



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



**Trinidad and Tobago pioneers with FIRST® LEGO® League**

The National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST), with the support of the Ministry of Education and 2016/2017 social investment partner Shell Trinidad Ltd., has made history for this nation. Trinidad and Tobago has blazed a trail as the first country in the English speaking Caribbean to host the global FIRST® LEGO® League programme, and its National Championship. Applying creative thinking, engineering and robotics technologies to solve real-world science and technology challenges, 142 local children, ages 9 – 16



years, learned to build and programme autonomous robots using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® kits while developing valuable life skills, discovering career possibilities and exploring how they could make positive contributions to their society. Participants applied their rich imagination to the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) principles innate in this programme.

Just as their 255,000 counterparts in over 80 countries consecutively experienced the programme, 86 local finalists spent approximately ten weeks with coaches and mentors, researching and inventing a solution for a given assignment, working on their robot, along with learning and practising the required skills and core values. This season’s Animal Allies theme had the young minds considering how to improve interaction between animals and humans. Past challenges included topics such as nanotechnology, climate and transportation. Culminating in the high-energy, tournament-style National Championship, this cycle sees the winning team fly to Houston, Texas for the FIRST® LEGO® League World Festival in April 2017.

<b>FIRST® LEGO® League Trinidad and Tobago Championship Results</b>	
Wepala's Team X	Championship Award
T.C.E. RoboHawks <i>Trinity College, East</i>	Research Project Award & local nominee for the Global Innovation Award
Team NGC Aristos <i>NorthGate College</i>	Core Values Award
Palo Seco Secondary School	Robot Design Award & local runner-up nominee for the Global Innovation Award
SCRATT CP	Robot Performance Award

*“This initiative brings life to the STEM concepts taught in the classroom in a fun and dynamic way... I hope that our numbers increase 100-fold next year as more schools and teams get involved.” - The Honourable Anthony Garcia, Minister of Education, Ministry of Education*

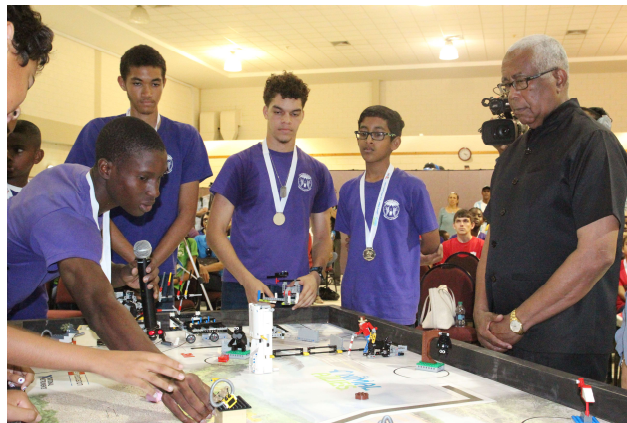
*“STEM isn’t just what you do with your hands, it’s how you use your minds, and even more than that, how you interact with each other to produce results...Shell’s National STEM Programme seeks to encourage innovation, problem solving, critical thinking and most importantly, team work.” – Ms. Monifa Graham, Process Engineer, Shell Trinidad Ltd. and FIRST® LEGO® League TT Judge/Referee*

*“Your T&T kids are on par with the countries I’ve seen...This is an investment in the future of your youth. FIRST programmes open your eyes to what’s possible and what’s happening beyond your classroom, it gives a global perspective.” - Mr. Mark McCombs, FIRST® LEGO® League Affiliate Partner, North-East Florida, USA*

*“A testament to the value of this project...71% of our participants have expressed that they now think about problems in a new or creative way, while over 90% would like to learn more about computers, robotics and science and technology.” - Ms. Sylvia Lalla, President (Ag.) NIHERST*



Ms. Sylvia Lalla presents a Special Recognition Award to Mr. Anthony Garcia for the Ministry of Education’s support of this programme.



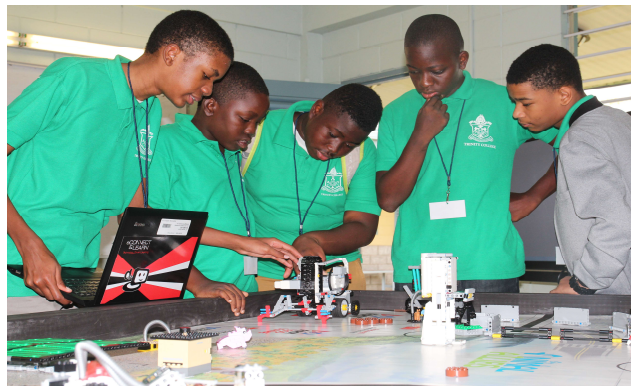
Students of NorthGate College demonstrate the Robot Game component of the challenge as they complete thematic missions. The Research Project component involves presenting creative solutions and the Core Values aspect encourages teamwork and good sportsmanship.



Ms. Monifa Graham, Process Engineer and Mr. Leslie Bowrin, External Relations Advisor, Shell Trinidad Ltd. congratulate the overall winners, Wepala's Team X, who were the youngest competitors of the day.



Students of Maple Leaf International School proceed to the table-top playing field after presenting their invention for assisting elderly persons to care for parrots as pets.



The Trinity College, Moka team discusses their approach while demonstrating the programme's core values, Gracious Professionalism<sup>®</sup> and Coopertition<sup>®</sup>



Representatives ages 9 – 16 years from the ten finalist teams gather before the closing ceremony. (Left to Right): Techno Geeks; Trinity College, Moka; El Dorado West Secondary School; Wepala's Team X; Trinity College, East; Woodbrook Government Secondary School; Palo Seco Secondary School; Maple Leaf International School and SCRATT CP. Not shown: NorthGate College

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NIHERST is the operational partner for *FIRST*® LEGO® League in Trinidad and Tobago. For information on the 2017/2018 Hydro Dynamics SM challenge, due to be released in August 2017, see NIHERST's website or Facebook page.

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