



Anthony N. Sabga Awards E-News

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The 2015 Laureates Ceremony

**Mr Herbert Samuel,
Entrepreneurship,
St Vincent & The
Grenadines**



**Dr Paloma Mohamed
Arts & Letters,
Guyana**



**Prof Patrick Hosein
Science &
Technology (Joint)
Trinidad &
Tobago**



**Prof Suresh Narine
Science &
Technology
(Joint)
Guyana**



Our 2015 Laureates were named in a media briefing at the TATIL Building in Port of Spain on February 6. The Laureates come from Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago and St Vincent & the Grenadines.

This year is different for two reasons: first, it marks the tenth anniversary of the Awards, and second, it marks the inauguration of the Entrepreneurship category, which has been a long-standing wish of our founder, Dr Anthony N Sabga.

Our first laureate in the new category is Mr Herbert “Haz” Samuel of St Vincent & the Grenadines. He is an energy consultant, and his most recent achievement was the design of the

Welectricity web app, which allows consumers to track and manage domestic electricity consumption.

His co-laureates include Guyanese playwright Dr Paloma Mohamed, and a joint award in Science & Technology to Profs Suresh Narine of Guyana, and Patrick Hosein of Trinidad & Tobago.

The Eminent Persons Panel elected to make no awards in Public & Civic Contributions this year. They felt while there were many good candidates, they all needed to pursue their callings a little further to meet the standard.

Our 2015 awards ceremony will be held on April 11, in at the Hilton Trinidad.

Mr Herbert Samuel, St Vincent & The Grenadines, Entrepreneurship



The problem of the efficient use of costly and finite energy resources in the face of growing demand for energy is one of the defining issues of the 21st century – and Vincentian energy consultant and entrepreneur, Herbert A. Samuel is building a business finding innovative ways to address it. His company, Welectricity Inc, is developing and marketing innovative solutions to reduce domestic energy consumption. Welectricity’s main product is the Welectricity web app (available at www.welectricity.com) which allows households to track, compare and reduce their electricity consumption, without the need for any additional measurement devices in the home.

The innovative insight that created Welectricity was the recognition that a large part of the energy consumption problem is based on behavioral factors and therefore would not necessarily be solved by traditional, technology-focused approaches. Accordingly, the Welectricity app incorporates three powerful contemporary trends: the growing recognition of the importance of energy efficiency, coupled with the rise of social networking and the advent of “gamification”, a new business idea that refers to the incorpora-

tion of game mechanics (elements of traditional computer game-play) into products and services, to engage and motivate people to do real-world things – like saving more money (instead of splurging on the latest smartphone), or exercising more, or adopting and following energy-saving behaviours.

The Welectricity app was conceived in 2009 and, funded by an IDEAS Energy Innovation award from GVEP International and GiZ, was built and launched in 2010. It has subsequently attracted international attention, has received new global innovation awards and now has registered users from 111 countries. In 2010 the UK-based WWF, the world’s largest independent conservation organization, named Welectricity as a *Green game-changer*; GE awarded it *Best Idea for the Millennial* in its 2010 *ecomagination* smart grid challenge and in 2011 it was judged *Best New Sustainability Innovation* in the Knowledge@Wharton/Wipro Innovation Tournament at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Mr Samuel is a 1982 UWI Industrial Engineering graduate who lives in St Vincent & The Grenadines. He has been involved in the energy sector for the past three decades and has been an independent sustainable energy consultant since 2007. In the early 1980s, he was St Vincent and the Grenadines’ first energy officer at the Ministry of Finance and Planning; he has worked with the St Vincent Electricity Services Ltd as an engineer and project manager; with Caribbean engineering consulting firm CEP Ltd and with the Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation (CARILEC).

In his present role as a consultant, he works with regional and international clients including the CARICOM Renewable Energy Development Programme (CREDP-GIZ) and the World Bank, where he is a member of a team building out a global network of innovation centres that empower entrepreneurs to build businesses tackling energy and climate-related problems.

Dr Paloma Mohamed, Guyana, Arts & Letters



Dr Paloma Mohamed is one of the most prolific academics (communication and behavioural studies) and creative writers (playwrights, script writers and poets) in the region. A key figure in Guyana's culture and academe, she has been producing creative work since the age of 13, and has, to date won the Guyana Prize on three occasions (1998, 2000 and 2008). She is recognized as one of the most influential figures in the Guyanese and Caribbean cultural landscape.

Dr Mohamed has written and had performed more than 30 plays, and published two collections of poetry with a third expected this year. She has also branched into film, and has been executive producer on 32 films. She has published nine books of creative work and has been involved in 14 major arts projects, including Healing Arts, one which teaches children to write for other children. In 2010, she developed KIDSTAGE, the first and only televised children's talent series in Guyana. She is the founder of Healing Arts Guyana Inc., a founding director of Moray House Trust and is chair of the Theatre Guild of Guyana.

In addition to contributing to the writing of the drama syllabus for CAPE,

her creative works have been placed on both the syllabi of CSEC and CAPE, as well being used as test pieces for students at the Department of Creative and Festival Arts at the University of the West Indies and the University of Maryland. She has been active in adjudicating drama competitions throughout the region, from the secondary school to the international levels. As an arts advocate she has developed policy in conjunction with national and international agencies, like CARICOM, the United Nations, and several national bodies such as the Ministry of Culture..

As a filmmaker, she produced the first Guyanese full-length movie (Jezebel – The Movie (1992), (shot on video), co-organized the first Guyanese film festival in the US, and recently founded CineGuyana Inc.

As an academic, Dr Mohamed is the outgoing Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, at the University of Guyana, and has worked with various UN agencies (like the UNDP and UNFPA) to produce reports and conduct projects on topics as diverse as adolescent sexual and reproductive rights, and the status of young artists in the region.

Her books include The Massacuraman (2014), Duenne (2013) (1998, Guyana Prize winner), A Man Called Garvey (2001) and Caribbean Mythology and Modern Life 5 Plays for Young People (2003). Her plays include Testament (2008), Father of the Man (2002), and Trouble in Paradise (1996). Her academic publications include Notes on the media in Guyana (2014), Communications, Power and Change in the Caribbean (2013), and Media Trends: Representations of Women and Children in the Guyanese Media 2007-2009, among many others.

Dr Mohamed has been recognized several times for her work. Some of the more recent ones include the New York Tristate Alliance Award for Outstanding Work in the Field of Education and Culture (2012), the Guyanese Presidential Service Medal Award (2011), The Guyana Prize for Literature in 1998, 2000, and 2008, and a Cacique Award received in Trinidad in 2006.

Prof Suresh Narine, Guyana, Science & Technology



With the increase in scientific knowledge globally, the Caribbean still finds itself in the role of technology importer. Prof Suresh Narine of Guyana is one of the people who is actively changing that with reference to the physical and chemical sciences. His work in Guyana and in Canada has created the rare bridge between scientific research and commercial application, and in many cases, lessened environmental impact.

Prof Narine is the Director of the Institute of Applied Science in Guyana (IAST) and a Professor at Trent University in Canada, where he directs the Trent Centre for Biomaterials Research. He also holds the NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Lipid Derived Biomaterials and the Ontario Research Chair in Green Chemistry and Engineering. His work as a researcher has led to an enviable 138 peer-reviewed publications, two books, 22 patents, and the creation of environmentally friendly economic activity in Guyana, Canada and beyond.

Though he lives and was educated in Canada, Prof Narine holds dual citizenship and returns to Guyana on a monthly basis for his participation in its technological and scientific development. In Guyana, he is credited for single-handedly reviving the IAST, through persistent lobbying and attracting research funds, and turning it into the premier institution of its kind – in research chemistry, materials science, environmental monitoring, and physical

properties analysis – in the region.

Under his stewardship, the IAST has produced several commercial applications. These include biodiesel, for which a plant was commissioned in Wauna, Mabaruma in 2006, using palm oil. Additionally, the IAST has produced breakfast cereals and other food products from locally sourced materials; it has been able to create a substitute for mercury in gold extraction using activated carbon from coconut shells; and it has launched three projects to find commercial applications for waste biomass in Guyana to substitute for using wood for commercial purposes, which causes deforestation.

In addition to his research work, Prof Narine has written policy documents for the Guyanese government including its current Science and Technology Policy and its first Agro-energy policy. He is also the chair of Research and Innovation in Guyana's National Science Council and chair of the Energy Thematic Group on Guyana's National Competitiveness Council.

In Canada, where in 2011 he was named as one of the "Top 40 Under 40 Leaders", as director of the Trent Centre for Biomaterials Research, Prof Narine's efforts have produced commercially viable research in the areas of zero-trans fat/lowered saturated fat shortenings, margarines and confections; polyurethane foams, elastomers and plastics from canola oil; and lubricants from vegetable oils. He is also responsible for a number of international research-to-application initiatives in India, Malaysia, Brazil and Israel.

He is a member of the Canadian Association of Physicists, the American Physical Society, the International Federation of Food Technologists, and the American Oil Chemists Society. He is also a much-sought after speaker in the Caribbean and North America on topics of the interrelationships between commerce, science and the environment to lay and professional audiences. Prof Narine is particularly proud of his role as a father to triplets: Vandana, Rudra and Geetanjali.

Prof Patrick Hosein, Trinidad & Tobago, Science & Technology



Not many people can say that they have significantly contributed to technologies we use every day, such as cellular communications and the Internet, but Professor Patrick Hosein of the UWI, St Augustine, can legitimately make this claim for both of these.

A Computer Scientist, Electrical Engineer, and Mathematician, Professor Hosein has worked with some of the major cellular communications companies in the world like AT&T, Ericsson, and Huawei, and has been granted 38 international patents in telecommunications and wireless communications. He also has more than 75 peer-reviewed publications in these fields. Many of his patents are for technologies intrinsic to the various generations of cellular communications technology (i.e. 2G to 5G). Additionally, he has 42 patents which are still pending.

Professor Hosein obtained five degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) including a PhD in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. After his graduation he briefly worked at Bell Laboratories before returning to Trinidad where he worked at UWI as a lecturer in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. On evenings he would use the department's

FAX line to interconnect the Campus Local Area Network with the, then unknown, Internet via a University in Puerto Rico. In this way students on Campus were able to experience the Internet for the very first time. Professor Hosein, together with a team consisting mainly of students, was later contracted by TSTT to develop the registration, management and billing software for the first ISP in Trinidad. He subsequently returned to the USA in 1995, where he remained until 2011, working for telecommunications and cellular companies.

Presently Professor Hosein is the CEO of the Trinidad and Tobago Network Information Centre (TTNIC) which manages the .tt Top Level Domain. He also personally supports the hosting of web sites and provides domain names for over 100 schools in Trinidad and Tobago. He is also active in the area of Open Data and has set up and manages Open Data repositories (data.tt and maps.tt) for Trinidad & Tobago.

After a very fulfilling international career he is now a Professor of Computer Science at the UWI. He recently re-designed the MSc. in Computer Science and replaced most of the courses with new ones that better reflect the needs of the country (mobile computing and cloud technologies). He is also active in a project on Smart Grids and one on the use of ICT for Agriculture.

He is a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and has been honoured by the NIHERST as an Icon in Science. He is also a member of the US honour societies Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Xi, and Eta Kappa Nu, was nominated for the Ericsson Inventor of the Year award in 2004 and was the Huawei US Wireless Research Employee of the year in 2007.

The 2015 Eminent Persons Panel



(Left) Mr Christopher Bovell (Jamaica); Justice Christopher Blackman (Barbados); Sr Paul D'Ornellas (Trinidad & Tobago); Sir Shridath Ramphal (Chair, Barbados, Guyana); Justice Rolston Nelson (Trinidad & Tobago); Gen Joe Singh (Guyana); Mrs Judy Chang (Trinidad & Tobago); Prof Compton Bourne (Guyana). (Missing: Sir K Dwight Venner (OECS))

Country Nominating Committee Heads, 2015



(From left)
Dr Charmaine Gardner (OECS);
Mrs Vivian-Anne Gittens (Barbados);
Mr Vincent Pereira (Trinidad & Tobago);
Mrs Jacqueline DaCosta, (Jamaica);
Dr Seeta Shah Roath; (Guyana).

The Anthony N. Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence

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