



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO'S EXPERIENCE

TITLE: Establishment of an Enterprise Development Centre to Support the Growth of Micro-Enterprises and SME's in Trinidad and Tobago



Country: Trinidad and Tobago

Institution: Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI)

Webpage: <http://www.cariri.com/>

¹ The range of services provided by CARIRI encompasses testing, consulting, research and development and innovation

Distribution of tasks
CARIRI established the CED and was responsible for all tasks related to the design and development of CED and have been working with business, networks and private companies, e.g. AMCHAM, Microsoft, to provide support and mentoring to clients.
Achievements and results
The physical infrastructure was built and equipped in less than a year. CED has its first intake of four MSME businesses that offer considerable growth prospects. Several additional Clients are currently being considered.
Capacity to replicate and potential for exchange of this experience
The CED is based on the processes developed and used by the successful 'Icehouse' Business Incubator in New Zealand. It has also benefitted from the experience of South African M-Centre. It has a unique approach and would serve to assist others seeking to establish at technology incubators working with multiple areas of technical entrepreneurship.
Modalities to replicate the exchange
The most appropriate means of others benefitting will be to visit and observe the facility.
Human, operational and institutional capacities
CED is in the start-up phase and is still building capacity internally.
Good practices and concrete lessons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure private sector involvement and support • To benefit from international best practices on technology incubation • Careful selection of potential incubates so that there is a reasonably high success rate
Experiences and subjects to learn from other RIAC members
To visit and observe other facilities in the Latin American and Caribbean region.
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