

Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Tenth Annual Conference of the INGP Sheraton Hotel, Asuncion, Paraguay

This year, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is unable to send a representative to the Tenth Annual Conference of the INGP held in Asuncion, Paraguay.

Due to other pressing official matters, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and the Economy would like to send regrets for not sending the Procurement Specialist but would like to send warm greetings and best wishes for a successful 10th Annual conference in Asuncion, Paraguay.

The Director of Contracts of the Central Tenders Board, Ms. Indrani Rampersad has proceeded on retirement leave.

However, Trinidad and Tobago made huge strides recently in the field of procurement. Namely:

- Registration of Contractors-Online
- Publication of Tender Notices Online
- Corporate Governance Seminar
- Regional Public Procurement Conference
- Internal Training
- Facilitation
- Assistance to Consultant

Registration of Contractors-Online

This module enables online submission and registration of companies and businesses with

Central Tenders Board (CTB). Any local and overseas company who intends to bid for government tenders have to register with Central Tenders Board. (Central Tenders Board Act, Chap 71:91).

Publication of Tender Notices Online

All awards of Contracts, the projects, the sum of the contract and the client Ministry/ Department are also published on website: www.finance.gov.tt

Corporate Governance Seminar: Promoting Effective State Enterprise Management

On April 14th 2014, the Investments Division of the Ministry of Finance and the Economy held a Corporate Governance Seminar entitled “Promoting Effective State Enterprise Management”.

The Honourable Minister of Finance and the Economy, Larry Howai, Corporation Sole was the feature speaker at this event. In his address, he impressed upon the members of the State Boards, the need to treat their position with respect, whilst safeguarding the resources entrusted to them. He urged the members to ensure the decisions taken in executing their duties are justifiable and capable of withstanding public scrutiny.

Minster Howai emphasized the requirements of the Companies Act which demands that “Every director and officer of a company shall be in exercising his/her duties-

- i. Act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the company; and
- ii. Exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonable prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances.

These opening remarks were further enhanced by Mr. Ronnie Bissessar, Attorney-at-Law, who equated the Director’s role with that of a Trustee and as such, a Director operates in the best interest of the shareholders who are the beneficiaries. He also drew reference to some of the key challenges that Boards and Management may face in executing their responsibilities and recommended ways to address these challenges. Similarly, the Chairman of the Integrity

Commission, Mr. Ken Gordon, presented on the meaning of Integrity in Public Life and suggested legislative amendments for enhancing the powers of the commission. These reforms are expected to aid in the promotion of effective State Enterprise Management.

Other distinguished presenters at this event included Mr. Kyle Rudden of the Caribbean Corporate Governance Institute and representatives of the Ministry of Finance and the Economy.





Another auspicious event was held.

Regional Public Procurement Conference

The Ministry of Finance and the Economy in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development Bank (IDB), the Organisation of the American States (OAS) the Inter-American Network on Government Procurement (INGP), hosted a Regional Conference on Public Procurement on June 23rd 2014 at the Hyatt Regency. The event themed “A Strategic Government Tool for Efficiency and Prosperity” provided a forum for local and international speakers on various aspects of Public Procurement pertaining to T&T and the wider Caribbean Region. The agenda for the day consisted of four sessions as follows:

- Challenges in implementing Procurement Reforms, Developing a legal and regulatory framework for Public Procurement
- Procurement Operations- Organising for an effective procurement system
- The case of Electronic Government Procurement

- Professionalization in Public Procurement-Effective use of policies, procedures and manuals.

Each session was presented by experts in the field of Public Procurement who shared their knowledge and experiences with representatives from various Government Ministries, Municipal Corporations and procurement officers from International Government bodies. Feature speakers included, Senator, the Honourable, Larry Howai-Minister of Finance and The Economy, Senator the Honourable Bhoendradatt Tewarie-Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development, Michelle Cross Fenty- IDB Country Representative for T&T, His Excellency Gérard La Tulippe- High Commissioner of Canada and His Excellency Riyad Insanally- OAS Representative in T&T. The event also included a 4-day Introductory Procurement Level 2 Certification course facilitated by the UNDP and was geared towards enhancing the skills of public servants in procurement functions.





Internal Training

This was done on a regular basis whereby training in public procurement is given to:

- Secretaries to secretaries of the Ministerial Tenders Committees.
- Secretaries and Clerk of the Municipal Tenders Committees
- Contract Officers who are newly appointed to the Central Tenders Board

Facilitation

The Central Tenders Board was also responsible for the facilitation of Consultants Humphrey and Armstrong from Analysys Mason on the Consultancy to conduct a Needs Assessment for the development of the IT platform and data management system for the CSME regime on Government Procurement.

Assistance to Consultant

A consultant from the UNDP is assisting the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in the implementation of the office of the Procurement Regulator.

The Director of Contracts of the Central Tenders Board participated in various meeting and provided information to Mrs. Christine Tomkin in her mission.

The Bill on Public Procurement has already been debated by both houses of the Parliament. The official status is that the Regulations are being prepared by the Law Revision Commission.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Indrani Rampersad

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