



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

SHELL/NIHERST – BIRD STRIKE AWARDS

(REMARKS)

Message By

Dr Peter Smith

Chief Education Officer - Ministry of Education

Tuesday 5th December, 2022

10:00am

SALUTATIONS:

- **Ms Hafsah Ali**, Production Manager, Upstream Assets, Shell Trinidad & Tobago Ltd.
- **Mr Ian Haywood Jr.**, Governor of the Board, NIHERST
- **Ms Marleen Lord-Lewis**, President, NIHERST
- **Ms Natasha Hosein-Baksh**, Director of Legal Services, Min. of Agriculture, Land & Fisheries
- **Mr Wayne Nakhid**, Deputy National Chief Digitalization Officer
- **Staff Members and Volunteers of Shell TTL**
- **Members of NIHERST Management Team**
- **Ms Nerisa Ali**, Agronomist, (Ag.) Research Div. Min of Agriculture, Land & Fisheries
- **Students of the Bird Strike Challenge**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good morning,

I gives me great pleasure to join with the *National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science, and Technology* (NIHERST) and *Shell Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Arts and Maths* (STREAM) in this partnership of great significance. The Shell STREAM project, for the last 5 years, has strived to be a microcosm of learning, creativity, innovation and duty to the environment. As we continue to make every effort to ensure the best future for Trinidad and Tobago, it is my hope that continued bilateral partnerships like these remain at the forefront of our country's drive for capacity building.

The Bird Strike Challenge is well positioned to tap into the expertise of young people, relying on them to help determine the needs of their local communities. Once we continue to ignite the innovative minds of our young people, this initiative will confidently create a ripple effect that will continue to build innovative communities of practice for adaptation.

The core disciplines of Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STREAM) fits squarely with the Ministry of Education's strategic goal of curriculum reform to support students in gaining 21st century technical skills and competences necessary for future occupations. Our focus must be to inspire our students to be leaders of innovative ideas such as these. By committing to this cause, this program would have helped facilitate the efficient expansion and diversification of our various sectors through greater economies of scale, critical and creative thinking, and responsiveness to the environment.

As we wait in anticipation for the distribution of prizes and special recognitions, one would hope that not only was this challenge a fun and engaging one, but an initiative that will also unlock a world of possibilities for every student here as they see careers in the energy sector as viable and rewarding choices.

Permit me here to thank Shell, in collaboration with NIHERST, for headlining this Bird Strike initiative. You have understood that in order to prepare our students as the future leaders of tomorrow, you must include science, technology and innovation as a vital part their foundation.

To the students who have submitted themselves to be a part of this important initiative, thank you for being shining examples of passion, artistic brilliance and team spirit. Yours is but a great work you have undertaken, and I employ all of you to keep up the great work.

Much appreciation is again extended to all the agents who made this launch possible today.

Thank you all and God Bless.