



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**TEACH ME: NATIONAL STUDENTS INNOVATION COMPETITION**

*(REMARKS)*

**Message By**

**Mr Aaron Ramrattan**

**Director of School Supervision**

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2023**

**10:00am**

## **SALUTATIONS:**

- **Mr Kurt Meyer**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education
- **Dr Andrew Hunte**, Chairman - NIHERST
- **Ms Marleen Lord-Lewis**, President - NIHERST
- **Mr Sheldon Henry**, Project Manager, Programmes and Projects Management Unit, Ministry of Education
- **Ms Lovaan Superville**, V.P. S&T (Ag.), NIHERST
- **Management and members of Staff of NIHERST**
- **Specially Invited Guests**
- **Principals, Teachers, Parents and Guardians**
- **Students**
- **Members of the Media**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good morning,

To foster creativity and innovation, it is essential to challenge and inspire students to think beyond the conventional boundaries. I am pleased to celebrate with you today at this year's edition of the *Teach Me: Teachers' Virtual Science Curriculum and Students' Innovative Competition*. The National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST), a state agency under the Ministry of Education, aspires to reach this important goal by means of optimising STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) proficiency amongst students and teachers.

The Ministry of Education understands that STEM education is crucial in today's world, where technology is advancing at an unprecedented pace. By encouraging students to think as if there is no box, **we can** equip them with the necessary tools to tackle complex problems and find innovative solutions. By encouraging students to explore their creativity and develop their skills, **we can** help shape the future of technology.

To achieve this, educators must also create an environment that fosters curiosity, experimentation, and critical thinking. By providing hands-on experiences and real-world applications, students can develop a deeper understanding of STEM concepts and their practical applications. The *Teachers' Virtual Science Curriculum* Competition helps meet this important need.

Permit me to note also that, coming out of the theme for International Women's Day yesterday – "DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality" this statement highlights the growing influence of women in the digital world and their potential to shape the future of technology. I am sure that our NIHERST President, Ms Marleen Lord-Lewis, can agree that as more women enter the technology industry, they bring diverse perspectives and innovative ideas that can drive progress and change. The phrase "the future is female and digital" captures the spirit of empowerment and progress that women are making in the digital age. It is a call to action for us to continue

supporting our women and girls to continue breaking barriers and making their mark in the tech industry.

All things considered, at the heart of this approach is a commitment to fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. By providing students with the tools and resources they need to pursue their ideas and turn them into reality, we can help them build the confidence and skills necessary to succeed in today's competitive marketplace.

Congratulations to all the students and teachers who have taken the time and effort to participate in this competition. Your dedication and hard work are truly commendable, and this deserves a lusty round of applause (**applause**). Your participation in this competition not only showcases your talent and innovative skills but also demonstrates your commitment to excellence. The Ministry of Education is here to support you in advocating for technology and innovation, offering our best wishes to you for the future.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the stakeholders who have contributed to making this initiative a reality today. Your unwavering support and dedication have been instrumental in bringing this very important project to fruition.

Through digital technology, we can unlock new possibilities and transform the way we live, work, and interact with the world around us. Let us seize this moment and embrace the future with open arms.

Thank you all and God bless.