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***Inaugural Conference for Trinidad & Tobago's leading
NGOs, CBOs and Civil Society Organisations to be held
Friday & Saturday, May 11-12 at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad***

Port of Spain, Trinidad - WEDNESDAY, 7 MAY 2012 - Trinidad & Tobago's non-profit professionals and sector stakeholders will gather this Friday and Saturday, May 11th and 12th in Port of Spain at a groundbreaking conference to share non-profit management best practices and experience valuable networking opportunities.

The "*T&T NGO Professionals Conference*," sponsored by the JB Fernandes Memorial Trust and convened by the Institute of International Education in partnership with the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, will be held at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad.

"The JB Fernandes Memorial Trust takes pride in sponsoring this inaugural conference for Trinidad & Tobago's NGO and CBO leaders," said Chris Page, a longtime advisor to the Trust.

"No one sector can meet today's complex societal needs, but working together, non-profits, government and businesses can help address some of our most vexing problems. We hope this national conference will help to strengthen organisations, create new alliances and positively impact communities throughout Trinidad and Tobago."

Presenters from leading NGOs, government ministries and corporations will share information and experiences at sessions on Fundraising; Marketing/PR; Social Media; Strategic Planning; Evaluation; Financial Sustainability; and Succession Planning.

The conference was planned with the support of a steering committee of local organisations and non-profit sector leaders, including Barbara King of the Trinidad & Tobago Innovative Parenting Support (TTIPS) organization.

"I am pleased be a part of this important conference for local NGOs, CBOs and civil society organizations. This is something we have asked for and I congratulate The Trust on responding to our call in this way," said TTIPS' Barbara King.

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The conference also marks the launch of the newly established *JB Fernandes Award for NGO Excellence in Trinidad & Tobago*, which recognizes NGOs, CBOs and civil society organisations that are national models of excellence, improving communities and utilizing best practices in non-profit management.

The winning organisation will receive a \$5,000 US monetary donation and be honoured on Friday's Welcome & Awards Banquet. The award is funded by the JB Fernandes Memorial Trust through Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, and is administered by the Institute of International Education. A judging panel of local and international foundations and non-profits selected the award recipient and honorees.

About the JB Fernandes Memorial Trust

The JB Fernandes Memorial Trust, is a philanthropic organization established by the late Trinidadian business leader, Joseph Bento Fernandes. The Trust supports initiatives to increase access to education, improve health conditions, and alleviate poverty. Its activities are focused in his home country of Trinidad and Tobago; the country of his parents' origin, Portugal; and selected Portuguese communities in North America. Since 1998, the Trust has distributed nearly 1000 grants totaling more than US\$40 million.

Among the many initiatives supported in Trinidad & Tobago are:

- A comprehensive campaign to strengthen the capacity of the local non-profit sector
- Programs to expand volunteer-led literacy programs throughout the country
- Investments in community health care organizations serving expectant mothers
- Empowerment projects designed to improve skills and prospects for employment

About the Institute of International Education (IIE)

Founded in 1919, the Institute of International Education is dedicated to increasing the capacity of people to think and work on a global and intercultural basis. To accomplish its mission, IIE provides services in four key areas:

- Building leadership skills and enhancing the capacity of individuals and organizations to address local and global challenges.
- Promoting closer educational relations between the people of the United States and those of other countries.
- Rescuing threatened scholars and advancing academic freedom.
- Strengthening and linking institutions of higher learning globally.

IIE partners with educational institutions, governments, foundations, and corporations to develop and implement educational exchange and training programs that serve students, scholars and professionals in more than 175 countries. IIE-administered programs include the prestigious Fulbright and Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowships, administered by IIE on behalf of the U.S. Department of State, as well as more than 250 other initiatives that benefit over 24,000 men and women from 175 countries each year. Our organization employs a staff of 630 at its New York headquarters and in 32 offices plus representatives around the globe. Sponsors range from large organizations and foundations like the International Monetary Fund, the International Labor Organization, and the Ford, Rockefeller and Packard Foundations to private-sector companies such as ExxonMobil Corporation and GE Foundation. www.iie.org

About the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA)

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors is a nonprofit organization that currently advises on and manages more than \$200 million in annual giving. Headquartered in New York City, with offices in Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco, it traces its antecedents to John D. Rockefeller Sr., who in 1891 began to professionally manage his philanthropy "as if it were a business." With thoughtful and effective philanthropy as its one and only mission, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors has grown into one of the world's largest philanthropic service organizations, having overseen more than \$3 billion to date in grantmaking across the globe.

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors provides research and counsel on charitable giving, develops philanthropic programs and offers complete program, administrative and management services for foundations and trusts. It also operates a Charitable Giving Fund, through which clients can make gifts outside the United States, participate in funding consortia and operate nonprofit initiatives. www.rockpa.org

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