

NOVEMBER 2006
Making a Difference.....



Appendix to the Diaspora report
of the
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
PROFESSIONALS NETWORK
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM
(TTPNUK)

Under the patronage of the High Commissioner for the
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago , London

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FOREWORD

This document supports as reference and appendix to the following documents:

- ***Diaspora Report - version ttpnuk Report - v1.0ttpnuk.doc***
- ***ttpnuk Report - Business Case - v1.0ttpnuk***

This Appendix has been received on 24 January 2007 by the High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, London Mrs. Glenda Morean Phillip on behalf of the following organisations:

- The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
- The Tobago House of Assembly
- The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Commerce

Comments on this Appendix should be sent to info@ttpnuk.com

Although Trinidad and Tobago citizens only began to migrate in significant numbers in the late 1960's, anecdotal evidence suggests that this country is (i) allowing its best citizens to leave, (ii) not attempting to attract scarce talent and (iii) simultaneously "allowing" access for unskilled migrants from anywhere.

The most recent data confirms that this country is a net exporter of people (Migration Report. Trinidad and Tobago. Central Statistical Office, 2005).

Strategic management of migration flows can facilitate more rapid economic development, but while policies to regulate the "brain drain" and illegal immigration need review, the inward migration initiatives of developed countries may prove helpful. It is well known that developed countries actively pursue inward migration, to meet their demand for scarce technical expertise that cannot be met by domestic training programmes.

Under the UK's Highly Skilled Migrant Programme work permits are not required; applicants are assessed on their qualifications, earning ability and experience. Recent criteria changes now make it easier for younger, skilled applicants to work in the UK.



Shouldn't the option of attracting scarce expertise also be available for Trinidad and Tobago?

Is it possible that T&T will be able to meet its human resource demands within the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)? The free movement of skills within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) seeks to eliminate the need for work permits. The free movement will be for specified terms and contracts, with the ultimate goal being free movement for all (skilled and unskilled).

The need for a more aggressive attempt at attracting scarce expertise to T&T derives partly from the "brain drain" (one third of the region's secondary and tertiary-educated population lives abroad-Lowell, B. Lindsay and Roberto Suro, 2002). The Caribbean has always been part of the global network of production and labour transfer. Yet while some mobility is obviously necessary if developing countries are to integrate into the global economy, a large outflow of skilled persons often represents a considerable deficit in scarce human resources, adversely affecting growth and development. When this loss is measured against the available pool of skills within individual Caribbean countries, the implications are considerable and highlight the urgency of developing an aggressive migration management policy.

The loss of highly skilled workers reduces human capital stock, slowing economic growth; renders the sending country less attractive to local and foreign investors and results in loss of dynamism, innovation and creativity since the young, the best and the brightest are most likely to relocate. There is also the substantial public cost associated with the lost investment in education and training.

Some of these economic losses may be offset if migrants remit funds to invest in their countries of origin and return with enhanced skills. The out-migration of skilled nationals may also be viewed as: an outlet for excess manpower; an inducement for more students in the skill-sending country to pursue higher education (resulting in a larger pool of skills) and a means of forging trade opportunities between sending and receiving countries. Economic development however cannot be built purely on relationships and remittances, as helpful as these undoubtedly are.

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The TTPNUK Board of Directors and Executive Committee is grateful to the Prime Minister, Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly, staff from various ministries and the Tobago House of Assembly, and private sector organisations for their unstinting support.

Since it is not possible to mention each and every person who helped, the TTPNUK Board of Directors and Executive Committee sincerely thanks all of them for their generous contribution.



PROPOSED MODEL FOR TTPNUK'S CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO:

The T&T Diaspora in the UK numbers approximately 30,000. TTPNUK has spent considerable time and thought researching strategies for improving T&T-Diaspora interaction. Early and complete approval of TTPNUK's recommendations is the quickest way to demonstrate that T&T is committed to engaging with the Diaspora in long-term, mutually beneficial interaction.

TTPNUK requests a time-bound consideration of the report and in-principle acceptance of its recommendations. This would convince the Diaspora of our seriousness and the high priority of this project.

HEALTH

- *Human Resources - ~The Department of Health will be able to identify and attract suitably qualified health care professionals through TTPNUK's Skills Database.*
- *Professionalism - TTPNUK will contribute to the continuing development of a 'Customer Care' programme for health care professionals, based on agreed local standards and code of conduct. A framework for sharing medical expertise with scientific organisations in both the UK and T&T, needs to be established.*
- *Monitoring and Measuring Care Standards – TTPNUK will contribute to the enhancements or development of a performance framework for measuring standards of care.*
- *Improving the Patient Experience – TTPNUK will assist in improving patient experience and ensuring modern and responsive service. Patients need information about their treatment, which should be administered with respect, ensuring patient-friendly care.*
- *Partnership: TTPNUK will support collaboration between health professional organizations in T&T and abroad, to provide sponsored opportunities for nationals to train abroad and observe specialized procedures. TTPNUK members can assist in knowledge transfer through the donation of medical journals, research papers and books to Nursing and Medical schools.*
- *TTPNUK and the Corporate Sector – would explore collaborating in setting up small, modern care facilities in rural areas, as well as modern-equipped hospitals and diagnostic centres to: (a) meet any local shortfall in private facilities (Tobago) (b) attract high-end*



clients from other countries (cf the Cuban model). Foreign Health professionals could be recruited to provide short-term specialist service in these health.

- *TTPNUK will work LIONS, YMCA and other voluntary bodies in organizing clinics, and organizing of free eye-camps, care for diabetics etc.*
- *TTPNUK would encourage the local corporate and public sectors to collaborate in the setting up of centres promoting traditional and herbal medicines and practices.*

Recommendations:

- *The Diaspora can contribute to the expansion and improvement of resource-intensive tertiary healthcare*
- *Private sector financial institutions should be encouraged to finance medical projects on preferential terms*

EDUCATION

TTPNUK can assist the Ministry of Education in strengthening links between UK education institutions and T&T, either in an advisory role, or by taking up opportunities in the following areas:

1. Gifted and Talented learning.
2. Facilitating formal contributions by UK Educationalists to the existing review of the National Curricula and education as a whole. The expertise of teachers with over 30 years UK experience should be harnessed.
3. Exploring means of supporting educational opportunities for under privileged sections of the community.
4. Setting up institutions and launching student vacation exchange programmes.
5. Support for launching courses through UK distance learning.
6. Facilitating senior T&T academics in UK universities who are extremely keen to contribute to the development of local education.
7. Supporting the promotion of UTT and academic and business partnerships with the university.
8. Creation of a databank of reputed T&T academics in the UK.



TTPNUK will be a facilitator in:

- **Alliances:** helping individuals and companies to form alliances to meet T&T's needs. Documenting and presenting the Diaspora's extensive skills and experience in T&T will create freelance consultancy opportunities and promote foreign-based T&T companies locally.
- **Encouraging Diaspora** firms to respond to RFI/RFP's issued in both sectors and also to form partnerships.
- **Having a fair chance to bid:** the problem of raising local professionals' skill levels will remain unless locals and returning residents are given a fair chance at bidding for opportunities. TTPNUK will encourage the creation of consortiums (comprising consultants, foreign/local companies) to bid for projects thus avoiding exclusion by rigorous tender documents designed to keep out smaller companies.

The key issues raised in Section 5 need to be addressed to leverage IT skills from the UK in areas of Public and Private Sector opportunities.

LEADERSHIP AND CHANGE WITHIN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS

Developed nation status implies recognition that: "public sector modernisation and state enterprise reform are global trends used to enhance and support good governance".

TTPNUK can assist T&T to achieve developed nations status by:

- a) Providing leadership in the following areas :
 1. A more service-driven Public Administration structure, with cost-effective delivery systems and social services.
 2. Encouraging a citizen-centred government, with structures and systems designed to support positive attitudes whilst leveraging officials' creative abilities.



3. Work with relevant officials to devise suitable KPI and SLA for the Public Administration Sector.
 4. Knowledge transfer for training:
 - i. Continuous on-the-job training and the development of information programmes, enabling staff and public to be keep abreast of global changes, especially in IT and other R&D areas.
 - ii. Better customer-service training to raise service standards, both within government departments interfacing with clients and the general public.
- b) Providing Management Change proposals covering :
1. More “transparency” – to have simple, comprehensive fact sheets and advice centres for the public.
 2. Effective recruitment by fair and open competition; dependent on qualifications and experience and not nepotism. Need to evaluate character and ethics in hiring, promoting and selecting high calibre employees.
 3. Ethics: operating as an ethical organisational culture, with a greater sense of compliance and awareness.
 4. The need to create strategies of ethical, effective and inclusive decision-making.
 5. Achieving greater representation of T&T’s concerns and interests by creating draft surveys for key public sectors, asking staff to identify what THEY consider to be (a) the key issues and (b) how THEY would like them to be addressed.

The onset of globalisation means that TTPNUK and other like-minded organisations will need to proactively and continuously liaise with the T&T government, to ensure that a revised Public Administration meets global requirements, without losing sight of its sovereignty and cultural uniqueness¹.

¹ See United Nations Programme in Public Administration & Development
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FINANCE - BUSINESS, COMMERCIAL AND PERSONAL

TTPNUK has a wealth of members in the Finance sector.

- Enterprise Development
- Management Accounting
- Tax and Business Advisory
- Actuarial
- Management and Consultancy
- Business Process Management
- Banking and Private Banking

Recommendations

- Remittance is a key factor in Diaspora/T&T relations. A T&T remittance company similar to NCB Jamaica will help reduce remittance costs.
- There is scope for providing financial products to the UK Diaspora in terms of
 - Banking – Current Account access via the web ; Credit Card use
 - Insurance
 - Mortgages to purchase property in T&T
 - Investment packages – Housing and Real Estate development, repatriation,
- As part of Public sector packages for the Diaspora, the Private sector could provide accompanying products eg: basic Public sector salary plus medical insurance, dental insurance offered by Clico.

ENERGY, NATIONAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

T&T's existing energy exploitation model is already recognised as world-class. Some argue that the State is doing all it can. Moving forward, the private sector will have to take greater responsibility for diversification and increased local participation.



Within our network we have members who work in the fields of Aberdeen, Norway and the UAE. There are also many T&T nationals holding senior positions in Europe with multinational energy companies operating in T&T.

TTPNUK can therefore leverage these connections to play a role in this diversification / participation process by:

- Facilitating repatriation of those who would like to return as employees.
- Facilitating repatriation of those who would like to return to start their own companies.

In this way, TTPNUK could serve as an intermediary between expatriate citizens, local private and public sector employers through its skills database. Alternatively, TTPNUK can link expatriate citizens with the right departments of commercial banks and state facilitators such as the BDC (Business Development Company).

LABOUR, URBAN DEVELOPMENT & TRANSPORT

TTPNUK can help T&T agencies connect with European consultancies or management-level personnel in:

- Water and waste water services – both global consulting firms (such as PA Consulting, E&Y, and KPMG) or utilities like Thames Water;
- Electricity – generation and distribution ;
- Postal services –private, public mail and package delivery and
- Information and Communications Technology (ICT) – aside from health, ICT is perhaps the largest segment of the TTPNUK network. It includes British Telecom professionals and mobile/cell phone providers. A valuable ready-made resource for T&T ICT providers as they prepare to offer European-type quadruple play solutions – digital television, broadband, land and mobile phone lines.
- In terms of urban transport TTPNUK can help create links with London Transport.

Obviously, these sectors are largely state monopolies and their challenges are well documented elsewhere. TTPNUK can add value by putting interested agencies in touch with European



counterparts. Given interest, TTPNUK can also establish links with transport providers (haulage and logistics firms; train, airline and shipping companies) and transportation consultants.

SPORT & YOUTH

Sport

A TTPNUK skills directory combined with scouts and trainers would provide a system to launch international sporting careers in the UK. TTPNUK can provide sports councils with access to such training courses as:

Coaching your sport

- How to Coach Disabled People in Sport
- Equity in your Coaching
- Good Practice & Child Protection

TTPNUK can also create partnerships with agencies supporting youth access to all sport.

Youth

TTPNUK acknowledges some youth support services have been doing their best to address critical Youth issues (increasing incidence of drug abuse and HIV/AIDS, crime, unwanted pregnancy).

TTPNUK can access successful UK strategies that link youth opportunities with crime prevention. Members have strong links with successful government initiatives, personal career support and



crime prevention organizations, from ground to management levels in embryonic, developmental and delivery stages.

TTPNUK will be able to advise and support in areas such as:

- Jobs, Training and Education
- Neighbourhood Action
- Family support
- Bullying
- Interventions with chronically violent young people
- Apprenticeship opportunities and other incentives
- Positive activities for Young People
- Young People's Databases

A multi-systematic and holistic approach is needed.

LAW & LEGAL AFFAIRS

TTPNUK has the potential to make a significant contribution to meeting a wide range of legal needs. As well as its own expertise it has access to UK-based legal experts from the Caribbean Diaspora as well as from the host nation.

T&T and the wider Caribbean has long been a rich source of legal talent for the UK.

A TTPNUK member recently participated as a judge in the prestigious Annual UK Lawyer Magazine Awards after being recognised as one of the UK's top 100 lawyers.



Some of the areas where TTPNUK can contribute include:

Policy Development & Implementation

TTPNUK has members who are senior UK qualified lawyers with extensive experience in public and constitutional law as it applies to central and local government. Also those with experience of developing primary and secondary legislation.

Legal Education & Training

TTPNUK has members with extensive experience in legal education and training;

Business

TTPNUK has members who are experts in business law; have advised and been employed in small, medium and large businesses and are experts in Company law, Employment Law, Finance, Property etc

Regulation, Probity and Standards

TTPNUK has members with extensive experience in regulatory activity; been employed by UK regulators and Ombudsmen and who can advise on recent developments in regulatory law, standards in public life, corporate governance and good practice.

Law Enforcement & Crime

TTPNUK has members with extensive experience of the practice and development of UK criminal law; advisers to central government, the police and prosecution authorities and those abreast of recent legal developments relating to anti-social behaviour, community safety, organised crime, recovering the proceeds of crime, money laundering, terrorism, immigration and asylum.

Even where a particular expertise is not available from TTPNUK membership it may be available via our links with other UK based lawyers from the Caribbean Diaspora or host nation.



TOURISM

TTPNUK will help promote destination T&T by:

- Incorporating into the network as many nationals as possible, who work in the European travel industry.
- Leveraging our collective knowledge, to provide Market Reports, to the Tourism Development Corporation (TDC).
- Acting as a collective base for marketing analysis to help reduce the effects of neglect of the Diaspora Market
- Promoting destination T&T within their network and at industry events.
- Being a volunteer force, ready and willing to assist the TDC as needed.

Our membership and wider Diaspora could also make a significant contribution to the growth of tourism and its promotion here in the UK.

Recommendations

- There is a pressing need for publicity. Cost-effective publicity can be made through display of T&T posters, publicity materials and video presentations in UK hotels lobbies and public areas.
- Special tour and second-generation Diaspora packages need to be developed and publicised. Increasing air seat capacity; reducing airfares and improving national carrier service, are other steps for immediate implementation.
- Suitable schemes need devising to attract members to establish motels and budget hotels/inns via investment clubs, either collectively or individually. Larger programmes of Diaspora related events should also be sponsored by the TDC.

As Barbados demonstrated with its London Barbados Expo in August, promoting a destination is not solely the Tourist Office's responsibility. All willing members of the Diaspora have a role to play. TTPNUK is ready to support more effective tourism road-shows and associated marketing efforts.



INVESTMENT, TRADE & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

In the UK there is a huge swing by second, third and even fourth generation T&T descendants toward 'home' and a willingness to develop strong links with T&T. The presence of 30,000 plus T&T nationals and their offspring in the UK is a valuable resource.

In London alone there are 10 or more highly-skilled pan sides, a number of world class Steelpan professionals, as well as educational programmes. There are websites, print magazines, developing European-wide programmes and joint ventures, with which TTPNUK has links. All this should be used to solidify T&T's place as the world's fount of knowledge of our national instrument.

TTPNUK, accessing the UK talent drawn from its database, can support the RNM on specific issues presently being negotiated.

The economic and political influence exercised by the Diaspora and its growing contribution to T&T's economic development has to be realised.

Recommendations

- **Better use of financial skills in the Diaspora:** it is recommended that expertise in the management, financial, corporate, trade and banking sectors available in TTPNUK and the wider Diaspora should be tapped for T&T's economic development. With a view to mutual benefit, policies for improving the business environment, need to be implemented. Similar policies have yielded enormous dividends in China, India and Australia.
- **Promotion of trade opportunities available to the Diaspora:** TTPNUK will help to disseminate information provided by the respective bodies in T&T.
- **Government support** for promoting T&T cuisine in the UK. The Diaspora can play a major role in influencing UK consumption and cuisine patterns. Identification of a growth consumption commodity by the Diaspora will be a key driver of growth exports.
- **Creation of a TTPNUK Credit Card:** government in collaboration with a private sector financial institution might consider issuing a local Credit Card for the Diaspora via TTPNUK. A token sum for each transaction made with the card could be credited to the account of selected national projects, creating a sense of identification with nation building efforts in the Diaspora.



- **Increase trade and investment marketing in the UK throughout the year:** This could be a joint public and private sector initiative, with the High Commission's Commerce section sponsoring smaller workshops with interested investors.
- **Encourage the Diaspora to support the increased focus on the Non-Energy sector:** by accessing contact support for the creation of higher value-added exports to penetrate new markets.
- **Encourage the Diaspora** to invest in T&T and facilitate expertise circulation and repatriation.
- **Focus on publishing more positive news:** can be helped by the joint efforts of public and private sectors without political bias. TTPNUK has already established a partnership with Caribbean media to publish more local news for the Diaspora's benefit. We intend to form a similar partnership with a UK broadsheet with a UK wide target audience.

The T&T presence in the UK has catalysed a demand for local goods and services (food, fashion, entertainment). Higher product profiling can be effected by promotion, advertisement and showcase events in the UK, with the support of government and the Chamber of Commerce. TTPNUK members employed by leading consultancies and multi-nationals, can facilitate and support our trade and investment initiatives. T&T professionals, traders and businessmen can also provide useful insights for market penetration strategies and use their networks for the entry of new products and services from home.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, DEVELOPMENT & CULTURE

TTPNUK's skills database can contribute towards the facilitation, creation, co-ordination, management and improvement of programme planning, thereby initiating or strengthening existing programmes.

TTPNUK can assist in the creation of links in the UK and T&T, to create, and implement programmes which support government's '*focus on the family as the main building block to fix society.*' There is also the responsibility to instill in all citizens, national pride, individual and community responsibility, as well as environmental sensitivity so as to design and deliver solutions.

Community Affairs and Development



TTPNUK membership can provide support to:

- National Family Day programmes
- Gender programmes
- Life Skills Development programmes – promotes community participation
- Motivation programme
-
- Gifted and Talented programme
- A purpose-designed experiential learning programme
- Sports Leaders Awards – Leadership skills

TTPNUK has the expertise necessary to facilitate relevant programmes in an advisory, consultancy, or permanent capacity.

Recommendations:

- To meet development challenges, effective support systems must be implemented for the unemployed and other vulnerable groups to meet their basic needs.
- Community Affairs, Culture and Development has a pivotal role in building and fostering a secure community (family life) through enduring individual and national values. A comprehensive and co-coordinated community approach is recommended to treat family issues. This approach must encompass community affairs programmes, as well as cultural development programmes.
- To support these initiatives TTPNUK recommends that the Public sector considers creating a 'Diaspora Volunteer Initiative Programme'.
- The Diaspora population, coming from the same culture but with developed nation expertise, skills and experience, now has the capacity to exert a far greater influence on the homeland than ever before.



Culture

The promotion of national pride by the Diaspora to the UK community

This is directly done through developing cultural awareness. It is widely recognized that aspects of Trinbagonian culture are dying out or being appropriated in the UK.

T&T Public sector support for the creation of community programmes throughout the Diaspora imparting cultural knowledge will help develop national pride.

In this way, TTPNUK will forge working relationships with individuals and organisations working to promote literature, film and cultural events. These would include: UK-based writers, film makers, pan-sides and organisations such as Poison UK and Busspepper Promotions. Again, the network can then be leveraged to assist members in initiatives that promise to promote T&T cultural products.

Throughout the UK, there are over 10 carnivals that have been inspired and influenced by T&T's carnival. The largest and oldest is London's Notting Hill Carnival, which generates over £93m to London's economy. Together with the other UK Carnivals, Notting Hill can offer T&T unparalleled opportunities for investment and development. The event is owned, controlled and managed by T&T nationals or sympathisers and access and favoured status are guaranteed.

The major opportunity for T&T is through a structured and sustained Skills Exchange programme. Dove-tailing with this would be the marketing and the accrediting of Carnival arts skills. Specifically, TTPNUK suggests it can add-value by facilitating:

- A more structured and regulated programme of two-way cultural and skills exchanges for all Carnival participants, including designers, mas makers, pannists, calypsonians, band leaders, arrangers, DJs, etc.
- Shared platforms for the champions of each artistic arena – Kings & Queens of Carnival, Soca Monarchs, etc.
- Together with the Accreditation Council of T&T and as part of the Community and Adult Education Programmes under the nation's Social Agenda, a range of Carnival skills can be offered as part of a modular credit framework. Successful completion can lead to a recognised qualification, enhance employment prospects and invest the learning with professional recognition.



- Joint accreditation and validation of these skills can be developed with UK-based validating agencies such as City & Guilds of London Institute or the Open College Network.

Joint Public and Private Sector support for cultural centres with substantial T&T presence should be expanded. Successful models for promoting cultural interaction, like the British Council and Alliance Francaise models should be appropriately adapted and emulated. Formal community programmes, in the UK and T&T can be designed for specific purposes including promoting:

- Our national instrument - the steel band
- Carnival – Origins of Carnival
- Fashion and its influences from Africa, India and the West Food
- Music – calypso, soca, chutney soca, rapso, jazz, Folk, Parang
- History of the African, Chinese, Indian and other Heritages of T&T– targeting both communities – to foster inter racial communication
- Our national heroes
- Art – batik, paintings, sculpture
- Drama, story telling
- Diwali, Pagua
- Spiritual Baptist Liberation Day
- Chinese Arrival Day
- African Arrival Day

Initiatives for establishing sister-city relationships should be supported especially in instances of French, English, Scottish, Irish or Welsh place names in T&T. A birthright programme assisting the younger generation of the T&T Diaspora to visit home and learn about their cultural roots should be established by the Public Sector.

The achievements of eminent cultural, literary and sports personalities of the UK Diaspora should also be recognized by public, private and educational organisations in T&T, providing role models for the youth and instilling national pride.



Most importantly, TTPNUK does not seek to compete with existing institutions, only to work synergistically with them where possible, to promote T&T.

INFORMATION SHARING , DISTRIBUTION AND COMMUNICATION

- TTPNUK will work together with the respective organisations to improve the following
 - Information accuracy, availability and media reporting
 - Widen issue reporting and information availability via UK media
 - Develop quality domestic TV for export: by forming partnerships with organisations which can leverage experience and skills

CONSULAR

1. Advice

TTPNUK, together with the consular service, will explore ways to extend support for nationals relocating to, or already living in the UK (contacts for arrival orientation and housing).

2. Website

TTPNUK recommends that a standard website be produced providing support/ advisory services for UK Diaspora and extended missions.

It is nearly a year since the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London website was launched. To date the website's presence and its purpose has become blurred by the lack of maintenance and the need for a complete re-design.

Moving forward, TTPNUK has provided a critique on the current website and a proposal for improvement.



A successful website is one that helps you meet your High Commission's goals!

Key Question: Do you want your website to help you support the High Commission's purpose?

Creating a successful website is a continuing process, requiring familiarity with current business and marketing processes and an effective design approach.

TTPNUK IT professionals identified eight requirements for creating a successful, effective High Commission website:

Alignment

- Clear Purpose
- Create Action
- Relationship Focused Content
- Consistent style
- Quality & Measurement:
- Dedicated Staff:
- Funding & Timetable

Hopefully this section clarifies what is needed to improve the High Commission's UK website and the global T&T consular website.

TTPNUK members can provide professional services at cost for this re-design, which is vital to restoring confidence both in the web site and the High Commission as a whole.



SUPPORT FOR DIASPORA

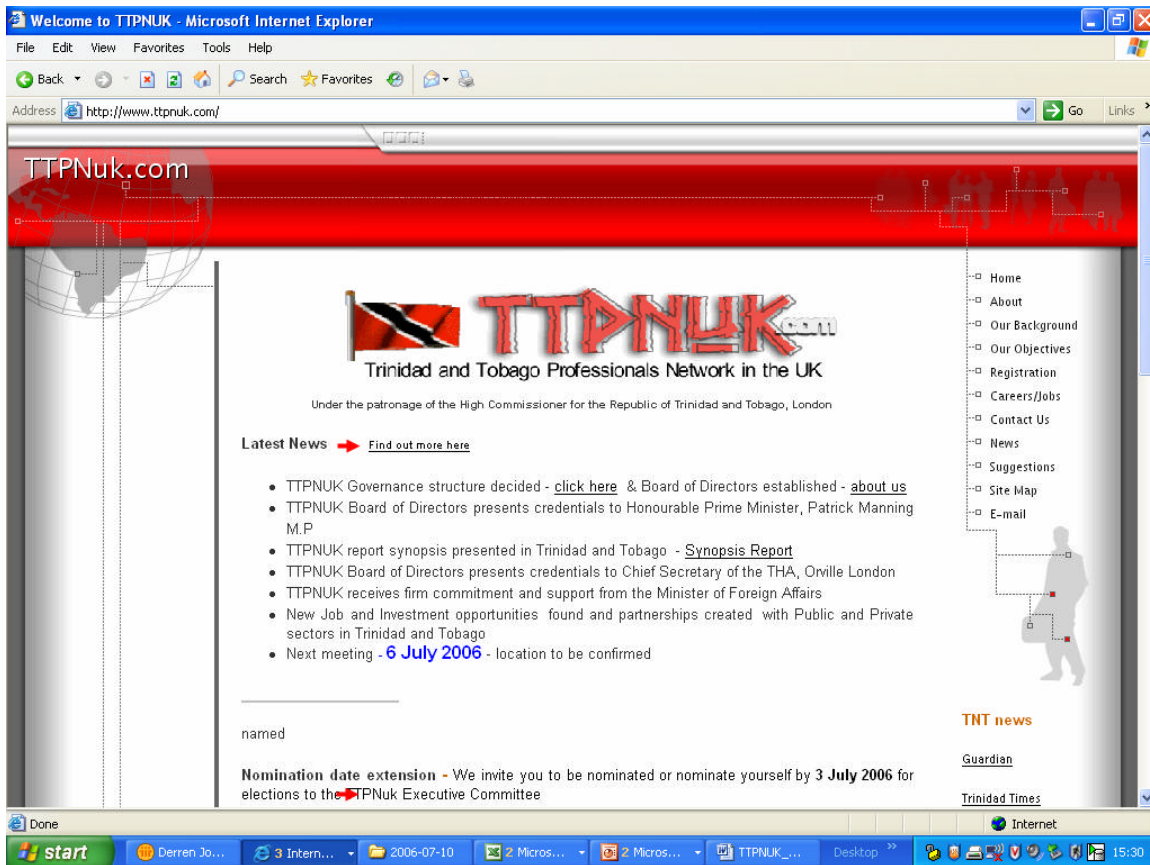
Returned residents' associations could function as mutual support and information-sharing bodies, serving their own interests and those wishing to repatriate.

Recommendations

Government should appoint an officer with ministerial rank in the consular missions with responsibility for Diaspora and community matters; addressing issues identified in this report, and supporting these initiatives:

- Other successful Diasporas have well-funded organisations for interacting with their homelands. The T&T UK Diaspora urgently requires a single-window contact facility, with modern communications systems, to address such needs as:
 - Information on government rules and policies
 - Referrals to state and private enterprises
 - Advice on locations and conditions for a specific type of industry or
 - Organising introductions between Diaspora members and T&T Tobago industry
 - A central database with a web-portal communication system to ensure rapid, world-class communication
- A Diaspora conference co-sponsored by the government will benefit Diaspora nationals who wish to maintain contact with, and contribute to, their island home.
- Promotion of "The Great Trinbagonian Homecoming" Diaspora initiative to reconnect the T&T family.
- Encourage Diaspora members to be part of the solution to community problems and focus on positively celebrating of T&T's unique culture, rather than negative rumour mongering.





TTPNUK.COM Website