

Petrotrin gets BIT Distinguished Award

Petrotrin was recently recognized at President's House with the top award for its major role in building the industrial capability of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Petrotrin earned this award via its key role in the development of the 100-year-old apprenticeship system in Trinidad and Tobago. The apprenticeship system dates as far back as 1906 where Ordinance No. 14 of 1906 established a Board of Industrial Training (BIT). At that time, the dominant sectors of the economy, petroleum and sugar, required a sustainable pool of skilled labor.

The predecessor companies of Petrotrin played a major role in facilitating this industrial apprenticeship system to satisfy the manpower needs of the then economy. This system has been a key driver of the development of the industrial sector during the post World War II era.

The Board of Industrial Training and the National Training Agency (NTA) were hosted by His Excellency President George Maxwell Richards and Lady Richards at President's House in May to celebrate the centenary of the BIT. Distinguished members of industry, government, education and business inter-alia attended the ceremony.

The ceremony recognized major players in marking the milestone year 2006 as 100 years of industrial



Professor Clement Imbert presents award to Manager Organization Effectiveness (Ag.) Ms. Corrine Brown.

apprenticeship in Trinidad and Tobago. Other organizations recognized include T&TEC, WASA and Caroni 1975 Limited.

Professor Kenneth Julien, Chairman, The University of Trinidad and Tobago, delivered the feature address. Professor Julien emphasized the need for

continued structured and substantial investment in our nation's human resource capability. He reminded the distinguished audience that our hydrocarbon reserves are less than 1% of world reserves and our sustainability depends on building our knowledge and skills base.

Our Manager, Organisation Effectiveness, Ag, Ms. Corrine Brown, accepted the award on behalf of Petrotrin. Professor Clement Imbert, Chairman of MIC, presented the award to Ms. Brown.

Petrotrin today is working to build its capability and develop a near pool of skilled manpower. Ms. Brown, in her role as Manager, Organisation Effectiveness, Ag., is leading a number of projects based on these objectives.

The Ministry of Science, Technology & Tertiary Education now has responsibility for the governance of post secondary and tertiary education and training, including vocational training and apprenticeship.

Petrotrin has also been supporting some of these initiatives in order to assist in building our nation's human resource capability to move us to developed nation status.

SIS Awards Petrotrin

Petrotrin and a number of other organizations were formally recognized for their efforts to promote Spanish as the first foreign language of Trinidad and Tobago at the first anniversary function of the Secretariat for the Implementation of Spanish (SIS), held at the Kapok Hotel on October 20.

Petrotrin received an award for the Corporate entity that contributed the most to the immersion of Spanish in Trinidad and Tobago. Business Analyst Carlene Jubraj accepted the award on behalf of Petrotrin.

"This award was based on our Business Spanish program, which commenced in April 2006, as well as on our hosting of the SIS Seminar at Petrotrin in December 2005," Jubraj stated. "I was very happy to receive the award on behalf of Petrotrin because the efforts made to immerse this Company in Spanish are commendable."

Petrotrin, in conjunction with the SIS, hosted a Cultural Awareness Seminar, which featured presentations by the embassies of Venezuela, Mexico and Guatemala, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Trade and Industry in December 2005. This seminar was aimed at including the southern business community in its drive towards the development of a Trinidad and Tobago no longer hindered from international trade by language and cultural barriers. The company also took another step in playing a large part of the country's development and officially launched its Business Spanish Programme on April 18.

"The commencement of the Spanish classes created a sense of excitement among employees," Jubraj noted. "Presently, the demand for classes is tremendous. I believe this program will really assist Petrotrin in doing business with Latin American companies in the future."