

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **SCOTIABANK ANALYSES POTENTIAL IMPACT OF GLOBAL SHOCKS ON TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

**Scotiabank Trinidad & Tobago Limited** recently hosted two seminars entitled “Managing Global Shocks in 2006” as part of an ongoing effort to address international economic trends and assist our commercial partners in rising to the unique challenges of today’s globalized economy. The seminars were held over the two-day period November 8 – 9 at Cara Suites, Claxton Bay and at the Trinidad Hilton & Conference Centre, Port-of-Spain. Participants included several Government officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps, corporate customers and senior representatives of the nation’s financial services sector.

Addressing the attendees was the Canadian-based Vice President, Head of International Research for the Scotiabank Group, Mr. Pablo F.G. Bréard. Mr. Bréard is also Scotiabank’s Chief Latin American Economist, responsible for emerging markets intelligence, sovereign fundamental and technical analyses and client development. He advises top management on economic, political and financial risk factors affecting Scotiabank’s operations worldwide and coordinates the production and distribution of research documents on global economics and foreign exchange market developments.

Mr. Bréard alluded to four main global shocks for which Trinidad and Tobago must be prepared in 2006. These include the Energy, Demand, Currency and Emerging market shocks. The Energy shock focuses on the demand for crude oil and natural gas in the coming year and the potential for wage demands to escalate locally and the inflation picture to deteriorate. In analyzing the Demand shock, Mr. Bréard suggested that the decelerating global economic growth may lead to lower crude oil and gas prices. In addition, he theorized that Brazil will gain importance in the international market as a major world competitor.

In his discussion of the Currency shock, reference was made to the widening United States trade deficit and the improving foreign exchange market performance of Asia/Oceanic and European countries. It was suggested that the Trinidad and Tobago perspective may not necessarily be immune to the new phase of weakness that the United States dollar is expected to undergo. Mr. Bréard went on to identify emerging markets in the global economy, the top five of which included Taiwan, Korea, Russia, Mexico and Brazil.

Scotiabank Trinidad & Tobago Limited facilitated this seminar in order to allow its customers to directly benefit from its international linkages. The bank is an affiliate of the Bank of Nova Scotia and has a network of 23 branches on the local market. The Scotiabank Group has a significant presence in the Caribbean and Central American regions and has served more than 2 million people for over a century. Economic updates are available from Scotiabank upon request or online at [www.scotiabank.com](http://www.scotiabank.com)

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