



## **REPORT ON TVET SYMPOSIUM**

**HEART TRUST/NTA UNESCO – UNEVOC Center**

**October 31, 2013**



## The Symposium

Advancing its role to disseminate UNESCO's messages on Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and contribute to TVET policy development through TVET related events; the HEART Trust/NTA UNEVOC Centre in collaboration with UTECH UNEVOC Centre, UWI and UNESCO Kingston Office hosted its annual TVET Symposium on October 31, 2013 under the theme *'Advancing Economic Development through Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET).'*



The symposium was held at the Knutsford Court Hotel, Kingston; Jamaica and was represented by over ninety-five (95) participants from key sectors and organizations such as: Government Officials, STATIN, Ministry of Education, Training providers, Jamaica Employers Federation, Ministry of Labour, and Employers.

The following major objectives were attained:

- Discussions of Jamaica's TVET policy and its implications for economic development.
- Recommendations for advancing economic development in Jamaica through TVET.
- Presentations from key sector representatives in which training will be required to establish the logistics hub
- Development of key training strategies to address the establishment of the Logistics Hub.

The Executive Director of the HEART Trust / NTA officially welcomed all participants to the Symposium and fully endorsed the organization's commitment to TVET, as one of the important drivers for economic development. He also noted that as a UNEVOC Centre, the HEART Trust/NTA will continue to play a pivotal role in the region for the advancement of TVET.





The keynote address was presented by Canadian High Commissioner Excellency Mr. Robert Ready. In his presentation around the theme” *Advancing Economic Development through Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET)*, he highlighted the economic benefits gained to the Canadian Community through concerted efforts to purposefully integrate TVET in the education and training system. He further articulated his country’s commitment to TVET through a strategic partnership with the Jamaican Government.

Other major contributors included presentations from Mr. Robert Parua , UNEVOC- UNESCO, Kingston Office; Mrs. Elaine Foster-Allen, Permanent Secretary -Ministry of Education; Honorable Anthony Hylton, Minister of Industry and Commerce and several other TVET Professionals.



After the plenary session, the participants were engaged in workshops to further deliberate and contribute to the discussion around implementing the following aspects of TVET Policy:

**Policy Implementation & Coordinated Mechanisms** – Mrs. Grace McLean, MOE

**Repositioning Apprenticeship and its impact** – Prof. Oliver Gossett, UTech

**Quality Assurance in TVET** - Dr. Marcia Amonde, HEART TRUST/NTA

**Industry Engagement** - Dr. Halden Morris, UWI

**Marketing and Promoting TVET** – Dr. Rohan Lewis-, UTech

The day's activities culminated with a panel discussion on the sub-theme, ***“Positioning Jamaica for the logistics Hub” - Training and Job Opportunities***



The strategies and recommendations arising from the discussions in the Symposium will be collated for analysis by relevant stakeholders.

An action plan will be developed to support and advance the implementation of the TVET Policy and training initiatives in preparation for the logistics hub, and by extension, increase productivity.

**The HEART Trust/NTA UNEVOC Centre will continue to advance the discussions of TVET by engaging local and regional bodies, in the various forums to ensure that TVET remains impactful, sustainable and innovative.**