



Project Outline

Inter-American Development Bank



Country: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
Project Number: TT0056
Project Name: COMPETITIVENESS AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
As of 17-Oct-2003

GENERAL INFORMATION

Country:	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	Number	TT0056
Project:	COMPETITIVENESS AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM	Type of Operation:	Specific Investment Operation
Borrower:	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	Approval Date:	07-Jul-2004
Total Cost:	\$63,000,000.00		
Responsible Division:	FI3 - FINANCE & BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE DIVISION		
Executing Agencies:	MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND INFORMATION		

DESCRIPTION

The Program consists of four components that are:

- A) Assistance to improve the business environment to increase private sector productivity, including the creation of a Council for Enhanced Competitiveness. Possible areas for improvement in the business environment include corporate governance, reduction of red tape, improvement of the framework for secured transactions, strengthening private sector linkages with academia, export promotion, investment promotion (domestic and FDI), the National Science and Technology System, and regulation and privatization of utilities and other SOEs.
- B) Finance for increasing the effectiveness and use of ICT in the public and private sectors as defined in the National ICT Plan (NICTP). This will include support for institutional strengthening, legal/regulatory framework reforms, e-government implementation and a connectivity program to reach low-income communities. E-government would be concentrated in solutions that reduce transaction costs to businesses as they deal with Government. Examples include Customs, trade transactions, the VAT and PAYE taxes, electronic procurement and other similar processes. Particular emphasis will be given to activities that facilitate trade.
- C) An enterprise development fund to promote effective business alliances and clusters and technological innovation. The fund would utilize a matching grant mechanism to bolster the efforts of businesses or groups of businesses in both of these areas.
- D) Support for training for competitiveness, including institutional and policy formulation strengthening at the tertiary level, the development of an accreditation system, and scholarships. These scholarships will be in areas directly linked to competitiveness such as business administration and ICT. Some activities to strengthen the Institute of Business at the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the ICT Center at Wallerfield will also be funded.

Team

Project Leader: BELT, JUAN ALBERTO BENJAMIN
Members: VERDISCO, AIMEE E.; HAQUE, BADRUL M.; PULIDO, DANIEL; DOOKIESINGH, VASHTIE; MAGGI, CLAUDIO ESTEBAN;
Lawyer:
Consultants:

CLASSIFICATIONS

Poverty Target Investment	Social Equity Poverty Reduction
Head Count	
Sector	
Geographic	

FINANCING PLAN

	Currency	Amount
INVESTMENT LOAN	USD	50,000,000.00
COUNTERPART:		13,000,000.00
		Total: 63,000,000.00

BANKS COUNTRY STRATEGY

The Bank's Country Strategy for Trinidad and Tobago, approved in 1997, focuses on improving competitiveness, promoting growth and diversification, reducing unemployment and poverty, and reforming the public sector. A new Country Strategy Paper is under development and it is expected to continue to highlight the importance of improving competitiveness. The Competitiveness and Technology Program is included in the Bank's Operational Program for the period June 2003-May 2004. The proposed Program is expected to increase competitiveness, particularly in the non-hydrocarbon sector, and thus economic diversification. E-government activities designed to reduce the transaction costs faced by enterprises as they interact with the public sector will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the public sector.

OBJECTIVES

The goal of the Program is to increase the productivity of the economy and thereby, sustainable economic growth. The purpose is to increase the competitiveness of private





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elements of the National Information and Communications Technology Plan (NICTP).

EXPECTED RESULTS

At the purpose level, it is expected that Trinidad and Tobago will improve the business climate for competitiveness and improve the productivity and business performance of participating firms. A greater use of ICT in the public and private sectors will contribute to increased competitiveness. Component objectives include: A) microeconomic foundations of competitiveness improved and public/private dialogue on competitiveness enhanced; B) use of ICT in the public and private sectors increased; C) firm level competitiveness increased; and D) training system for competitiveness improved. Key indicators have been identified in a preliminary manner. Most of the indicators would be obtained from the WEF while others would come from agency records, reports and statistics provided by participating firms, trained observer ratings, and special technical equipment to track use of ICT.

Vo.Bo: _____

Approved By : _____

Ciro De Falco
Manager, RE3

