



Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management
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MEDIA RELEASE

Friday October 14, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.

ODPM PARTNERS WITH NIHERST TO COMMEMORATE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION 2016

The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) partnered with the National Institute of Higher Education, Science and Technology (NIHERST) to commemorate International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) on October 13th, 2016. IDDR began in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly for a day to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction. Held every 13 October, the day celebrates people and communities around the world who are reducing their exposure to disasters by raising awareness. The 2016 edition marked the launch of the new "Sendai Seven" campaign, centred on the seven targets of the Sendai Framework, the first of which is reducing disaster mortality. The theme for IDDR 2016 was "Live to Tell" placing emphasis on raising awareness to save lives in disasters.

ODPM and NIHERST hosted Form Five students of El Dorado West Secondary School at the NIHERST National Science Centre on Thursday 13th October, 2016 as part of the IDDR 2016 commemoration. The students were equipped with valuable hazard and safety information as well as tools to build their capacity and reduce their vulnerability. They were treated to a tour of the Earth Science themed area, the Raging Planet, which culminated in an exhilarating game of "Disaster Jeopardy" where they were given the opportunity to test their knowledge of all they had learnt to win exciting prizes.

In the continued commemoration of IDDR 2016, the ODPM is also hosting a Social Media Competition where members of the public are invited to tell their Survival Story and have a chance to win wonderful prizes. Participants may submit a video or short story telling how they themselves or someone who inspires them to prepare has lived through a natural or man-made disaster, using the correct hashtags on social media. For more information on how to enter, please visit the ODPM's official Facebook page *ODPMTT*.

The ODPM encourages all citizens of Trinidad and Tobago to continuously build their awareness levels and resilience so that they will Live to Tell their survival story in any

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disaster experienced. For more information on IDDR 2016, please visit <http://www.unisdr.org/2016/iddr/#about>. In preparing for disasters, we remind all citizens to heed the words of President Rafael Correa of Ecuador after the April 2016 earthquake that killed 661 people: “Everything can be rebuilt, but lives cannot be recovered and that’s what hurts the most.”

ENDS

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Members of ODPM and NIHERST commemorate International Day for Disaster Reduction Day with students from El Dorado West Secondary School