



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MEDIA RELEASE



From left to right: Dr. the Honourable Surujrattan Rambachan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Communications; Ms. Sonia Lainfiesta, Head of Guatemalan delegation; H.E. Mervyn Assam, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary with responsibility for Trade and Investment; and the Honourable Stephen Cadiz, Minister of Trade and Industry

The first round of negotiations for a Partial Scope Agreement between Trinidad and Tobago and Guatemala began at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Communications on April 11th, 2012. During the three consecutive days of talks, parties will seek to find mutually beneficial common ground on issues such as market access, trade facilitation and customs procedures, services and investment and legal issues.

At the media conference held at the start of the talks, Dr. the Honourable Surujrattan Rambachan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Communications confirmed that Trinidad and Tobago has been aggressively seeking to form stronger alliances and



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increase trade relations with Central American partners and recently completed a Partial Scope Agreement with Panama.

Minister of Trade and Industry the Honourable Stephen Cadiz outlined that a trade partnership with Guatemala would be greatly beneficial to Trinidad and Tobago, as it would give our manufacturers and service providers access to the largest economy in the Central American Common Market. Minister Cadiz also pointed out that Guatemala's large population coupled with its relatively even wealth distribution makes it a very attractive market for local producers especially when a need to ease the concentration of exports on our traditional trade markets is becoming more pressing.

The second round of negotiations is due to take place in Guatemala later this year.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Communications

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