

WHO WE ARE

The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) was established by Chapter 39:06 as the principal body in Trinidad and Tobago for conducting and advising on the accreditation and recognition of post-secondary and tertiary education institutions, programmes and awards, whether local or foreign, and for the promotion of quality and standards for post-secondary and tertiary education and training in Trinidad and Tobago.

WHAT WE DO

- Registration of higher education institutions
- Accreditation of institutions and programmes
- Recognition of foreign qualifications and awards
- Conferment of institutional titles
- Institutional development
- Programme approval

For a full list of our functions you can find a copy of our Act at www.actt.org.tt

WHERE WE ARE LOCATED

TRINIDAD
Level 3, Building B
ALGICO Plaza
91-93 St. Vincent Street
Port-of-Spain
Tel: (868) 623-2500/5282/8389
Fax: (868) 624-5711
Email: customerservice@actt.org.tt

TOBAGO
Pigeon Point Road
Crown Point
Tel/Fax: (868) 639-1333
Email: customerservice@actt.org.tt

Quality Assurance Month makes its mark on Tertiary Education



From L to R: Michael Bradshaw, Executive Director (Ag.), ACTT; Eduardo Ali, Chairman, Caribbean Agency for Higher Education Development; Curtis Floyd, Director, Accreditation and Quality Enhancement (Ag.) ACTT; Gillian Lucky, Attorney-at-Law; Dr. Peter Bhaggan, Treasurer, The Medical Board of Trinidad and Tobago; Janet Peters, Attorney-at-Law, Dr. Ruby Alleyne, Vice President Quality Assurance and Institutional Advancement, University of Trinidad and Tobago; Dr. Ronald Brunton, Director, Qualifications and Recognition, ACTT.

In November 2010, the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) hosted a series of events that sought to encourage institutions to enhance and improve their quality practices which would promote innovation and the development of specialised skills. The theme for the month of activities, 'Stimulating our Knowledge Economy by Engendering Global Competitiveness in Higher Education', aptly described the initiatives undertaken by ACTT to create greater awareness of the need for quality tertiary education in Trinidad and Tobago.

Events included Community Outreach Programmes, where staff of ACTT visited remote local secondary schools to speak to students on the importance of making informed decisions about tertiary education. During the month, ACTT continued its drive to educate its stakeholders and to ensure a wider audience had access to crucial information, ACTT hosted public displays at NALIS libraries, Brian Lara Promenade, Harris Promenade and Tobago Esplanade. ACTT also distributed its Quality Assurance Month Supplement to various secondary schools which could not attend the public displays, so that they can be accessed by students through their

school libraries.

As part of ACTT's commitment to stimulating the knowledge economy, ACTT hosted a Panel Discussion/Public Lecture in collaboration with the University of The West Indies including Panelists include Ms. Gillian Lucky, Attorney-at-Law; Mr. Eduardo Ali, Chairman Caribbean Agency for Higher Education Development; Dr. Peter Bhaggan, Treasurer, The Medical Board of Trinidad and Tobago, Ms. Janet Peters, Attorney-at-Law. The panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Ruby S. Alleyne, Vice-President Quality Assurance & Institutional Advancement, UTT. Each panelist spoke on the theme "Quality Assurance the Law and You!" This discussion proved fruitful as both panelists and members of the



Majka Drewitz, Research and Knowledge Management Evaluator and Senior Evaluator, Credential Evaluators Inc., USA

audience freely shared their views on the theme. Ms. Lucky spoke passionately to students on their role in ensuring that they are provided with quality tertiary education and also reminded them of the importance of their education and of attending their classes regularly.

Quality Assurance Month also brought with it the much anticipated Credential Fraud Workshop which was held in collaboration with the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business and Educational Credential Evaluators Inc., USA. This workshop focussed on techniques and tools used to detect counterfeit certificates, fraudulent credentials and institutions (diploma mills) and curriculum vitae misrepresentation. The training targeted Permanent Secretaries and Human Resource Directors in the Public Service, as well as Managers of Governmental Statutory Bodies.

Quality Assurance Month culminated in a Closing Ceremony and Dinner hosted by the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago at the Port of Spain Ballroom, HYATT Regency Trinidad. The feature address was delivered by Professor George Maxwell Richards, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. He defined quality as fitness for purpose, questioning whether or not quality in higher education can be measured. He continued that "when it comes to auditing quality, it is the university as a professional factory, as graduate mill, as research institute, as an efficient effective instrument for socialising the talented, that governments generally want to evaluate and reward." Remarks were also given by the Minister of Science Technology and Tertiary Education, Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim, the Chairman and Executive Director of the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago. At this ceremony Dr. Ethley London, Executive Director of the University Council of Jamaica received the Excellence in Higher Education Award 2010.

Quality Assurance Month fulfilled its mandate to engage all of ACTT's stakeholders. The month also helped to promote the importance of making informed decisions about tertiary education.

ACTT hosts the 7th Annual CANQATE Conference and Meeting 2010

The Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education (CANQATE) in collaboration with the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) hosted the 7th Annual International CANQATE Conference and Meeting at the National Academy for the Performing Arts (NAPA) in Trinidad and Tobago.

The theme of the conference was 'Continuously Enhancing the Quality of Higher Education for Global Competitiveness'. Participants presented their academic writings to peers and generated discussion on topics related to the conference's overall theme, as well as other topics on quality assurance related to tertiary education.

The Pre-Conference Workshop was facilitated by Dr. David A. Wissman, who lectured on the theme 'Effective Governance and Administration at Higher Education Institutions'. Another feature of the conference were the institutional workshops held by Dr. Sandra Gift- and Dr. Ruby Alleyne, who expanded on 'After Self Study, What Next?' and 'Big Quality for Small Institution' respectively. These two workshops were instrumental in preparing institutions to take an internal look at their procedures with a view to improving their modus operandi.

The Conference ended with the much anticipated Student Forum which was attended by both secondary and tertiary Students across Trinidad and Tobago. This forum was the first of its kind for CANQATE and focussed on 'What



Carol Keller, Hillan Morean, Professor Bhoendradatt Tewarie, Dr. Nasser Mustapha – Panelists at the Student Forum, 7th Annual International CANQATE Conference and Meeting 2010.

Role Should the State Play in Determining the Direction of Education?' and 'The Role of students in Decision Making in Higher Education Institutions?' These themes were discussed by professionals in the fields of education. Panelists included quality assurance practitioners, as well as student body presidents. The conference was filled with thought-provoking presentations that will influence innovation in quality assurance for tertiary education in the Caribbean region.



Jeremy Williams, Quality Assurance Officer, UTT at the 7th Annual International CANQATE Conference and Meeting 2010.

As host organisation, the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago also organised special events for regional and international participants to enjoy the flavours of Trinidad and Tobago. The Opening Cocktail Reception was hosted in collaboration with the University of the West Indies and set the tone for the rest of the Conference. ACTT also assisted in the organisation of a cultural show in conjunction with the Ministry of Arts and Multiculturalism, showcasing local talent with performers such as Terry Seales, Roderick "Chucky" Gordon and the nationally acclaimed parang band Los Alumnos de San Juan. These events helped to foster networking amongst participants and provided an opportunity for them to share their experiences of the conference.



Marcia Commissiong- Manager, Quality Assurance UTT presenting at the 7th Annual International CANQATE Conference and Meeting 2010.



Ethley London, Executive Director University Council of Jamaica (UCJ) is presented the Excellence in Higher Education Award by President George Maxwell Richards.

ACTT ... The Gatekeepers of Tertiary Education

During the last quarter of 2010 the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago participated in several career and tertiary fairs. These fairs continue to position ACTT as the governing body for the assurance of quality post-secondary and tertiary education locally, regionally and internationally. It also assisted in informing students of ACTT's role and the services offered. Among the fairs at which ACTT was present were the National Week hosted by the National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS), The National Skills and Entrepreneurial Expo hosted by the National Training Agency (NTA), and the US Embassy College Fair.

ACTT also embarked on a Community Outreach Programme where staff visited rural areas around Trinidad speaking to students on the importance of making informed decisions about tertiary education. Matelot, Toco, and Pt Fortin were the communities visited within this month.

Students at these schools were also able to ask questions pertaining to tertiary education, the registration and accreditation status of local institutions.

ACTT plans to extend the Community Outreach Programme beyond November 2010 into the year 2011 with visits to secondary schools around Trinidad and Tobago.



Director of Accreditation and Quality Enhancement (Ag.) Curtis Floyd explains the importance of attending a registered institution to the students of the Toco Composite High School.

ACTT seeks to accredit two institutions



Michael Bradshaw- Executive Director (Ag.) The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) shakes the hand of Oliver Flax- Senior Vice President, Integration, Communication & Outreach, The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT); looking on Dr. Ruby Alleyne Vice President -Quality Assurance & Institutional Advancement (UIT); Professor Michael Gray-Interim Provost (UIT) Curtis Floyd-Director of Accreditation and Quality Enhancement (Ag.) (ACTT) and Simone Primus-Manager Registration (Ag.) (ACTT).

The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago organised site visits to two of Trinidad and Tobago's larger public institutions. These site visits were in keeping with ACTT's processes for institutional accreditation. The College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT) and the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) were the first and second institutions respectively to go through the accreditation process.

The combined team of local and international External Evaluators, led by Team Chair Professor Joshua L. Smith- Emeritus Professor of Higher Education; School of Education, New York University, visited the eight campuses of the College of Science Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT) during November 15-18 2010. Students and other stakeholders were interviewed and the different aspects of college were examined in order to compile a comprehensive report. Other members of the team included Dr. Ben Corpous- Baruch College City University of New York (CUNY), Professor Jeanette Morris- University of Trinidad

and Tobago, Dr. Jean Grayson -Registered Nurse and Licensed Mid-wife and Ms. Claudia Drakes- Former Manager of Academic Administration and Student Affairs at Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business.

The University of Trinidad and Tobago underwent a similar process December 12-16, 2010 in which a team of local and international External Evaluators led by Team Chair Dr. John Randall, Former Chief Executive of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education in the United Kingdom, visited the nine campuses of the institution. The team was also treated to a tour of the Main Campus in Tamana which is under construction. Also in attendance at this accreditation site visit were Dr. Frederick Emshousen – Purdue University, Dr. Robertine Chaderton – Head of the St. Kitts Accreditation Body and Mr. Carol Keller – UWI

ACTT representatives also served as part of both teams. Mr. Michael Bradshaw, Executive Director (Ag), Mr. Curtis Floyd Director of Accreditation and Quality Enhancement (Ag.), and Ms. Simone Primus, Manager, Registration were present at all site visits.

ACTT

ACTT END OF YEAR FUNCTION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

On Friday December 17, 2010 The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago celebrated its employees' dedication and commitment to quality in higher education with a Staff Appreciation and Awards Luncheon at the HYATT Regency. Members of staff and guests were treated to the sweet renditions from the National Parang Association Champions, Los Alumnos de San Juan.

Dr. Michael Dowlath, newly appointed Chairman of the Board of Directors of ACTT, brought greetings on behalf of the Board, stressing on the importance of working together as a family and praised staff for their accomplishments over the years. Mrs. Angela Sinawsee-Gervais brought remarks on behalf of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education and encouraged staff members to remain dedicated in their mandate of assuring quality to higher education. Mr. Michael Bradshaw, Executive Director (Ag) – ACTT gave an in-depth look into the achievements of ACTT during the past year. The highlight of the function was certainly the presentation of awards. Awards were presented to staff in the categories of Employees' Choice, Long Service, Executive Director's and Board of Directors' Leadership Award. The Employees' Choice awards were won by Mr. Rodney Julien, Office Assistant/Courier, Ms. Marsha McKay and Ms. Alice Dain, Operations Assistants and Ms. Yasmin Mohammed, Assessment Officer.

The Long Service Awards were presented to staff who has five years continuous service. Recipients included Mr. Michael Bradshaw, Ms. Nikeisha Brathwaite, Dr. Ronald Brunton, Mrs. Brenda Chin, Ms. Crista Daniel, Ms. Sharon Delochan, Ms. Kimberly Edwards, Mr. Curtis Floyd, Ms. Kareema Hosein, Ms. Kereen McPherson, Mrs. Jane Murray, Ms. Josette Rodney and Ms. Esther Ward. Ms. Cassandra Mano, Research Assistant and Mrs. Kareema Hosein, Senior Operations Assistant (Accounts), were recipients of the Executive Director's Award for their dedication to quality customer service to all of ACTT's clients.

ACTT's Board of Director's Leadership Award was awarded to Ms. Karel Stephen, for her outstanding work and leadership as Corporate Communications Specialist in the Corporate Communications Department.



Recipients of ACTT's Long Service Award with Chairman of the Board of Directors Dr. Michael Dowlath.



Karel Stephen recipient of the ACTT's Board of Directors Award with Dr. Michael Dowlath Chairman of the Board and Michael Bradshaw Executive Director (Ag.).



Kassandra Mano and Kareema Hosein recipients of ACTT's Executive Director Award with the Chairman of the Board Dr. Michael Dowlath and Michael Bradshaw Executive Director (Ag.).



Rodney Julien, Yasmin Mohammed, Alice Dain and Marsha McKay recipients of ACTT's Employees' Choice Award with the Chairman of the Board Dr. Michael Dowlath and Michael Bradshaw Executive Director (Ag.).