

A Message from the CEO

Dear AMCHAM T&T Members,

Thank you for your membership.

In 2016, 76% of you were active members. We tracked how many of you engaged with us somewhat regularly by sitting on committees, attending events or training workshops, writing for our Linkage magazine, sponsoring AMCHAM T&T events, making use of our membership services or assisting with our research. We're proud that, even in these challenging economic times, we can give you value.

However, we have to ask: what about the other 24%? How can we work for all our members, regardless of size or sector?

Trinidad and Tobago Now

History may well view this time as a pivotal one in our country's history. Trinidad and Tobago is faced with depressed oil and gas prices, low productivity and increased competition from our neighbours. The only way to respond to these challenges is with strength—we need a home environment conducive to investment; a public service that can distinguish itself by its efficiency; closer partnerships between the government, unions and the private sector; and clear, visible policies that support growth.

Our Vision

AMCHAM T&T's vision is to be the preferred private sector business organisation for the stimulation of free and fair trade and investment within the Americas and the Caribbean. At this time, it is more important than ever that we realise this vision.

In 2016, AMCHAM T&T ramped up our advocacy efforts. Our budget submission included fiscal and policy recommendations that will allow T&T to distinguish itself from its peers. We worked with our members to form sub-committees committed to addressing problems specific to particular industries such as the Express Courier and Logistics Committee and the Fuel Peddlers Sub-

Committee. Our events were geared towards stimulating free and fair trade and investment as we encouraged expansion beyond CARICOM into Latin America and North America.

As you will see in this annual report, we fought for fair trade and investment, whether this meant advocating for changes to local legislation or policies that were necessary to keep our country competitive or carrying out original research. We hope that you will view the report in its entirety—we have been working on improving communication with you—whether this involves sending out monthly newsletters (which we started in 2016) or producing this annual report (which we believe will be more interesting to you than a sixty-page document). It is not enough for us to have a vision; we are trying to do a better job of sharing it with members and allowing your feedback to inform our actions.

Our Mission

Simply put, our mission is to add value to member companies. We plan to do this by focusing on the following key areas:

- Enhancement of Competitiveness
- Generation of New Business and Market Access for Services/Goods
- Influence on Policies and Legislation
- Transfer of Knowledge
- Contribution to Sustainable Development

But we can only really know how best to add value if you talk to us. We would like 100% of our members to be engaged. Please let us know the challenges your businesses are facing and what we can do to help. Use our services whether you would like to apply for a US business visa or receive work permit training. Give us feedback on the work we're already doing—our advocacy, our events, our interviews in the press. Call us anytime.

Our Members

When we ask you to call us, we mean it.

The members of our Secretariat, regardless of their job description, work at getting to know our members. Any time a new member is approved, we send an email to all staff describing the member, their core business and their principles. We know many of members by their voices over the phone. We call our members, or visit you if you would prefer, to find out how you're doing and how you can help. It means a lot to us when you let us know how we've helped your business. And,

if you would like to get more out of your membership, then it's even more important that you call. AMCHAM T&T is made up of members and we're here to work for you.

Acknowledgements

2016 left me with a lot of people to thank. Of course, I would like to thank all of you, our members. I would also like to thank the Board of Directors for their confidence and support. Outgoing President Ravi Suryadevara has given two years of yeoman's service as our president and many years before that in various capacities. Finally, I want to thank our Secretariat, who met the challenges of 2016 with courage and optimism. They rock!

We can look towards the future with courage and optimism because we will be working together. Together, we can build the business environment and country that will benefit us all.

Warm Regards,



Nirad Tewarie
CEO