



EUROCHAMTT

# OPENING REMARKS

By EUROCHAMTT President, Marie Louise Norton-Murray

GOOD MORNING EVERYONE!

PLEASE STAND FOR THE ANTHEMS.

OPENING

1. His Worship the Mayor of the City of Port of Spain, Alderman Raymond Tim Kee
2. Members of the Diplomatic Community
3. Distinguished Moderators and Presenters
4. Members of the Media
5. Ladies and Gentlemen

We are honoured by your presence and very pleased with the response we have received to this workshop. It shows that there are many persons who wish to be involved and to have a voice where it comes to revitalising the Capital City of Port of Spain. There are also persons not present here today who have sent their contributions for consideration.

The European Business Chamber in Trinidad and Tobago (EUROCHAMTT) was set up to assist in facilitating more trade and investment between the EU and TT.

Our involvement in this theme of revitalisation is firstly because:



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1. A well-managed, safe and appealing Capital City is important for attracting and keeping investors and businesses. POS is also promoting regional and international meetings and conferences and therefore the image of the Capital City is the image visitors will remember of this country.
2. POS also has an impact on the quality of stay of visitors and the quality of life its residence.
3. Port of Spain is a focal point for Government. Easy access to enter and leave and the ability to move about the City safely as a pedestrian needs to be considered.
4. Part of the City of Port of Spain includes a list of over 90 buildings to be listed under the National Trust and many more architecturally appealing buildings not listed. These represent an important aspect of our heritage and cultural evolution and need to be restored as a priority. Not only will their restoration lead to additional resources for tourism, their restoration could also be linked to the development of new artistic skills and experiences.
5. Revitalisation is also an opportunity to find ways to highlight what is most positive and beautiful about this City:
  - a. POS has both mountains and seascapes as well as 2 rivers
  - b. The City has many green spaces Botanical Gardens, the Savannah, Parks and Squares (George Fifth/Nelson Mandela Park, Memorial, Woodford, Adam Smith, Lord Harris, Tamarind, Victoria, Squares)
  - c. Largest Cultural Festivals in the Caribbean : TT film fest, EU Film Fest, Boca Lit literature fest, Coco Dance Fest, Carnival,
  - d. Cultural spaces: NAPA, Queens Hall, Central Bank, NALIS, Little Carib, Globe Cinema, Movietown, the Art Galleries.

EUROCHAMTT recognises that there are many initiatives which have started including improvements made by the Port of Spain



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Corporation over many years. There is also the East Port of Spain Development Company; the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources drainage project, Initiatives looking at Belmont as a Creative cluster and the Emerging and Sustainable Cities initiative. There are also many past comprehensive Master plans, initiatives and analysis. These all should fall within 1 vision, identity and overall Masterplan for the City to be implemented over a given number of years.

Our objective today is:

1. To have a focused dialogue on the wider POS.
2. To encourage the possibility for all to work together (in some form of MOU) towards the goal of a City we would like to have
3. To encourage work towards a common vision and identity for the City and long term plan
4. To agree on some immediate action steps.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that we have the opportunity to introduce His Worship the Mayor of the City of Port of Spain, Alderman Raymond Tim Kee who will now give his opening remarks.

Alderman Raymond Tim Kee was appointed to this position on November 1 2013. He is President of the Trinidad and Tobago Football Federation Association and also an Executive in the insurance sector.



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My final duty this morning is to introduce our three distinguished Moderators who will lead today's proceedings:

Moderators:

1. Moderator for Panel 1: Mr. Louis Lee Sing, first immediate past Mayor of the City of Port of Spain
2. Moderator for Panel 2: Ms. Kris Rampersad, media cultural, literary heritage educator and also Chair of the TT National Commission for UNESCO
3. Moderator for Panel 3: Dr.. James Armstrong, former independent senator, urban planner, architect and artist who has had a distinguished career over 25 years with the UN human settlements