

NIHERST launches its Fab Lab during World Creativity and Innovation Week 2015

From 15-21 April 2015, NIHERST joins the global community in celebrating World Creativity and Innovation Week, to build awareness of the importance of creativity in generating new ideas and taking new directions that support development in every sphere of life, making the world a better place. NIHERST's pioneering programmes help build national capacity in science, technology and innovation to support a progressive, knowledge-based economy driven by the creativity and ingenuity of our people.

On Monday 20th April, NIHERST will launch its new Fab Lab - a fully operational design suite and technical prototyping platform for innovation and invention located at the NIHERST/NGC National Science Centre. The first of its kind registered in Trinidad and Tobago and in the region by the Fab Foundation, the Fab Lab will help creative citizens see their ideas make the leap from "good idea" to "great product" and provide affordable access to tools and resources for education, innovation, and professional development. It offers local inventors and innovators the facilities to design and 3D print working prototypes of their novel ideas, at a

fraction of the cost of traditional prototyping and product development. The facility will also host design and development workshops for the public and particularly secondary and tertiary level students. The official Fab Lab network connects lab workshops around the globe, enabling knowledge sharing across 30 countries and 24 time zones. The Fab Lab model is growing in popularity both in North America and in Europe, especially in schools, as facilities for project-based, hands-on education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Fab Lab is another of NIHERST's many groundbreaking projects and initiatives focussed on the advancement of science, technology and innovation. This is key to diversifying the economy and enabling Trinidad and Tobago to better compete on the international stage. Other programmes include the Prime Minister's Awards for Scientific Ingenuity, Improving Innovation Capacities in the Caribbean (INVOCAB), Community Centered Design and Innovation programme (COMDESI), and science and technology clubs and vacation camps.



Prime Minister's Awards for Scientific Ingenuity

Introduced in 2000 as the Prime Minister's Awards for Innovation and Invention, the awards recognise and reward persons from all walks of life for their new ideas, innovative products and novel solutions to real world problems, highlighting the innate creativity and enterprising spirit of our people.



COMDESI

Initiated in 2007, the COMDESI programme has fostered secondary school students' creative and problem-solving skills by tasking participants with developing novel solutions to challenges faced by particular communities through the application of science and technology.



INVOCAB

Launched earlier this year in collaboration with the Scientific Research Council of Jamaica with funding from the EU, the INVOCAB programme will improve the teaching and learning of science in the Caribbean through extensive teacher training and curriculum development.



Clubs and Vacation Camps

NIHERST's Robotics, Sci-Eng, Science and Tech Clubs are a fun, informal learning environment for students and enthusiasts to explore science and technology concepts and principles through hands-on activities. The newly launched Tech Club offers web-design, app building and fundamental computer programming training for club members as young as seven.