



National Youth Productivity Forum 2009-2010

The American Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad and Tobago (AmCham T&T) Trade and Investment Committee, in partnership with the Institute of Critical Thinking, UWI, is hosting its first National Youth Productivity Forum. This unique Forum will feature secondary school students from across the country discussing the theme, **“Towards a Productive Trinidad and Tobago- A roadmap for National Competitiveness.”**

This theme resonates with AmCham T&T whose primary goal is the enhancement of national competitiveness by aiding in identifying opportunities presented by globalization. Key to success in a global environment is productivity and its AmCham T&T’s intent to educate young people about its critical importance for sustainable national competitiveness. Recently we’ve seen T&T slip in international competitiveness and productivity ranking from #84 in 2007-2008 to #92 for 2008-2009. Additionally, the U.W.I Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business reported that T&T placed 92nd out of 134 countries sampled in the Global Competitiveness Report 2008/2009. AmCham T&T is very disappointed by this trend which threatens economic progress for T&T in the international arena and for the improved quality of life for our citizens.

It is against this backdrop that AmCham T&T and the Institute of Critical Thinking, UWI, is hosting the Youth Forum. This Forum will challenge the youth of our nation to promote and develop improved consciousness of the value of leading productive lives, resulting in increased personal responsibility at school, home and work.

All secondary schools in Trinidad and Tobago were invited to participate, with twenty selected on a first come first served basis, to participate in five zone Forums - North, South, East, Central and Tobago. At each round a school shall represent the perspective of Government, private sector, Civil Society and labour. After five rounds, four outstanding teams will be selected to participate in a final, to be held on April 10th 2010, and at which they shall develop a position paper to present to the Government of T&T with recommendations on how each component of society contributes to enhanced productivity and sustainable national competitiveness.

The Forum launches with a *training discussion* featuring undergraduates from UWI, COSTATT and Ciprani Labour College demonstrating the techniques to the prospective schools on October 21st 2009 at the Institute of Critical Thinking, UWI.

Key to the success of this Forum is the critical thinking training workshops being facilitated by Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie, Director of the Institute of Critical Thinking and support staff at the Institute of Critical Thinking. This innovative training will enable delegates to critically analyze the multi-dimensional issue of productivity, and has been extended to the principals of the participating schools and District School Supervisors. The training schedule is:

- *Trinidad* teacher, principal and supervisor workshop: 04-05th September
- *Trinidad* student workshop: 15th September
- *Tobago* teachers, principal and school supervisor workshop: 17th September
- *Tobago* student workshop: 18th September.