

## MEDIA RELEASE

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Dear Editor / Head of Department

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### **NIHERST in partnership with Shell Trinidad and Tobago Ltd launches First Lego League Competition: Super Powered**

**Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.** Over two hundred (200) Primary & Secondary School students, from twenty (20) schools across Trinidad & Tobago, will get the opportunity to be a part of the FIRST LEGO League Competition, facilitated by the National Institute of Higher Education Research Science and Technology (NIHERST) and Shell Trinidad & Tobago Limited (Shell).

The FIRST LEGO League is a global programme with a presence in eighty (80) countries. The initiative which utilises theme based challenges to engage students in research, problem-solving and engineering, impresses its core values of contribution of others, learning and community involvement to its competitors.

NIHERST, as the operational partner of the programme in Trinidad and Tobago, invited its Chairman, Dr. Andrew Hunte, to deliver opening remarks at the official launch held on February 8<sup>th</sup> 2023. At the ceremony, Dr. Hunte commented, **'the programme will be able to instill, the core values and skills necessary to allow students to interface with the merging physical and digital world. The lessons learned through the cycle are those that are transferrable in their everyday lifestyles, helping students not only adapt to this revolutionary shift but be in a position to shape them through creative problem-solving and open thinking.'**

As patron of the Shell STREAM Programme and platinum sponsor of the First Lego League Competition, Shell was represented by its Social Performance & Social Investment Advisor Ms. Ryssa Brathwaite, who shared, **'Shell is proud to be the platinum sponsor of the First Lego League 2022/2023 tournament for the fifth year. Research has shown that educational robotics learning experiences such as FLL provide students with authentic, challenging opportunities to apply STEM knowledge to solve complex, real world problems. And so it makes sense that we would stand behind an initiative as great and as proven as FLL.'**

Also in attendance was the Honourable Lisa Morris-Julian, Minister in the Ministry of Education who gave the featured address, Mrs. Morris-Julian expressed, **'The importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in education cannot be overstated. The Ministry of Education understands that STEM plays an essential role in preparing our children for the future. This emphasis provides our children with the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills relevant to their current and future lives.'**

The First Lego League competition is scheduled to take place on **May 13<sup>th</sup>** at the **National Cycling Velodrome, Balmain, Couva.**



**From Left:** Social Performance and Social Investment Advisor of Shell Trinidad and Tobago Limited, Ms. Ryssa Brathwaite, Member of Parliament for D'Abadie/O'Meara and Hon. Minister in the Ministry of Education, Mrs. Lisa Morris-Julian, V.P. Science and Technology (Ag.), NIHERST, Ms. Lovaan Superville, Curriculum Officer, Ministry of Education, Mr. Vishal Ramjattan



**Back Row from Left:** Social Performance and Social Investment Advisor of Shell Trinidad and Tobago Limited, Ms. Ryssa Brathwaite, Member of Parliament for D'Abadie/O'Meara and Hon. Minister in the Ministry of Education, Mrs. Lisa Morris-Julian, V.P. Science and Technology (Ag.), NIHERST, Ms. Lovaan Superville, Curriculum Officer, Ministry of Education, Mr. Vishal Ramjattan

**Front Row:** Representatives of the respective schools of the upcoming FIRST LEGO League Competition: Super Powered.





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### **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 Shell STREAM Programme**

Shell Trinidad and Tobago Ltd. (STTL) has been implementing Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Arts and Math (S.T.R.E.A.M.) Programme since 2013. This national programme aims to strengthen the energy sector's talent pipeline and the country's progress at economic diversification by enhancing critical thinking, creativity and problem solving through strengthening awareness, competence and the delivery of Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics within the educational system. Since 2019, NIHERST has been one of Shell's facilitators in STREAM education.

The programme represents a key opportunity for informal education and hands on learning around innovative science and technology resources. It communicates not only the fundamentals of STREAM but also enables the foresight to demonstrate how STREAM connects to the everyday and real world. This makes the STREAM concept more relatable and solidifies the correlation between science and society.



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