



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

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For immediate release

MEDIA RELEASE

**Ministers Imbert and Beckles-Robinson Host Courtesy Visit
with IDB Representatives**

The Honourable Colm Imbert Minister of Finance along with the Honourable Pernelle Beckles-Robinson, Minister of Planning and Development met with a visiting mission from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on Tuesday 21st January, 2025 at the Eric Williams Finance Building (EWFB), Port of Spain.

The IDB Team was led by Mr. Jordan Schwartz – Executive Vice President, and he was accompanied by Mr. Julian Belgrave - Country Representative, IDB. The Mission was in the country to participate in the launch of the Regional **TechLab** for the Caribbean which took place on Tuesday 21st January 2025.

The IDB representatives also met with Minister of Digital Transformation, the Honourable Hassel Bacchus, they also visited WASA Control Centre, the Malabar Wastewater Plant, toured various projects executed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and met with the Arima First Peoples.

About TechLab

Created in 2017, TechLab – the emerging Technology Laboratory of the InterAmerican Development Bank (IDB) Group – is part of the IDB's Technology Department with the goal of preparing the IDB Group to leverage emerging technology. Through exploration, prototyping, and collaboration with strategic partners, Techlab aims to accelerate the adoption of emerging technologies in areas that can positively impact development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

TechLab's main goal is to create transformative solutions that promote sustainable development, improve access to public services, and address socioeconomic and environmental challenges. The labs also focus on identifying and evaluating emerging technologies and their applications to better understand their safe and effective implementation, while identifying strategic partners to drive IDB Group's digital projects.

Opportunities for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago: The IDB Group's Regional TechLab for the Caribbean, based in the IDB Country Office in Trinidad and Tobago, offers unique opportunities for the Government to harness cutting-edge technologies to advance its digital transformation agenda:

- **Smart City Solutions:** Collaborating with government agencies, including the Ministry of Digital Transformation, to implement IoT-based smart city projects that enhance urban connectivity, efficiency, and citizen experience.
- **Capacity Building:** Partnering with local universities and research institutions to upskill public sector employees in AI, data science, and emerging technologies, ensuring long-term sustainability in government projects.
- **Digital Infrastructure:** Supporting the development and deployment of robust digital infrastructure to enable seamless service delivery and foster economic growth.
- **Collaborative Projects:** Opportunities to co-develop and prototype technology-driven solutions that address national priorities such as water resource management, housing, and transportation.

By leveraging the resources and expertise of the TechLab, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago can accelerate its digital transformation initiatives and ensure sustainable growth. The TechLab's strategic focus on innovation, collaboration, and skills development positions it as a critical enabler of national goals, from improving public sector efficiency to fostering economic diversification.

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