



What a joyful moment!

Her Excellency, Paula-Mae Weekes, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago hands over the trophy to Randall Karim, Director Policy and Strategy at the Ministry of Trade and Industry for placing second at the IDB's *President's Award for Service Excellence and Innovation in the Public Sector*. Beaming and happily applauding is The Honourable Minister of Ministry of Trade and Industry, Paula Gopee-Scoon.

Photo by Navindra Harbukhan.



A Proud TTBizLink Family! The Honourable Minister of Ministry of Trade and Industry, Paula Gopee-Scoon, holds the trophy received by her Ministry for placing second at the IDB's *President's Award for Service Excellence and Innovation in the Public Sector*. With her, from left, front row, are Kushal Beepat, SEW Specialist; Randall Karim, Director of Policy and Strategy; Gaynelle Abraham Brathwaite, Programme Manager; Allison Bidaisee, Manager Stakeholder Adoption; Neshan Singh, Technical Consultant; and Rodney Ali, ICT Technical Officer. Back row, from left are Marc Lewis, ICT Support Officer; Arveon Williams, Procurement Specialist; Justin John, Operations Manager; and Ravi Thanoo, SEW Specialist.

Photo by Navindra Harbukhan.

MTI cops 2nd place in IDB's *President's Award for Service Excellence and Innovation in the Public Sector*

The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) ended 2018 on a very high note when it copped second place in the IDB's *President's Award for Service Excellence and Innovation in the Public Sector*. The MTI, which submitted the work of the TTBizLink Unit, was among seven (7) finalists at the award ceremony which took place on December 5th at the Cipriani Labour College.

Her Excellency, Paula-Mae Weekes, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago who lent her support to this initiative noted in a release issued by the IDB that, "As a caterpillar sheds its skin and emerges from its cocoon as a butterfly, so too should citizens embrace the process of transformation."

The award, which was open to applicants from ministries, public

service departments/divisions, state-owned companies, statutory bodies or municipalities, saw various stages of judging which resulted in seven (7) finalists. Judging included a written submission with evidentiary documentation and a presentation before an esteemed panel of judges which was followed by a question and answer session. The Chair of the panel was Her Excellency, President Paula-Mae Weekes.

The President's Award is tied to the third pillar of the IDB Group's 2016 -2020 Country Strategy with Trinidad and Tobago which is focused on strengthening public sector institutions and governance. It is also part of an initiative launched by the IDB Group in November 2017 called the "Unfollow: Same never made a

difference" campaign, which seeks to reach the wider public in a meaningful and activating way, highlighting the need to be different and disruptive, while promoting the need for change, collaboration, idea generation and innovation from all sectors of society.

The MTI congratulates the first place recipient, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development for its *Housing and Village Improvement Programme*, third place recipient the Water and Sewerage Authority for its *Adopt A River* initiative and the other four (4) finalists — North Central Regional Health Authority, the Ministry of Works and Transport, CARIRI and the Ministry of Health — for their admirable and meaningful work and service to the T&T's people.