



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
Bringing people closer to the United Nations, and the United Nations closer to people

REPORT OF THE UNATT PRESIDENT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2019 FEBRUARY 16 SATURDAY
AT
JCI HEADQUARTERS
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REPORT OF THE UNATT PRESIDENT

To: General Assembly of the UNATT;
Date: 2019 February 16 Saturday;
Occasion: UNATT Annual General Meeting;
Venue: JCI Headquarters, 8 Melville Lane Port of Spain;

Introduction:

God day to everyone present at today's Annual General Meeting. It is my delight to present this report to you as we assemble to reflect on the past period and set our sights on securing a stronger futuristic position such that UNATT can truly meet the dreams and aspirations of our membership. I have no doubt that UNATT has a place in the fabric of our Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. And it is my desire that we would focus such that we can get closer to the fulfilment of our mandate of bringing the United Nations closer to People and People closer to the United Nations.

Governance:

At the last Annual General Meeting held on 2018 January 13 Saturday at the JCI Headquarters, a team of Officers were elected to lead UNATT for the ensuing period, viz:

President: Dr. James Armstrong;
Vice President: Tyrone J. Thomas;
Hon. Secretary: Wendy Mc Kenzie;
Asst. Secretary: Clayton Blackman;
Hon. Treasurer: Andrew Joseph;
Education Officer: Jerome Khan;
Pub. Rel. Officer: Marlene Mercedes Walker;
Exec. Com. Members: Irma Burkett / Carol Agard / Dr. Ana Romero;
Trustees: Grace Talma / Marie Abdullah / Carla Alonzo;
Imm. Past President: Ray M. S. Brathwaite;

Subsequent to the aforementioned, the Board realised that there were abnormalities which challenged the validity of the election process and thereby made the decision to nullify the said elections. As a result, a re-



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convened AGM was held on 2018 April 14 Saturday, here at JCI Headquarters and a new Board was elected as follows, viz:

President: Ray M.S. Brathwaite;
Vice President: Tyrone J. Thomas;
Imm. Past President: Elton A. Prescott;
Hon. Secretary: Wendy Mc Kenzie;
Asst. Secretary: Clayton Blackman;
Hon. Treasurer: Andrew Joseph;
Pub. Rel. Officer: Marlene Mercedes Walker;
Education Officer: Carol Joseph;
Trustees: Rhona Harris / Joy C. Brathwaite / Jerome Khan;
Exec. Com. Members: Dr. James Armstrong / Neil Russell / Marie Abdullah;

Exco Member Neil Russel has since resigned due to pressures of work.

Achievements for Period Under Review:

- 1) **World Environment Day 2018** – This was well organised by Vice President Tyrone J. Thomas and was held on 2018 June 09 Saturday. It took the form of a Bus tour to the remote district of Moruga and it involved tree-planting / visit to the Cocoa Museum / donation of clothing to the needee through the Moruga Poverty Reduction Centre / observation of the coastal erosion in Gran Chemin / visit to the famous spring bridge. Fulfilment of SDGs # 1; 2; 3; 4; 13. 15;
- 2) **UN International Youth Day 2018** – This was well organised by Vice President Tyrone J. Thomas and was held on 2018 August 10 Friday at the UWI Noor Hassanali Auditorium, Law School, St Augustine Campus. Fulfilment of SDGs # 3, 4, 5, 10;
- 3) **International Men's Day 2018** – This was held on 2018 November 20 Tuesday at the JCI Headquarters. The feature speaker was Rear Admiral Hayden Pritchard, Chief of Defence Staff. He was ably supported by presentations by Drs Oscar Noel Ocho and Robert Lee Moultrie. Fulfilment of SDGs 4, 5, 10; Complete video of the proceedings is available for members' perusal.
- 4) **UNATT Week 2018** – This very ambitious and inaugural project took place during 2018 October 20 -28. The project was ably led by Trustee Joy C. Brathwaite and all involved must be highly commended for their sterling support. Regrettably, due to local flooding conditions, the first



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event “Inter Faith Service” which was carded for October 20 had to be deferred. My wish is that we host same as soon as possible. Other notable events were (a) SDGs Schools Global Project at Queen’s Royal College and Signal Hill Secondary School. This involved strong support from the UNIC; (b) Spoken Word Competition organised by the Education Committee and held at the PoS City Hall Auditorium; (c) Recognition Awards Ceremony which took place at the PoS City Hall Auditorium. The Feature Address was done by the Executive Advisor to Her Excellency the President who was unavailable due to illness. Five (5) of our Past Presidents were recognized for their contribution for building UNATT and leading over the years since its humble beginning in 1996. We had a good turnout from the Diplomatic community; (d) Fun Run and SDGs Fair held at the Queen’s Park Savannah. This concluded the Week of Activities. Fulfilment of all SDGs #1-17. A comprehensive report will be made available shortly for the records of the membership;

- 5) **Membership** – For many years we had on our books over one hundred & twenty (120) members with on average of fourteen (14) active. We sought to clean up this list and realised that we were hard pressed to survive with the low level of active members for whatever reason. Delightfully we have had some returning members and new additions. We have an injection of new blood based on our new format of Potential Members Orientation Forum and thus far three (3) were held and we now have a stronger base from which to move forward. I am thankful for the past members who stuck it through and the new ones for you are the future. The membership listing now reflects fifty-four (54) members and there are approximately another sixteen (16) awaiting processing to full memberships.
- 6) **Courtesy Visits** – During this period we undertook courtesy visits to the (a) Her Excellency Ambassador of Costa Rica on 2018 November 08; (b) His Excellency Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on 2018 November 13; and (c) His Excellency Ambassador of Brazil on 2018 November 21;
- 7) **UWI IIR Diplomatic Discourses** – we receive regularly invitations from the UWI – Institute of International Relations at the St. Augustine Campus to participate in the Diplomatic Discourses which are highly recommended to all. Member Irma Burkett, Trustee Joy C. Brathwaite and I have attended same.



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- 8) **SDG Outreach** – Through the efforts of Trustee Joy C. Brathwaite, UNATT’s presence was felt in the region with workshops on the SDGs and the UN 2030 Agenda of “Leave No One Behind”. She visited Suriname, Grenada and Barbados;
- 9) **Fund Raising Projects** - We had two (2) fundraising activities planned and they are to come off later this year. They are (a) the traditional Brunch and (b) the Pan-Sitar-Jazz Fusion. This is a critical aspect of our ability to survive into the future. A special Planning Committee has been commissioned to look long term into our financial demands and to look at functional strategies to accomplishing same.
- 10) **Social Media Platforms** – UNATT has active accounts on FaceBook, Twitter and Instagram, thanks to our newer membership. Our What’s Up chat group is quite active. Through Twitter, I am in touch with UNAs and associates on a regular basis.
- 11) **WFUNA** -The World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) is a global non-profit corporate body working for a stronger and more effective United Nations. Established in 1946, WFUNA represents and coordinates a membership of over one hundred (100) United Nations Associations and its thousands of members. The Plenary Assembly is the Supreme Authority of the WFUNA and is held every three (3) years. It is responsible for setting and pursuing the core objectives and support for the United Nations. I attended the 42nd Plenary Assembly held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic during 2018 October 17-21. At that said session I was elected to serve as an Executive Officer for the 2018-2021 term of office. One aspect I plan to focus on, is to encourage the establishment of UNAs in this region for countries who do not now have UNAs and are chartered members of the United Nations such as Grenada; Barbados; St. Vincent; St. Lucia; Dominica; Antigua; St. Kitts; Bahamas; Belize; Guyana. A comprehensive report is available for your perusal.

Looking to the Future:

As we look into the future there are some matters, we ought to consider.

- **Model United Nations** – This is really the domain of the UNAs across the world. Our intent to focus on tertiary institutions will return this activity to its moorings.
- **WFUNA** – To align our activities to those that are championed by WFUNA;



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- **UNATT House** – critical to the management of our affairs including a secretariat that is the nerve centre of our operations;
- **Long-Term Planning Team** - to zero in on sources of financial assistance available to us which we are now not tapping;
- **Standing Committees** to become functional to harness the talents and skills of our members;
- **SDGs** acceleration to reach a wider population through schools and institutions;
- **Renewable Energy Exhibitions** at Shopping Malls and other opportunities which may present themselves;

Conclusion

I thank you most sincerely for the opportunity to serve as your President. We still have lots to do in the vineyard and with your continued support and assistance, I have no doubt we can achieve our greatest potential – together.

To our faithful members over the years my deepest appreciation. To our new members I pray that those activities we get engaged in will fill your expectations such that your association with us would be as lasting. For the souls of the departed members, may they Sleep in eternal Peace.

In conclusion, I believe in UNATT's relevance and I look forward to the day when we make the breakthrough as the NGO of choice.

Once again, I thank you.

My very best regards
Respectfully

Ray M.S. Brathwaite, Chartered CIPD; FCMI; FInstLM; FASI; MBA