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***NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
Selected as the 2016 Winner of the  
JB Fernandes Award for NGO Excellence in Trinidad & Tobago***

***Port of Spain, Trinidad – THURSDAY, 27<sup>th</sup> MAY 2016*** – The 2016 T&T NGO Professionals Seminar was the scene of the presentation for the annual JB Fernandes Award for NGO Excellence in Trinidad & Tobago earlier this week at the Hyatt Trinidad.

Nearly 75 NGO professionals, stakeholders and Fernandes family members attended the presentation of the 2016 JB Fernandes Award for NGO Excellence to the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD).

Established in 2012 and funded by the JB Fernandes Memorial Trust II, the Award celebrates local NGOs, CBOs and civil society organisations that are national models of excellence, improving communities and utilizing best practices in non-profit management.

The National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (initially called San Fernando Rehabilitation Centre) was established in 1964 in the aftermath of Trinidad and Tobago's polio epidemic, originally to promote the reintegration of those who had contracted polio into society.

Today, the Centre remains the country's only vocational rehabilitation centre and has continued to grow and innovate, not only offering vocational assessment and rehabilitation training but also business services, consultancy and advocacy services. These entrepreneurial services are linked to NCPD's skills training expertise, making the organisation highly sought after locally, regionally and internationally for their work in promoting equalization of opportunities, rights and freedoms of individuals with disabilities.

"Winning the 2016 JB Fernandes Award for NGO Excellence brings recognition and fulfillment for the work of the organisation. This award will most certainly inspire and motivate our employees and volunteers in their continued efforts to deliver quality services to persons with disabilities," said Dr. Beverly Beckles, CEO of National Centre of Persons with Disabilities.

As the winning organisation, NCPD received an unrestricted \$5,000 US monetary donation, which can be used to support program work or for capacity building.

The award was presented to the Centre by Joseph Fernandes, who said "the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities is truly a national treasure as our country's only vocational rehabilitation option, filling the gap for vocational rehabilitative training in Trinidad and Tobago."

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A judging panel of local and international organisations and foundations selected NCPD as the award recipient **and** three 2016 Special Recognition Honorees – Arrive Alive, The Esimaje Foundation, and Moms for Literacy:

**Arrive Alive** was launched in 2004 to raise national awareness about the importance of road safety and road carnage in Trinidad and Tobago. Through the efforts of many, including local entertainers, corporate sponsors, the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, their collective work – education, advocacy and support – has been focused on the problems faced on the nation’s roadways, including driving under the influence, lack of enforcement for speed limits and high road fatality rates.

**The Esimaje Foundation’s** mission is to empower men to take full advantage of available opportunities that foster healthy fatherhood functioning, positive leadership and accountability in the home, community and nation. The Foundation’s programs are focused in four key areas -- parenting education, social crime prevention and economic development, self-esteem to achieve goals, and a scholarship fund.

**Moms for Literacy** attacks the problem of illiteracy in Trinidad and Tobago at its root, delivering customized literacy programs to children and providing guidance counseling for parents on education and social issues. To date, the organisation has supported literacy development in over 50 schools, 28 communities, and over 10,000 individuals have attended various workshops and classes.

Please visit <http://www.iie.org/ttngoaward> for more information on the JB Fernandes Award for NGO Excellence in Trinidad & Tobago.

#### **About the JB Fernandes Memorial Trust**

The JB Fernandes Memorial Trust, is a philanthropic organisation established by the late Trinidadian business leader, Joseph Bento Fernandes. The Trust supports initiatives to increase access to education, improve health conditions, and alleviate poverty. Its activities are focused in his home country of Trinidad and Tobago and the country of his parents' origin, Portugal. Since 1998, the Trust has distributed nearly 1000 grants totaling more than US\$40 million.

Among the many Trust initiatives supported in Trinidad & Tobago are:

- A comprehensive campaign to strengthen the capacity of the local non-profit sector
- Programs to expand volunteer-led literacy programs throughout the country
- Investments in community health care organisations serving expectant mothers
- Empowerment projects designed to improve skills and prospects for employment

#### **About the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA)**

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors is a nonprofit organisation that currently advises on and manages more than \$200 million in annual giving. Headquartered in New York City, with offices in Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco, it traces its antecedents to John D. Rockefeller Sr., who in 1891 began to professionally manage his philanthropy "as if it were a business." With thoughtful and effective philanthropy as its one and only mission, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors has grown into one of the world's largest philanthropic service organisations, having overseen more than \$3 billion to date in grantmaking across the globe.

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors provides research and counsel on charitable giving, develops philanthropic programs and offers complete program, administrative and management services for foundations and trusts. It also operates a Charitable Giving Fund, through which clients can make gifts outside the U.S., participate in funding consortia and operate nonprofit initiatives.