



CONSULATE GENERAL
FOR
THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MESSAGE FROM DR. HAROLD ROBERTSON ON THE OCCASION OF
INDIAN ARRIVAL DAY – 2009

Once again it is my pleasure to extend greetings to the Indian community residing in the Tri-State area on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago as our nation prepares to celebrate the 171st anniversary of the arrival of Indians to the New World.

The celebration of Indian Arrival Day is simultaneously a tribute to our Indian compatriots in appreciation for the difficulties they endured under the indenture ship system as it is a mark of respect for the contributions they have made to the development of our cosmopolitan society. From the middle of the nineteenth century when the first groups of Indians became established in Trinidad & Tobago and the wider Caribbean, and continuing today, the Indian community has consistently demonstrated that hard work, devotion to family and singular determination will always be rewarded by success.

The lessons to be learned and inspiration to be drawn from their experiences and their dedication to the preservation of a stable family foundation are not only beneficial but worthy of emulation by all.

The annual commemoration of the arrival of our Indian forbears to the shores of Trinidad & Tobago demonstrates our nation's commitment to preserve the human and cultural diversity of our society. Dwelling together harmoniously in a multiethnic society is hardly the easiest of challenges and the fact that a nation as small as ours has successfully managed to achieve this redounds to our credit and speaks to our level of tolerance and maturity as a people.

It is my hope that the example set by our Indian brothers and sisters will continue to inspire all in the diaspora as we strive to fulfill the dream of brotherhood and mutual respect. My family and my staff at the Consulate General join me in extending Happy Indian Arrival Day greetings to all.

Harold Robertson (Dr.)
Consul General