



CENTRAL BANK OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Eric Williams Plaza, Independence Square, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, West Indies
Postal Address: P.O. Box 1250
Telephone: (868) 625-4835; 4921; 5028; Fax (868) 627-4696; Telex: 22532; 22386
E-Mail Address: info@central-bank.org.tt
Website: www.central-bank.org.tt

OPENING REMARKS

at the Launch of

“Translations”

(Servol Mentoring Programme)

by

Ewart S. Williams,
Governor, Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago
October 21, 2005

SALUTATIONS:

Fr. Gerard Pantin – **Chairman, Servol**
Sis. Ruth Montrichard – **Executive Director, Servol**
Mr. Anthony James – **Servol Graduate**

Last year we collaborated with Servol in the *Youth Speak Out* Competition and we were extremely impressed with the dedication and effort that the students had put in and the quality of the presentations. At that time we noted that we were reorienting our outreach programme to focus more on the young people of our nation,

with a view to providing them with opportunities for growth and self reliance. **With this in mind, we undertook to re-establish a partnership with Servol** through some kind of mentoring programme.

I am very pleased that we have been able to deliver on this promise. And to do this, with the support of a third partner, NEDCO, is doubly satisfying indeed.

I would like to thank the following persons, who worked together with our Corporate Communications Department for their unstinted support and dedication in the creation of *“Translations”*:

Mr. Martin Pacheco – Deputy Executive Director, Servol

Ms. Alison Haynes-Wilson – Public Relations Officer, Servol

Ms. Sandrine Rattan – Communications Manager, NEDCO

Ms. Omatie Singh – District Coordinator (East), NEDCO

The Programme, ***“Translations”***, which we will unveil today, has two objectives. The first is designed to help the Servol students improve their self esteem, their self image and their confidence. It is prefaced on the principle that if youths think positively about themselves they will believe in their ability to realize their personal and professional dreams.

In this module, we are hoping to touch and influence the lives of approximately 1,000 students through a series of inspirational lectures on self esteem and self motivation.

During each of the lectures, a Servol graduate will give a testimonial to the students. We think that hearing the message from one of your peers, who has had to face similar challenges and who has

persevered, is an excellent way of **demonstrating that you could also achieve success.**

Ironically, the theme of this first module is “**You can do it**”, and we are confident that with God’s help, with determination and with the help and support of those around you, you **can achieve your goals.**

We in the Central Bank would wish to be counted among your supporters.

This spirit of communal responsibility is in fact well reflected in your mission statement which sees Servol as “*an organization of weak, frail, ordinary, **imperfect yet hope-filled and committed people seeking to help weak, frail, ordinary, imperfect, hope-drained people become agents of attitudinal and social change in a journey which leads to total human development. It does so through respectful intervention in the lives of others and seeks to empower individuals and communities to develop as role models for the nation***”.

The entire country could take a cue from this mission statement. We all need help, and living the ideals involved therein will go a long way towards addressing the serious ills that now plague our nation. If only we could develop a national culture of caring and concern and helpfulness to one another. If only we could really be each other’s keeper – what a great place this would be.

The second module, entitled “*Entrepreneurial Skills Development*”, will be executed in collaboration with NEDCO and will be targeted to students graduating from any of Servol’s 17 trade programmes.

I congratulate NEDCO for participating in this venture. To the eligible students, I urge you to make full use of the opportunity.

I'm sure that I don't need to emphasise how important it is, **in this increasingly competitive and specialized work environment**, for young people like you to have specific expertise – a skill, a profession, a trade. It is necessary for earning a decent living, and for giving the kind of economic independence that any self-respecting individual cherishes.

What we are suggesting in this module is that you must not see being an employee – that is, working for someone – as your only option. In fact, not only in Trinidad and Tobago but indeed worldwide, **your generation** is being increasingly required to **create your own job** – to be an entrepreneur. That needs specialized skills and discipline but it has its rewards in empowerment and economic independence.

I urge you all to make optimum use of this NEDCO module, if only to expand your options.

The Central Bank will be collaborating with Servol beyond these two modules. Over the next few months, we will engage the students and tutors in the production of a **“Translations”** booklet consisting of poetry, short stories and other creative writings, done by the students themselves. In addition, we will be providing support to Servol in the redesign of its website. We hope that these activities would instill a sense of pride in the students and help the institution in some small way.

Before I close, let me recognize the excellent contribution that Servol has been making to community development and nation building. Servol's adolescent development and skills training

initiatives have been among the most innovative and successful in the country. We all owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the founders of Servol – **Father Pantin and Sister Montrichard** – and to all those devoted Servol staff and field officers who continue to give yeoman service.

I wish you all the best and look forward to working with you in the future.