



REGIONAL CONFERENCE TO BOOST BUSINESS ACTIVITY HOSTED BY THE VENTURE CAPITAL INCENTIVE PROGRAMME

VenturePoint 2001 under the theme *“Forging a Regional Venture Capital Network”* culminated at the Trinidad Hilton and Conference Centre, Trinidad and Tobago on January 24th 2001.

The Venture Capital Incentive Programme (VCIP) of Trinidad and Tobago hosted the event together with its principal sponsors Republic Bank Limited and Scotiabank, and other organizations similarly committed to the development of a vibrant investment climate. The Honourable Mervyn Assam, Minister of Enterprise Development, Foreign Affairs and Tourism in Trinidad and Tobago delivered the feature address entitled *“Igniting the entrepreneurial spirit within the region”*.

Over one hundred participants from Barbados, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Guadeloupe, St. Vincent, Canada and USA had the opportunity to share the experiences of a diverse team of professionals from the local, regional and international business and financial community.

Entrepreneurs and business owners were afforded a platform to showcase their businesses to financiers to raise capital for business start-ups and expansion.

The networking opportunity was invaluable; a gala cocktail event also presented the environment for entrepreneurs, business owners, investors, financiers and business advisors to socialize.

The event was an important step forward for the VCIP and a collaborative effort towards the development of a vibrant regional venture capital industry. According to the VCIP Administrator, Judith M.S. Mark, we have embraced the concept of regional integration as a competitive strategy and also recognize that “venture capital can play an important role in the creation of growth and economic development in the region as is evident from the North American and European successes”.