



QRC takes RBTT Young Leaders Great Debate cup

Port of Spain, December 2, 2010. Queen's Royal College is this year's Great Debate champion!

Earning the coveted title for QRC were Mattheus Schmidhammer, Christopher Thompson and reserve Kieron Emmanuel who argued against the motion in a keenly deliberated contest against Brandon Joseph and Darweshi Baptiste of St. Mary's College. The boys debated the motion "Be it resolved that the privatization of our water resources will ensure a supply of water for everyone" at the final round of the Debate competition, at the Centre of Excellence in Macoya on November 30, 2010. This is the first time QRC has won the competition.

Water: Beyond the Surface – Sustaining Life, Securing our Future is the theme for this year's Young Leaders programme. Over the past nine weeks, students from 52 schools argued points for and against the issue of water sustainability.

St. Mary's College challenged WASA's ability to fulfill its mandate to provide water for all citing mismanagement and wastage as the company's primary downfall. Through privatization, St. Mary's asserted, the water agency would be compelled to provide superior service because its profitability would depend on it.

QRC, which argued that water is a basic necessity for life, wasted no time rebutting St. Mary's point stating that a profit-driven, privatized water company's first responsibility would be to its shareholders and not the citizens of Trinidad & Tobago, which means citizens could be subjected to paying high prices for a basic human right.

The final debate tested the boys' ability to convincingly articulate their position and think on their feet as their opponents tried to unnerve them with their aggressive points of information. The debate competition, which was, introduced in 2002, provides a forum for students to develop and improve their public-speaking, research and writing skills as they prepare arguments in response to motions that coincide with a new theme each year.

President and Country Head, RBTT Bank, Arvinder Bharath praised the teams on accepting the challenge to consider issues of national and global significance. By so doing, she said, they raise awareness of the issue and become part of the solution as catalysts for change in their homes and communities.

"Never discount the impact of what you engage in today on your future. It is important that you become involved in activities NOW that will serve you in good stead for years to come. Whatever is consuming your energy at this point in time of your life, is likely to do the same in your future. So ask yourselves: 'Am I investing in the "right" future for me?'... The mental focus and pursuit of academic excellence in your secondary school years and the discipline and determination developed over that period, provide the necessary preparation for success later in life in whatever profession you choose."

In the next phase of the competition students will be focusing on creating sustainable projects based on this year's water theme. The submissions, which will be received in April 2011, will be judged and announced at the RBTT Young Leaders Awards Ceremony in May.

Congratulations to Queen's Royal College and runners-up St. Mary's College.

--end--

MEDIA RELEASE



1858 - Minister of Education, Dr. Tim Gopeesingh (left) and RBTT Bank, President and Country Head Arvinder Bharath (right) celebrate with RBTT Young Leaders Great Debate 2010 Champions Queen's Royal College. From left, team reserve Kieron Emmanuel, Mattheus Schmidhammer and Christopher Thompson.



1905 – Runners-up of the RBTT Young Leaders Great Debate, from left, Luke Seepersad, Darweshi Baptiste and Brandon Joseph of St. Mary's College with RBTT Bank, President and Country Head Arvinder Bharath and Minister of Education, Dr. The Honourable Tim Gopeesingh.

MEDIA RELEASE