



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Education



A Vacation from the Ordinary

Local Students enjoy the Best of Leading-Edge Science at NIHERST

Now in their 18th consecutive year, NIHERST's annual vacation camps engaged over 1,200 young minds over the July/August period in 2016. A creative and scientific experience for children ages 5 - 17, the camps explored a range of contemporary topics in science, technology and innovation, and were held across the country in Port-of-Spain, Preysal, San Fernando and at the NIHERST/NGC National Science Centre in D'Abadie.

Funology, Explorer, Sci-Spy, Eureka, e-Magination, Computer Constructors and the new junior camp #Little Tech allowed the younger participants to delve into topics such as engineering design, computer programming, the human brain and our wild planet, along with popular favourites - the science behind food, 'gross' things and magic. Nearby, the teenagers tackled topics ranging from app development, website design and digital arts to robotics, civil and mechanical engineering in Young Inventors, Robomania, Dot Com, App Builders, Gamerz World, GrafX and the new senior camp Clash of Minds.

Designed to develop their creative, critical thinking and problem solving skills, NIHERST's camps give children from a very young age the opportunity to learn scientific principles and their application in technology and innovation through hands-on activities and interactive exhibits. Parents and children, some of who are returning participants, were again fascinated with the diverse educational content that the camps presented in entertaining and highly interactive ways. These camps are just one of many programmes offered by NIHERST that help to build the scientific, technological capacity of our people.

Now in its final year, NIHERST's INVOCAB project – *Improving Innovation Capacities in the Caribbean* hosted a camp for 112 children, ages 8-16 and their teachers from six primary and four secondary schools from the East-West corridor in Trinidad. After a series of training sessions conducted with the teachers, a one-week camp was held, giving participants a chance to engage in hands-on applications of science and mathematics to improve performance and change their attitudes towards these two subject areas. This year's camp also featured a daily segment of team building activities geared towards fostering key interpersonal, communication and life skills. The positive impacts of this project will continue even after its completion through the Teach Me programme to be implemented in two new schools each year.



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