

*Annual Report
of the National Executive of the
United Nations Association of Trinidad and Tobago,
December 2016*

This report covers the activities of UNATT for the calendar year ending 31st October, 2016.

Composition of National Executive

At the reconvened Annual General Meeting on 19th November, 2015 following the election of officers, the following persons constituted the National Executive:

President	Elton A. Prescott
Vice President	Ray Brathwaite
General Secretary	Rhona Harris
Treasurer	Andrew Joseph
Public Relations Officer	Irma Burkett
Assistant Secretary	Wendy Mc Kenzie
Education Officer	Dayne-Marc Chin Slick
Immediate Past President	Ruben McSween
Executive Members:	Mr Clayton Blackman – Trustee
	Mr Jerome Khan – Trustee
	Ms Grace Talma – Trustee
	Dr James Armstrong – Member
	Ms Marlene Walker –Member
	Mr Tyrone Thomas – Member

Mr Chin-Slick has since been posted as a Foreign Services Officer to the Trinidad and Tobago Embassy in Caracas and so no longer serves in the position of Education Officer. As has been the practice in the past, the National Executive sought to hold monthly meetings and, otherwise, to meet on occasions when special business or external constraints demanded an emergency meeting.

Strategic Planning Exercise

As a first priority in December 2015, the National Executive began a strategic planning exercise; a four year planning horizon representing long term strategic planning which is entirely feasible. Such a long term planning horizon would be translated into two two-year medium term planning horizons with an operational plan for the first two year cycle followed by a second operational plan for the second two year cycle.

The Strategic goals decided upon are as follows:

Strategic Goal 1: To increase financial efficiency and effectiveness over the period of five years

Strategic Goal 2: To improve and expand services to existing members and increase membership retention.

Goal 3: To increase operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Goal 4: To increase youth and millennial inclusion in UNATT

Goal 5: To enhance and build capacity of UNATT human potential and develop appropriate contacts

Core Activities

UNATT serves its members and the general public by providing information and highlighting the United Nations work and that of UN agencies, this being accomplished through the supply of literature, lectures, functions and projects.

In our continuing focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UNATT, in conjunction with the United Nations Information Centre for the Caribbean Area (UNIC), held a panel discussion on Saturday January 16, 2016 at the Audio Visual Room, National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS). The theme was "**An Agenda for Action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**". The panellists were Garvin Perry, Lecturer, UTT, representing Youth Forum on Climate Change and presenting a post-COP21 SDG vision, Amanda Laurence, National Information Officer, UNIC, UN review of Global Action on sustainable development in 2015. Wesley Gibbings, President, Association of Caribbean Media Workers was the Moderator.

World Environment Day 2016 Project: THEME: "Protection and Preservation of the Environment". On Sunday 5th June, 2016 (World Environment Day), UNATT, in order to participate in the United Nations observation, conducted a tour of North Coast bridges to observe, gather information concerning the fascinating and surrounding natural environment of selected locations in Trinidad and Tobago, with the view of making recommendations for improvement, putting forward and embarking on future projects, related to protection, conservation and preservation of the environment.

The bridges visited were: "Big Bridge" at Grande Riviere, Toco. Its origin remains a mystery, "Spring River" on the way to Matelot, and "The Foot-Bridge" located on Paria Road, Matelot, which was rebuilt in 2015.

UNATT also published an article on Renewable Energy Project in three newspapers on World Environment Day.

UNATT observed **International Youth Day** (August 12) on August 20, 2016 at the Audio Visual Room, NALIS with a Panel Discussion entitled "Youth in a Violent Society" - "Coping Mechanisms". The panellists were Ms. Trudy John, Ms. Joy Brathwaite, Mr. Wayne Chance, Mr. Stephan Ottley, Ms. Hanna Niamath and Mr. Birchard Wharton. Ms Grace Talma was the Moderator.

The Panellists' presentations were followed by break-out sessions with five group discussions centred on a selected area on:

Domestic Violence and the Abuse of Children

Drug Trafficking

Bullying in Schools

Crime Statistics in Trinidad and Tobago

The Impact of Social Media on Crime

This programme was taped by the Government Information Services Radio Unit.

Alternative and Renewable Energy Generation Project

The United Nations Development Programme, through its Global Environment Facility – Small Grants Programme, provided funding for a second project, conceived by UNATT, aimed at introducing and facilitating the use of alternative and renewable energy in schools and community groups.

The Project Management Team consists of Mr Ken Snaggs, Facilitator, Ms Lorraine Fanon, Project Manager and Ms Jynet Haynes-Mark, Project Officer, Knowledge Management/Communications.

The Team, with assistance from Smart Energy, installed solar panels in schools in Trinidad and Tobago and cell phone charging stations in various community facilities. They also trained facilitators who assist with the current education component of the programme.

Other

In May, the Treasurer and General Secretary presented His Excellency Mr. Gauri Shankar Gupta, High Commissioner of India with a farewell gift of an autographed copy of the book “Bridges of Trinidad and Tobago: Side to Side” by Danielle Delon.

The Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Ms Reita Toussaint addressed the membership at a meeting on September 10, 2016 on the Foreign Policy of Trinidad and Tobago.

The President appeared on C TV on October 12, 2016 to promote the Association on its 20th Anniversary and the Annual Fund Raising Brunch.

Anniversary Celebrations

UNATT celebrated its 20th Anniversary on October 16, 2016 with a Church Service at the All Saints Anglican Church, followed by breakfast at the All Saints Memorial Hall.

Annual Fund Raising Brunch

The Annual Fund Raising Brunch was held at the Trinidad and Tobago Hospitality Tourism Institute on October 23, 2016. Paintings donated by the former Indian High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr. Gauri Shankar Gupta, were auctioned at the Brunch.

Respectfully Submitted,

ELTON A. PRESCOTT S.C.
PRESIDENT