



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

### **Launch of *FIRST* LEGO League Trinidad and Tobago**

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016, NIHERST under the auspices of the Honourable Minister of Education, Mr. Anthony Garcia of the Ministry of Education, will launch *FIRST* LEGO League Trinidad and Tobago. A powerful programme aimed at engaging children in playful and meaningful learning while helping them discover the fun in science and technology, *FIRST* LEGO League has a presence in 80 countries. This country will be the first in the English speaking Caribbean to have such a programme. This initiative has been supported by Shell Trinidad Ltd., the official 2016 Cycle Social Investment Partner. Empowered by LEGO Education, the Trinidad and Tobago operational partner NIHERST will design, deliver and manage the programme for the 2016-2017 season, *Animal Allies*.

Geared toward participants of 9 to 16 years, the programme utilises theme-based challenges to engage children in research, problem solving, and engineering. The cornerstones of the programme are its Core Values, which emphasize contributions of others, friendly competition, learning, and community involvement. Working in teams of up to 10 children, and guided by at least two adult coaches, team members have approximately 10 weeks to:

- Build an autonomous robot that will, in two minutes and 30 seconds, complete pre-designed missions
- Analyse, research, and invent a solution for a given assignment and present it
- Program a robot using LEGO MINDSTORMS, and then compete on a table-top playing field
- Present the Core Values of how the team worked in the 10 week journey

Over 180 young persons from over 21 teams are registered for the current cycle. The culmination of all the hard work by teams will be NIHERST's Preliminary Event in December 2016, followed by participation for ten shortlisted teams in the NIHERST/ *FIRST* LEGO League

Championship Event in March 2017. The final winning team will be flown to Houston, Texas for the World Festival in April 2017.

**The media is cordially invited to cover the launch on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2016 at Shell Hospitality Suite, Queen's Park Oval, 94 Tragarete Road, at 10:00 a.m. The Honourable Minister of Education, Mr. Anthony Garcia of the Ministry of Education will deliver the feature address. Refreshments will be served.**

For further information, contact: Innovation Dept. at 663-6130 Ext 2503 / 733-3634  
or ria.jack @niherst.gov.tt / lovaan.superville@niherst.gov.tt  
Marketing and Communications Dept. at 622-7505 / 758-3381 or marketing@niherst.gov.tt

See attached the full project description.

See niherst.gov.tt for more information on FIRST and LEGO Education

### **About Shell Trinidad Ltd.**

Shell has been in Trinidad and Tobago for over 100 years and continues to play a major role in the development of its oil and gas industry. Shell holds equity in the four trains at Atlantic LNG, the sixth largest LNG exporter in the world and is present in offshore and onshore blocks (both operated and non-operated). The Shell / BG combination strengthens Shell's position in Trinidad and Tobago in the upstream, as the second highest producer and affords Shell the opportunity to deliver an integrated gas operation to supply the domestic market and Atlantic LNG for export.

Shell is committed to key corporate social responsibility pillars, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, youth development through education and developmental activities in fence-line communities. By investing in STEM education, Shell strives to deliver enduring and wider socio-economic benefits, contribute to government priorities for employment and economic development; and develop the long-term skills needed for the energy industry. Shell Trinidad Ltd is proud to sponsor the 2016 cycle of the LEGO league.

### **About NIHERST**

NIHERST is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament in 1984 to promote science, technology and higher education in Trinidad and Tobago consistent with national development goals. Its current work focuses on the development of a more diversified, knowledge-driven economy, based on the ingenuity of our people and their ability to create, adapt and use science and technology for wealth generation and national development. Many of its programmes aim to strengthen the innovative, creative and entrepreneurial capabilities of the general population. NIHERST is also engaged in research, such as in foresight and innovation, to support economic diversification; promoting innovation and the commercialisation of technology in priority sectors; and building global partnerships.



Find NIHERST on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and Instagram

**niherst.gov.tt**



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NIHERST under the auspices of the Honourable Minister of Education,  
Mr. Anthony Garcia of the Ministry of Education,  
cordially invites you to the launch of



November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016, 10am – 12pm  
Shell Hospitality Suite, Queen's Park Oval  
94 Tragarete Road, Port of Spain.

RSVP Ginelle Cox 663-6130 ext. 0 | Geni Peters-Ford 622-7505/7880 ext. 3012



### 2016/2017 Cycle

#### Participating schools:

- Christus Rex Anglican Primary School
- Debe High School
- El Dorado West Secondary School
- Maple Leaf International School
- Mucurapo East Secondary School
- NorthGate College
- Palo Seco Secondary School
- St. Anthony's College
- St. Stephen's College
- Trinity College East
- Trinity College Moka
- Tranquillity Government Secondary School
- Woodbrook Government Secondary School

#### Other registered teams:

- NIHERST Robotics Club
- NIHERST Tech Club
- Team X
- Trinidad Sea Scouts