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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Hoteliers and small and micro tourism operators to benefit from
Accommodation Upgrade Project**

The Ministry of Tourism and the Tourism Development Company (TDC) launched the Trinidad and Tobago Tourism Accommodation Upgrade Project at the Hotel Normandie on January 23, 2015.

The launch, a major step towards significant improvements in the quality of Trinidad and Tobago's accommodation product, was attended by a cross section of hoteliers and other heads of stakeholder organizations. Ms. Donna Ferraz, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism; Mr. Umesh Rampersad, Chairman, TDC and Mr. Keith Chin, Chief Executive Officer, TDC, brought remarks from their respective organisations.

Speaking at the launch of the project, Keith Chin, Chief Executive Officer, TDC said "the TDC continues to position Trinidad and Tobago as a destination of choice and, as an organisation, we are pleased to facilitate such an initiative that will improve the overall visitor experience and increase our global competitiveness."

The Trinidad and Tobago Tourism Accommodation Upgrade Project (TAUP) is an expansion of the original Trinidad and Tobago Hotel and Guesthouse Room Stock Upgrade Incentive Project which was launched in 2010. Approved by Cabinet on July 17, 2014, TAUP will be implemented over a period of three years with the objective of providing an incentive for the upgrade of tourism accommodation to a first class level to meet and/or exceed the Trinidad and Tobago Standard Requirements for Tourist Accommodation.

The benefit to eligible operators with establishments of 1-5 guestrooms include a 20% reimbursement incentive for upgrade works conducted to the interior or exterior of the property up to a maximum of \$75,000 while those with 6-150 guestrooms stand to benefit from a 25% reimbursement incentive up to a maximum of \$750,000. Examples of eligible upgrade areas include reception/front desk, public restrooms, dining rooms, kitchens, meeting facilities, bars, fitness areas and swimming pools.

For more information on the Tourism Accommodation Upgrade Project contact the Investment Facilitation Department at 675-7034 or via email at info@tdc.co.tt.

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