



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
Communications Unit

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Media Release

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PORT OF SPAIN CHOSEN FOR THE EMERGING & SUSTAINABLE CITIES INITIATIVE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Calgary, Canada: The City of Port of Spain was chosen as one of four pilots for the Initiative among 170 cities in the Latin America & Caribbean region. This choice was made at the Inter American Development Bank's Annual General meeting in Calgary taking place over the period March 25th -29th 2011 where the Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiative was launched. IDB President Moreno extended invitations to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to participate during the IDB's Annual Meeting and together with the Governor of the Bank, the Honourable Minister of Finance, Winston Dookeran, agreed to include the City of Port of Spain as a pilot in the Initiative. It was also agreed to work in close co-ordination with all the authorities of the Central and Local Government, the City of Port of Spain Corporation, and other relevant state agencies and companies in the design of a comprehensive pilot under the Initiative, and subsequently to operationalize its implementation. The Mayor of Port of Spain Mr. Louis Lee Sing was invited by the Bank to be a participant and presenter at the Mayors Municipal Program for which the Bank partnered with the City of Calgary, Canada in organizing.

The challenge of comprehensive urban development is to promote competitiveness and social inclusion while protecting the environment and enhancing quality of life and remains a permanent challenge for local governments.

The complexity of the emerging cities' management grows in direct proportion with the increase in economic activities and population, with the challenges of competitiveness and the higher number of marginalized populations. The responsibilities of local governments over a great variety of urban services in their territories overlap, in many cases, with those of other levels of government, making the co-ordination of both tiers of government a requirement to meet high demands imposed by development, decentralization and climate change.

The pillars of the Bank's Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiative:

- (i) Environmental sustainability and climate change;
- (ii) Integrated urban development; and
- (iii) Fiscal sustainability and governance.

A concerted effort is required to address the challenges of environmental sustainability by making cities more compact, consume less space and take better advantage of existing infrastructure. Creating efficient systems of public transportation and alternative routes for bicycles and pedestrians; collecting, treating and recycling effluents and solid waste; and making efficient use of energy in the productive, commercial and residential sectors are also challenges to overcome.

THE END

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