

WELCOME ADDRESS

I would like to wish everyone a warm welcome to our Conference, the sixth in our relatively short history as a Division of the Institution. It is always heartening to see the results of one's efforts, and I am sure that the quality of the Presentations will be a reflection of this, and we hope that this meets the needs of the Engineering Community.

The Theme of the Conference, Environmentally Sustainable Construction, is of major importance at this time as we see the increasing effects of Climate Change globally. It is also very timely since the Institution has published, within the last few weeks, the "Green Design Guide" and we have been able to make this publication available to all of our participants as part of the Registration package.

This also happens to be one of the areas of expertise of the current President of the Institution of Structural Engineers, Professor Roger Plank, and we are indeed fortunate that he has agreed to accept our invitation and will no doubt be a major influence over the next two days. I would also like to make special mention of our other overseas presenters, all of whom have made a special effort to be here to share their knowledge and expertise with us, travelling long distances to do so, and we are extremely grateful to them.

We attempt to make our Conferences affordable and this is made possible through the support of our sponsors and I would like to make special mention of the CCRIF, the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility, BP Trinidad and Tobago Limited, the Caribbean Development Bank, APETT, CCEO and UNDP. That we have been able to keep the cost to participants at TT\$2,000 for a two-day Conference of this quality bears testimony to their level of support.

I would like to thank each and every member of the Conference Committee, Tony Gibbs, Anthony Farrell, Simon Westcott, Gary Turton and Danielle Steele, for their efforts and contributions over the last 8 months. I would like to mention the significant role that the Trinidad and Tobago Institute of Architects, through their representative Gary Turton, has played and we are really thrilled that one entire session of the Conference has been devoted to Architectural considerations in Sustainability.

I close by thanking all participants for their presence and wish everyone a successful, informative and enjoyable two days.

Clifford Murray

Chairman – Conference Committee