



NIHERST AND THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ASK "WHAT IF?"

NIHERST and the Ministry of Science and Technology are asking the nation, "What If? What if you could take your children to a land of imagination and learning? What if you could do research in a world-class scientific environment, or experience space in a completely new way?" All this and more will be possible at NIHERST Science City, currently under construction.

At a recent on-site consultation with residents of the area, Professor Prakash Persad, Chairman of NIHERST, shared the plans and tremendous possibilities for NIHERST Science City. Science City will serve as a national and international case study on a visitor learning environment merged with high-tech research facilities, all aimed at promoting innovation and entrepreneurship. This learning landscape and its green buildings will be a restoration of the 54 acres of abandoned sugar cane fields on which Science City is being constructed, healing the degraded land, and inspiring the nation and the rest of the Caribbean through experiential learning of science and technology. A central lake will be formed through a series of dams.

Science City is integral to NIHERST fulfilling its mission to spur research and innovation, shape policy and improve STEM education for Trinidad and Tobago's advancement. Its state-of-the-art R&D facilities for product development and commercialisation, and a centre for technology adoption and adaptation. It will support government's economic diversification effort, linking science commercialisation with science popularisation, and thereby fostering a culture of technopreneurship within the national community. The Science City facilities will thus provide the mechanism for exploiting the native genius of the population, through S&T, for national development. At the 2015 Caribbean Youth Science Forum, hosted by NIHERST in early August, Dr. the Honourable Rupert Griffith, Minister of Science and Technology, stoked the interest and imagination of the young science students participating when he stated that, "Once completed, the space will bring not only economic benefits to the region, but it will also attract and retain the best scientific talent, and the research and development undertaken at Science City will spawn start-up companies and spin offs."

NIHERST, with its partner, ArquitectonicaGEO - the main design consultant, landscape architect and design architect for Science City - recently received an Award of Honour for the Science City concept at the 2015 Florida ASLA Conference & Expo in July 2015. This award, falling under the Planning and Analysis category, is bestowed in recognition of projects that "demonstrate the inspired use of landscape architectural practices in an imaginative and well-resolved combination that adds to the body of the Landscape Architecture profession."



Dr. Rupert Griffith plants the first tree in what will be a Heritage Garden featuring native and non-native tropical plants.

Award of Honour from the Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects