CENTRAL BANK OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

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OPERATING IN A FRACTURED WORLD
Central Bank's Research Review Seminar

PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. September 10, 2026 – The Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago opened its annual **Research Review Seminar 2026 on Thursday, September 10, 2026**. Under the theme, *"Operating in a Fractured World: Economic Resilience, Innovation and Sustainability"*, the event brings together policymakers, academics, researchers, regulators and private sector representatives to examine the region's evolving economic landscape.

The two-day seminar hosted by the Bank's Research Department, features presentations and discussions centred on four key sub-themes: Global Shifts and Trade Tensions; Innovation and Digitalisation; Macroeconomic and Policy Stability; and Climate and Environmental Resilience.

Delivering opening remarks, Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Larry Howai, highlighted the growing paradox of an increasingly interconnected global economy operating amid rising geopolitical tensions. He noted that while these developments present significant challenges for small, open economies such as those in the Caribbean, they also create opportunities for innovation, diversification and sustainable growth.

"The challenge before us is not simply how to withstand global disruption, but how to transform uncertainty into opportunity. In a fractured world, resilience will protect our progress, innovation will create new possibilities, and sustainability will ensure that those gains endure for future generations. The Caribbean has the talent, experience and creativity to meet this moment, and this Seminar provides an important platform to advance the ideas and policies that will shape our future," said Governor Howai.

The Governor also emphasised that Trinidad and Tobago has continually re-invented itself over the years, with its productive base evolving from sugar and cocoa to oil, natural gas, petrochemicals and LNG. Across these transitions, he said, "we have combined our natural resources with infrastructure, investment and accumulated expertise to create new sources of growth".

A highlight of the first day was a panel discussion on **Virtual Asset Service Providers,** moderated by Mr. Demetri Gittens, IT Governance & Risk Assessment Officer at the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, and featured local and international experts in digital regulation.

'Operating in a Fractured World' continues through September 11, featuring presentations from researchers across the Caribbean on issues of strategic importance to the region's economic future.

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Photo 1: Group photo at Research Review Seminar.
Photo2: Headshot of Governor Larry Howai.