

**USPTO Train-the-Trainer Workshops for Police and Customs**  
**Remarks for U.S. Chargé d’Affaires to Trinidad and Tobago, John McIntyre**  
**January 23, 2017**

SALUTATIONS

The Honorable Faris Al-Rawi, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Regan Asgarali, Acting Controller of Trinidad and Tobago’s Intellectual Property Office

Provosts of both Academies (names coming shortly)

Good Morning Everyone,

It is my great pleasure to join you today to commence two important training programs on Intellectual Property.

The United States, Trinidad and Tobago, and the region face common challenges with regard to the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights – which is why it’s so important that we work together to develop ever-improving practices for intellectual property protection and enforcement.

For many years, technical advisors from the United States and other international institutions have partnered with Trinidad and Tobago’s police officers, customs officers, prosecutors, regulators, and judicial officials. Their shared objective is to foster intellectual property regimes that provide consumers with innovative products and services while providing protection from counterfeit and pirated goods, many of which pose health and safety dangers and stymie local creativity and entrepreneurship.

A few months ago, the United States Patent and Trademark Office, with local and regional partners, brought judges and magistrates together from the United States and around the region to share knowledge, relevant experiences, and best practices on civil and criminal adjudication of intellectual property rights cases.

This week’s trainings with Trinidad and Tobago’s Police Service and Customs and Excise Division, in partnership with the Trinidad and Tobago Intellectual Property

Office and the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs, are continuing that work.

The judiciary does not work alone. It relies on partners in the field – where expertise in investigative techniques, risk analysis and targeting, container tracking, and cooperation with other agencies and jurisdictions are key first steps in the process of stopping intellectual property violations.

Police and Customs officials occupy a special place, both in their actual powers and in the respect they command. An action taken against a counterfeiter stops the illegal activity and sends a message. Police and customs officials not only apply the law, they set the tone for public perception.

A constant challenge in training of this kind is combating common problems in different legal systems. Every jurisdiction needs to consider its own market assess its own risks, and develop a program that works best for the particular legal and regulatory regime in which it operates. And that's where I would like to especially highlight the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's outstanding work, as this program has been tailored to conform to local enforcement authorities.

The U.S. Embassy looks forward to continuous engagement on this and other intellectual property enforcement initiatives in the months and years to come.

Thank you.

Approved: DCM –

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