

MEDIA RELEASE

(For Immediate Release)



**Trinidad and Tobago
Securities and Exchange Commission
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November 16, 2020

9th US SEC Technical Assistance Programme for Regional Securities Regulators Ends

The 9th United States Securities and Exchange Commission (US SEC) Technical Assistance Programme, for financial sector regulators in the Caribbean, ended today – Monday 16th November. Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission (TTSEC) hosted the programme, which was conducted virtually over a non-consecutive eight-day period, beginning October 19th.

The TTSEC-US SEC collaboration on training and development dates back to 2006, when specialised training opportunities were offered for regulators within the financial services industry in the Caribbean.

At this year's programme, there was participation from several Caribbean Group of Securities Regulators (CGSR) member countries, including: the Barbados Financial Services Commission, Bermuda Monetary Authority, BVI Financial Services Commission, Eastern Caribbean Securities Regulatory Commission; and locally, the Financial Intelligence Unit, Trinidad and Tobago Stock Exchange Limited, Trinidad and Tobago Police Service's - Financial Investigations Branch and the Fraud Squad and Staff of the TTSEC.

In closing the training, Lystra Lucillio, Chief Executive Officer (Ag.), TTSEC noted, "Through this programme, we have created opportunities for increased information-sharing among regulators, from legislative amendments and financial technologies to enhancing our enforcement procedures and adequately addressing investment fraud. We have encouraged cross-jurisdictional participation and involvement, of which we are certain will continue going forward."

She urged fellow regulators, “We must familiarize ourselves with global perspectives and integrate learnings and best practices into our local context so that we can effectively and efficiently oversee our securities markets.

As we adjust to a technologically progressive environment, we recognize that within the region we have our regulatory and jurisdictional challenges, but through ongoing training, collaboration and discussions with our Regional and International regulators, we will continuously evolve and adapt to meet the ever-changing needs of our securities industries and our financial sectors”. She thanked the US SEC, “for once again partnering with the TTSEC and for delivering in their usual exceptional and professional style”.

The Technical Assistance Programme exposed participants to training on a wide range of topics on the financial services industry such as: Compliance Inspections and Examinations; Developing a Corporation Finance Function; Oversight of FINRA and Building an Effective Self-Regulatory Programme; FinTech, Digital Assets and Initial Coin Offerings and Financing Small and Medium Sized-Enterprises.

Participants from across the region were particularly grateful to the TTSEC and US SEC for the opportunity to be part of this programme, indicating that the core areas presented on and discussed throughout were very relevant and informative, and the overall experience productive and transformative.

This programme placed focus on challenges currently facing regulators locally and regionally and covered best practices within capital markets, maximising both investor protection and market development.

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About the TTSEC:

The TTSEC is governed by the Securities Act 2012 and is responsible for maintaining oversight of the securities market and for ensuring that fairness, equity and transparency remain common values in the market place. Our vision is to be an effective regulator of the capital market in which stakeholders have confidence.

About the USSEC:

The mission of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (USSEC) is to protect investors, maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets, and facilitate capital formation.

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