

TTEITI-TT Chamber of Industry & Commerce Averting a Social Security Crisis Public Forum July 5, 2018 Evaluation Report



Prepared by: Diandra Grandison (Project Officer, TTEITI).

Date: 9 July 2018

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Event Description

The Trinidad and Tobago Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (TTEITI) Steering Committee in partnership with the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce hosted a Public Forum on July 5, 2018 under the theme 'Averting a Social Security Crisis'.

The event was held to bring awareness to the findings of the TTEITI Steering Committee's latest T&T EITI Report 2016 with a specific focus on the use of revenues earned from the extractor. The state owned National Insurance Board of Trinidad and Tobago was invited to give a presentation at the event, following the findings of their 9th Actuarial Review which highlighted that the NIS fund would be completely depleted in 2029-2030 if nothing is modified in terms of contributions or benefits of the systems.

The T&T EITI Report 2016 also shares similar data which reflects that there has been a decline in the revenues earned by the government from the extractor sector due to the steady decline in commodity prices coupled with low oil and gas production levels and a call for economic diversification in the light of the country's dependency on the extractive sector.

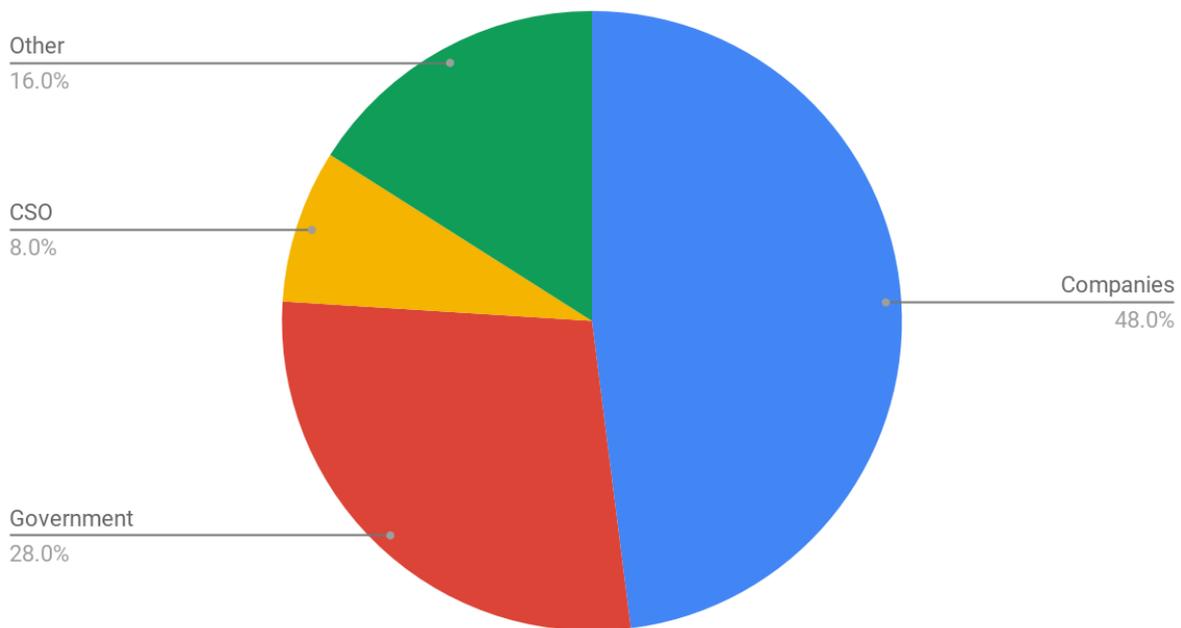
The findings of both the TTEITI and the NIB's reports are of national interest and concern and the event was used to inform the public and make them aware of these issues and also to provide a platform for stakeholders to engage in dialogue and discuss possible solutions.

Overview of Participants

Based on a headcount conducted during the forum 44 persons attended the event, excluding Speakers, Panel members, TTEITI Secretariat members and Chamber staff (8 total). Of these 44 persons, 25 (57%) provided their feedback through the forms provided. A majority of the forum's participants, based on the feedback forms represented Companies (48%) such as BPTT and Guardian Life Company. Government Organisations such as the Central Bank of T&T and the Ministry of Labour represented (28%) of participants. While Civil Society Organisations such the Church of the Nazarene and G.O. International Academy of Learning represented (8%) of participants. The category 'Others' (16%) comprised of participants from primarily Tertiary Institutions such as COSTATT and international organisations such as the International Labour Organisation (ILO). See table 1 below for the exact number of participants.

Table 1

TYPES OF ORGANISATIONS IN ATTENDANCE



Total Count: 25 Participants

Data Analysis

Most respondents did not answer all the questions on the form provided, in particular Question 5 (40%). Refer to Appendix II for Evaluation Form

Participants' understanding of EITI.

Most of the participants (92%) stated they better understood the purpose and role of the EITI having attended the forum, while (9%) did not answer the question. See Table 2.

Table 2

Q1: I now have a better understanding of the purpose and role of the EITI				
Yes	No	Unsure	Blank	Total # of respondents
23	0	2	0	25

Participants interest to share information

All participants (100%) stated they would be sharing the information with their peers after the forum. See Table 3.

Table 3

Q2: I intend to share today's information with my colleagues				
Yes	No	Unsure	Blank	Total # of respondents
25	0	0	0	25

Throughout the forum, participants requested access to the presentations along with extra copies of the T&T EITI Summary Report 2016, persons were also observed taking notes and photos of the slide-presentations and recording the presentations and panel discussion on their cellular phones. Based on the Project Officer's observations, participants were very attentive throughout the presentations, especially during Manager, Actuarial Services, NIB Andy Edwards' presentation "***Reform- An Imperative for the Sustainability of the National Insurance Board***".

Levels of interest in collaborating with the TTEITI

Majority of the participants (64%) expressed interest in partnering with the TTEITI, while (8%) stated they were uninterested, (16%) of participants did not answer the question. See Table 4.

Table 4

Q3: Are you interested in partnering with the TTEITI?				
Yes	No	Unsure	Blank	Total # of respondents
16	2	3	4	25

A majority of the organizations that expressed interest in partnering with the TTEITI came from non-extractive companies such as Trinidad Import & Export Company Limited and Guardian Life, some of the

respondents who did not answer the question represented organizations that have already partnered with the TTEITI (BPTT) and are members of the TTEITI's Steering Committee.

Forum's relevance to participants.

Four percent (4%) of the participants did not answer question 4, however, a majority of the participants shared what they thought was important to them.

Some notable responses to question 4 on the Evaluation Form are illustrated in box 1.

BOX 1

Some of the notable responses to question 4 "Which part of the Forum was most useful/relevant to you?"

Include:

"Highlighting the current and future state of the NIBTT and the challenges faced. Also understanding what information is available to the public eg. Reports available via the NIBTT's website and the TTEITI's report". – (Student)

"The information regarding the sustainability of the social security system and the intended plan regarding its long term plan". – (Church of Nazerene, Representative)

"The projections for years to come and how these relate to my organization's needs to plan for its markets". (Guardian Life, Representative)

"Inclusion or potential engagement of the self-employed community as National Insurance Scheme contributors so that the pool can grow/ increase. Also, recognition of the "crisis" / "challenge" is a national concern, therefore greater transparency and accountability are required".
– (Anonymous)

What would you like more information on?

Majority of the participants (60%) answered question and took the opportunity express what they think would like more information on following the conclusion of the Forum.

Some notable responses to question 5 on the Evaluation Form are illustrated in box 2.

Box 2

Some of the notable responses to question 5: “What would you like more information on?” Include:

“Access to data (open data) for interested persons to access. Stakeholder consultations can be ‘biased’ without access to the right data sets. Interested persons with data can contribute and or innovate on potential solutions”. -(Student)

“What steps should a person approaching retirement take to facilitate a smooth process for receiving their benefits without incurring delays eg. Where to go? What to check for? What should your employer should provide/do?” – (BPTT, Representative)

“I would like to see a national consultation on Social Security crisis”. – (Ministry of Labour, Representative)

“Mechanics of the TTEITI’s accounting and models used by the NIBTT in forecasting/projections”. – (COSTAATT, Senior Lecturer)

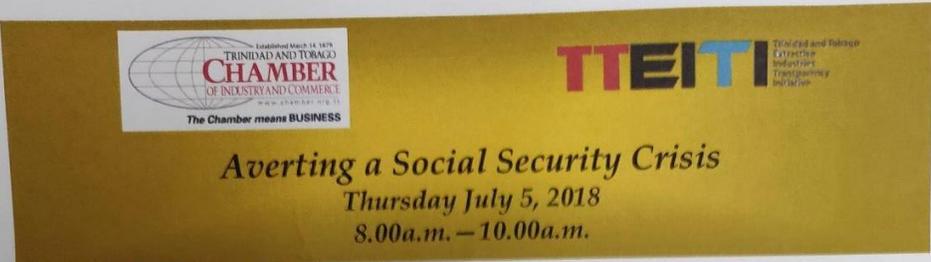
Successes and Lessons Learned.

Successes	Lessons Learned
Presentations were well-received overall and targeted to the interest of the attendees.	Continue hosting Q & A session between presentations / panel discussion as opposed to leaving at the end. This proved to be more engaging and interactive.
Facilitation was smooth and discussion was lively.	Length of TTEITI overview presentation to be reduced and linkages to topic being discussed must be made early in the presentation to not lose audience.
Speakers and panelists were knowledgeable and able to comfortably answer participant's questions during Q &A sessions.	Give panelists 'House Rules' or written brief highlighting parameters of discussions and time.
The room was organized and audio/visual equipment tested before the start of the event.	Check industry related calendar for events to reduce chance of event clashes. Stakeholder turnout out was low because of this.
Some participants completed the Evaluation Forms	Encourage participants to answer all of the questions on the form.
Use of technology (TV screen facing speakers and projector dedicated to the audience)	When partnering with another organisation for an event, request final menu and final programme agenda for approval before to booking/ printing.

Sustainability: What are the next steps?

Following the event, the TTEITI Secretariat emailed participants a copy of the PowerPoint presentations and added participants who expressed interest to our mailing list, with the intention of updating them on the activities of the TTEITI and how they can become involved.

Appendix I



Established March 14, 1878
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
CHAMBER
OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE
www.chamber.org.tt
The Chamber means BUSINESS

TTEITI Trinidad and Tobago
Extractive
Industries
Transparency
Initiative

Averting a Social Security Crisis
Thursday July 5, 2018
8.00a.m. – 10.00a.m.

Safety Briefing (Recording)
8.00a.m.—8.03a.m.

Welcome Remarks
Mr. Sherwin Long
Head, Trinidad & Tobago Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Secretariat
8.05a.m.—8.10a.m.

TTEITI Report Highlights
Mr. Sherwin Long
Head, Trinidad & Tobago Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Secretariat
8.10a.m. - 8.25a.m.

**Reform — An Imperative for the Sustainability of the
National Insurance Board**
Mr. Andy Edwards
Manager, Actuarial Services, National Insurance Board of Trinidad and Tobago
8.25a.m. - 8.55a.m.

Panel Discussion
Mr. Sherwin Long, Head — TTEITI Secretariat
Mr. Andy Edwards, Manager—Actuarial Services, NIB
Mr. Cecil Paul, Executive Board Member & Chair National Issues Committee - TTARP
8.55a.m - 9:40a.m.

Question and Answer Session
9.40a.m.—10:00a.m.

Vote of Thanks
Mr. Sherwin Long
Head, Trinidad & Tobago Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Secretariat
10.00a.m.- 10.05a.m.

Appendix III

Name	Type of Organization	Organization Name	Position
Lael Samuel	Company	Technology Tamers	Founder & Principal Consultant
Vera Guesava	Other	International Labour Organisation (ILO)	Specialist
Vanessa Phala	Other	International Labour Organisation (ILO)	Specialist
Shaun Rambaran	Company	Forge Business Imagery	
Anthony Arrindell	Company	Trinidad Import & Export Company Limited	
Sochan Laltoo	Government	COSTAATT	Senior Lecturer
Richard Lee Hugh	Company	TT Chamber of Industry & Commerce	Accountant
Yvette Hoyte	Company	YSH Consulting	Managing Director
Dexter Daly	Civil Society	Church of the Nazarene	
Candace Simmons	Company	Guardian Life of the Caribbean Limited	
Debra Rahamatali	Company	BPTT	
Michelle Santokie	Other		Student
Brenda Frank-Mills	Other		CEO
Gale Mohammed-Oxley	Civil Society	G.O. International Academy of Learning	
Karen Roopnarine	Government	Central Bank of T&T	Economist

Jerome Jones	Company	INDUCO	CEO
Dhaniel Smith	Government	Central Bank of T&T	Economist
Darlene Bowrin	Government	Central Bank of T&T	Economist
Radesh Bassant	Government	NIBTT	Public Relations Officer
Karlene Noreiga	Government	NIBTT	
Radha Ramkhelawan	Government	NIBTT	Research
Vera Maharaj	Company	Tissues Limited	
Avanelle Shadeo	Company	Combined Engineering Company Limited	
Deonello Sauur	Company	Soap Sanctuary Limited	
Khian Francis	Government	Ministry of Labour	

Speakers' Contact

Name	Organization	Position	Email
Sherwin Long	TTEITI Secretariat	Head	slong@energy.gov.tt
Andy Edwards	NIBTT	Manager Actuarial Services	asedwards@nibtt.net