

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Dear Editor / Head of Department

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### **Turkish ambassador pays courtesy call to NIHERST President**

**Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago:** Her Excellency Bengu Yigitguden, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, paid a courtesy call to Mrs. Marleen Lord-Lewis, President of the National Institute of Higher Education, Research Science and Technology (NIHERST) at the Ministry of Education Headquarters. Her Excellency was presented with copies of key NIHERST publications which focused on the advancement of Science and Technology throughout the Caribbean.

During the courtesy call, Mrs. Lord-Lewis assured Ambassador Bengu of the top priority intended to be given to the draft protocol on cooperation in science, technology, and Innovation between the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkiye (TUBITAK) and NIHERST.

Discussion too centered on the entities keen focus to collaborate on key areas of mutual interest including educational initiatives surrounding climate change as well as science literacy programmes.

Also in attendance was Prof. Hasan Mandal (President of TÜBİTAK & President of WAITRO), Prof. Dr. Burcu OZSOY, (Vice President TUBITAK Marmara Research Center- Polar Research Center), Mrs. Melis Altunas, (Third Secretary, Embassy of Turkey to Trinidad and Tobago), Ms. Lovaan Superville, (Vice President- Science and Technology (Ag.) - NIHERST) Mrs. Loretta Hope McDonald, (Manager- Human Resource and Corporate Services - NIHERST), Ms. Ryane Rollock,

(Senior Specialist - NIHERST) and Ms. Candice Hector, (Manager – Marketing and Communications - NIHERST)



**From Left:** Prof. Dr. Burcu OZSOY (Vice President TUBITAK Marmara Research Center- Polar Research Center) Prof. Hasan Mandal (President of TÜBİTAK & President of WAITRO), Mrs. Melis Altunas, (Third Secretary, Embassy of Turkey to Trinidad and Tobago), Her Excellency Bengu Yigitguden, (Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey), Mrs. Marleen Lord-Lewis, (President – NIHERST), Ms. Lovaan Superville, (Vice President- Science and Technology (Ag.) – NIHERST), Mrs. Lorett Hope Mc Donald, (Manager- Human Resource and Corporate Services -NIHERST), Ms. Ryane Rollock, (Senior Specialist – NIHERST) and Ms. Candice Hector, (Manager – Marketing and Communications –NIHERST)

### **About NIHERST**

NIHERST is a statutory body established in 1984 to promote science, technology and higher education in Trinidad and Tobago consistent with national development goals. The Institute is an agency under the Ministry of Education. 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.

### **ABOUT The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK)**

The Scientific and Technological Research Institution of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) is a national agency of Turkey whose stated goal is to develop "science, technology and innovation" policies, support and conduct research and development, and to "play a leading role in the creation of a science and technology culture" in the country. TÜBİTAK was founded in 1963. It is a "related" institution of the Prime Ministry governed by its own laws. When established, TÜBİTAK's primary tasks were supporting basic and applied academic research and encouraging careers in science by providing incentives to young researchers, in particular to those working in natural sciences.



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