth position on productivity and what must be done to improve our national competitiveness and (2) a youth pledge / commitment to the ideals of productivity.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Each secondary school (Government, Government-Assisted or Private) is invited to enter one team of four students, drawn from Forms V and Lower VI or the equivalent.
2. Team members may be selected by any procedure the school deems appropriate.
3. Registration is on a first come, first-served basis and there shall only be 4 teams selected in each of the five (5) zones (North, East, Central, South, Tobago). In the event that there are insufficient schools applying for a zone, schools from another zone will be invited to participate again based on the date of the receipt of the school's registration by the AMCHAM Secretariat (AS).
4. The AS will record the date and time of the receipt of each registration.

SCHEDULE

Model / Launch	UWI Institute of Critical Thinking, St Augustine	21 st October	9:00 am to 1:30pm
Round 1	South- Petrotrin	16 th November	7.30 am to 12 noon
Round 2	Tobago – venue tbc	25 th November	7.30 am to 12 noon
Round 3	North – UWI Institute of Critical Thinking, St Augustine	13 th January	7.30 am to 12 noon
Round 4	Central – Rudranath Capildeo Learning Resource Centre, Couva	3 rd February	7.30 am to 12 noon
Round 5	East - UWI Institute of Critical Thinking, St Augustine	10 th March	9.00 am to 1:30pm
Final / Prizegiving	Hilton Trinidad	Saturday 10 th April	10 am to 3 pm

Please confirm with the AS which round your school is scheduled to participate in.

THE TEAMS: PREPARATION

Each team will:

1. **Select four (4) team members** and provide the AS with the following:
 - a. Name
 - b. Age
2. **Submit a Position Paper** to the AS on the issue of productivity from its assigned perspective two (2) weeks prior to the date of their Forum. This must include the following:
 - a. An overview of its perspective.
 - b. Itemized key supporting points that the team plans to make.
 - c. Major references or sources of information.
 - d. The purpose of the Position Paper is to give the judges and the moderator an overview of the team's intended position. It is not expected that this will be their final position as teams are free to make changes as they continue to prepare for their Forum.
 - e. The AS will collate and distribute the Position Papers to the Judges.
3. **Prepare the following:**
 - a. **Ten-minute Opening Statement.** (this can be adapted from your position paper)
 - b. Points to be made as members of all teams participate in a 90-minute free-flowing moderated discussion.
 - c. **Four-minute Final Position Statement** on their perspective – this may be changed during the course of the discussion as teams respond to, and learn from, each other.
4. **Prepare its members for the following roles. Note that each team must comprise a maximum of 4 members and all team members are expected to participate:**
 - a. One Scribe
 - b. One Researcher
 - c. Two (2) Speakers (please note that whilst all team members are welcome to speak during the Forum, we recommend 2 individuals be given this primary responsibility)
5. **The Opening Statement** may be a presentation i.e. illustrated talk or demonstration. All references to the term "presentation" in these rules include either demonstration or illustrated talk. A demonstration is defined as a creative representation that illustrates the perspective e.g. a dramatization. An illustrated talk is defined as a presentation of an idea or topic that uses visual aids to convey the message.

AMCHAM NATIONAL YOUTH PRODUCTIVITY FORUM – RULES AND RESOURCES

Both presentation forms are acceptable and will be evaluated equally, In both forms visual aids may be utilized to help convey the major points of the presentation Visual aids may include but are not limited to: handouts, posters, props, videos, slides, and computer generated media (PowerPoint, websites, etc.).

Teams may use prepared notes. However excessive use of notes should be avoided as judges may deduct points.

7. **Teams must supply** their own props.
8. **Creative audio visual aids** may be used but the teams must be involved in making or designing them.
9. **Teams must adhere strictly** to the time rules. Three points will be deducted from the total score on each judge's score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) over 10 minutes.
10. **No coaching** from teachers or audience will be permitted during the presentation/forum.
11. **Teams may use** video recorders to film the forum. However this must be done from the sidelines and not distract the discussion. It is the responsibility of the team to provide all necessary recording equipment.
12. **Each team is required** to present a copy of its presentation slides, handouts etc to the judges on the morning of the Forum prior to the Call to Order.
13. **Each team must arrive** at the Forum venue no less than 30 minutes before the stated start time and must be ready to start by 7:45 a.m.
14. **Time signals will be shown** to the presenters and judges.

DRESS CODE

All students are required to wear their school uniform. If there is no school uniform, business attire may be worn provided it is appropriate and conservative.

No student will be allowed into the Forums wearing the following:

- Tight or revealing clothing
- Sandals or slippers
- Sleeveless shirts or t-shirts
- Skirts above the knee

AMCHAM reserves the right to refuse entry to any students dressed inappropriately.

OBSERVERS AND GUESTS

Each team / school is allowed to invite twenty (20) observers to witness their round of the Forum and the Final. This may include students, parents and teachers. All observers are expected to observe rules of decency and etiquette during the Forum, which includes not heckling other team members and dressing appropriately

National Youth Productivity Forum 2009/2010 Draft MODEL Agenda

9:00-10:00	Breakfast
10:00	Security Briefing
10:03	National Anthem
10:06	Welcome: AmCham President
10:08	Welcome: Dr. Tewarie
10:10	Feature Address: Minister of Education
10:20	Call to Order - Moderator
10:20- 10:30	Civil Society Opening Statement - COSTAATT
10:30-10:40	Business Opening Statement – UWI Management Studies
10:40-10:50	Labour Opening Statement – Cipriani Labour College
10:50- 11:00	Government Opening Statement – UWI Government Studies
11:00-11:45	Discussion
11:45-12:30	Break and Preparation of Closing Statements
12:30-12:34	Civil Society Closing Statement
12:34-12:38	Business Closing Statement
12:38-12:42	Labour Closing Statement
12:42-12:46	Government Closing Statement
12:46-1:01	Judges Feedback
1.01 – 1.16	Presentation of Certificates
1.16	Vote of Thanks and Close

JUDGING

Five judges will score each team independently and assign scores. Judges may confer and discuss their evaluations. Each score sheet is then submitted to AMCHAM and the scores are aggregated (not averaged). The scores are tabulated by AMCHAM and the top scoring team in each perspective is determined. The four teams declared the winners will proceed to the final round.

The judges will allocate points on the score cards in the following categories:

a. CONTENT	50 points
<input type="checkbox"/> Opening Statement	20 points
<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	20 points
<input type="checkbox"/> Final Position Statements	10 points

Judges shall consider whether the team:

- Lays a solid foundation for the perspective being represented
- Demonstrates organization of thought – logical, coherent, cogent
- Makes strong, well-established, credible points
- Adheres to time
- Demonstrates critical and creative thinking
- Maintains relevance to perspective and theme throughout
- Supports arguments with accurate facts and information
- States/credits sources of information
- Handles questions and challenges positively and effectively
- Listens actively and with empathy
- Maintains objectivity throughout the forum
- Maintains respectful dialogue
- Summarizes previous discussion appropriately
- Summary covers key points

b. PRESENTATION/DELIVERY & DIALOGUE STYLE	50 points
<input type="checkbox"/> Opening Statement	20 points
<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion on each perspective	20 points
<input type="checkbox"/> Final Position Statements	10 points

Judges shall consider the team members:

- Impact on audience
- Grooming
- Eye contact with audience and other presenters
- Speed – too fast or too slow
- Verbal tone and voice control
- Volume
- Pronunciation
- Vocabulary
- Use of Notes
- Within time limit
- Effective pacing of argument
- Use of aids and props
- Audience engagement
- Non-verbal messages
- Distractions
- Active Listening
- Objectivity
- Display of enthusiasm and enjoyment

c. DISCRETIONARY POINTS	50 points
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Judges may award discretionary points based on demonstration or inclusion of new ideas or theories learnt during the Forum, team-work or the ability to think on your feet.

TOTAL POINTS	150 points
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EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES

Each team will be provided with the following:

- Laptop, with MS Office
- Multi-media access; wireless pointer
- Wireless internet access
- 1 flipchart and colored markers

Some Useful Websites and Resources:

- International Labor Organization: www.ilo.org
- World Bank: web.worldbank.org
- Singapore's Kallang Declaration, www.spring.gov.sg
- Daily newspapers
- World Economic Forum: weforum.org featuring the *12 Pillars of Economic Competitiveness*
- Global Competitiveness Report by Michael E. Porter, Harvard University and Klaus Schwab of the World Economic Forum
- National Productivity and Competitiveness Council of Mauritius, <http://www.obs-pascal.com/node/708>
- BBC World Forums aired on Sundays on television.

CONTACT

Please contact Melissa Pierre at the AMCHAM Secretariat with any questions:

American Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad & Tobago

62 Maraval Road, Newtown, Port of Spain

Tel: 622-4466/0340; 628-2508 ext. 227

Fax: 628-9428

Email: trade@amchamtt.com

Website: www.amchamtt.com