

## 1. SUMMARY

The housing situation in Trinidad and Tobago is indeed a terrible one. Housing needs are estimated at more than 18,000 units per annum. The supply to date has been unable to keep abreast of demand and the government has embarked on a construction program with the aim of producing 10,000 units per annum, in an effort to alleviate the situation.

The high cost of construction and the competition between the different construction sectors make the traditional method of construction unable to cope with the housing requirements. Industrialized systems are therefore seen as a solution to the housing problem and one such system is currently engaged in the construction of some 5,500 units.

This system, the WIHCON System, was developed in Jamaica and utilizes large panel, precast, bearing wall construction. The system offers seismic resistance and a robust, durable, weatherproof construction requiring little maintenance. The structures produced are generally acceptable.

The estimated construction cost attainable through the use of this system is about TT\$905.00 per square metre, (TT\$2.40 = US\$1.00), some 17% lower than the traditional methods and offering economies in the range 30% - 54% over other systems.