



IDB and Cambridge University representatives engage participants at an EDAB foresighting exercise.

Innovation Conference starts today

The Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB), together with the Ministry of Planning and Development, the European Union, the Inter-American Development Bank and the University of the West Indies, has been collaborating over the past few months to design innovative and sustainable economic drivers and associated pathways, inclusive of actionable plans for increased diversification of the T&T economy.

As a prelude to the Innovation Conference the EDAB, through representatives of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the University of Cambridge, hosted Foresighting initiatives that discussed and presented a Strategic Roadmap for Productive Development Policy in Trinidad and Tobago to the following ministries—Planning and Development, Trade and Industry,

Finance, Works and Transport. The target groups attending the discussion included Energy Services, Indigenous High Value-added Agricultural Products providers, ICT Services for manufacturers and Maritime and Aviation Services. The culmination of work by these entities, inclusive of several workshops, in-depth interviews and analyses of existing work and material will take the form of an Innovation Conference.

This conference will seek to reinforce and further support the content of the National Innovation Policy of the Government. This policy is currently before Cabinet for its approval. The policy aims to guide the Diversification Strategy and Roadmap and the Draft National Development Strategy (Vision 2030).

The Innovation Conference is scheduled from today at the Teaching and Learning Complex, UWI, St Augustine.

The primary objective of the event will be to gather participants' feedback to validate the positions of the collaborative output of the aforementioned entities in the context of operationalising the National Innovation Policy.

In addition to the conference, overseas member of the EDAB, Prof Godfrey Mungal will be conducting a public lecture at the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business on Thursday. The lecture seeks to focus on The Entrepreneurial Mindset and will cover the three core components of the Entrepreneurial Mindset – Curiosity, Connections and Creating Value. A set of strategies has been developed revolving around these “3 C’s” as part of the Kern Entrepreneurial Engineering Network (KEEN). The event will also comprise a panel discussion on “Government-Industry-University Collaboration for Innovation”.