

OIFC led Business Forum on Investment and Entrepreneurship - 31st May 2011, Port of Spain

Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) in association with the High Commission of India, Port of Spain, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), India -Trinidad & Tobago Chamber of Industry & Commerce (ITTCIC) and Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) organized a 'Business Forum on Investment & Entrepreneurship' on 31st May 2011 in Port of Spain. The Business Forum was a part of the two day diaspora conference which had a theme of Building a New Partnership between India & Caribbean: Role of Diaspora. The conference had business sessions on investment opportunities between the two countries and the role of diaspora, presentations and factory visits by the Indian Business Delegation.

The Business Forum was attended by over 100 business leaders and professionals from India and Caribbean, predominantly Trinidad & Tobago.

The Business Forum was held against the backdrop of emerging business opportunities in India and Caribbean and the role that the Indian diaspora can play to not only capitalize on these opportunities, but also help build synergies between Indian and Caribbean businesses.

Shri Vayalar Ravi, Hon'ble Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs & Civil Aviation, inaugurated the Business Forum and expressed optimism for a successful business forum, the first of its kind in the Caribbean. Shri Vayalar Ravi pointed out the support of MOIA and OIFC as well as CII in fostering and facilitating bi-lateral trade and investments.

The feature address by Ms Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago was a validation of the strong ties between India and Trinidad & Tobago and support for expanded trade and investments. Hon'ble Kamla Persad-Bissessar said that, "We in Trinidad and Tobago appreciate the strides that India has made in the last 20 odd years. We believe that both our countries have much to offer to each other. Though we already share excellent diplomatic and cultural relations, and are historically and culturally bonded by the event of indentureship, it is important that we use these emotive bonds which stretch over a century and a half, to develop stronger, more resilient and concrete trade and investments ties for the mutual benefit of both of our peoples".

The Business Forum was an engaging event, attended by a group of select Global Indians businessmen and professionals. Going forward, OIFC will plan similar Business Forums in other select regions of the Caribbean, to expand the economic linkages between the Global Indians in Caribbean and India. OIFC will continue its interaction with the delegates, who attended the Business Forum. This will help strengthen the interface and reach out of the diaspora with India.
