

Embassy of India
Paramaribo

PRESS RELEASE

The Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training of St. Lucia organized a plaque unveiling ceremony on 18th April 2024 to mark the completion of the project under India-UN Development Partnership Fund for “Upgrading Saint Lucia’s capacity to provide impactful vocational training for marginalized youth”. The Government of India provided a grant assistance of USD 1,061,601 for this project.

The project was conceived as part of the efforts towards helping St. Lucia accomplish SDG 8 to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. The implementing partners were the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Education along with the ILO, which managed the construction of the facility. The facility would be run by the Center for Adolescent Renewal and Education (C.A.R.E.) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The C.A.R.E Hospitality and Catering Unit would provide vocational training to the marginalized youth and create opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. The project would benefit more than one-third of the youth population of St. Lucia. The aim of the project is the creation of a skilled workforce that would support economic growth.

Speaking at the unveiling of the bilingual plaque in Hindi and English, the Hon. Shawn A. Edward, Minister for Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training expressed gratitude to the Government and the people of India for helping realize their vision of training the youth for the tourism and hospitality industry on which Saint Lucia's economy was dependent.

Dr. Shankar Balachandran, Ambassador of India to Suriname concurrently accredited as the High Commissioner of India to St. Lucia, observed that it was an honor to be part of the event for the sod-turning of which he had been there along with Hon’ble Prime Minister Mr. Philip J. Pierre and the Minister. He thanked the Government of St. Lucia and the ILO for ensuring that the implementation was completed despite the challenges. He said that India would continue with its commitment to South-South partnership and inclusive global

growth where the benefits of prosperity were shared among the largest number of people in keeping with the true ethos of India's philosophy "Vasudaiva Kutumbakam" or the whole world is one family. This was the philosophy which inspired Hon'ble PM Modi to commit US \$ 150 million for promoting sustainable development through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund.

This is the second project after "the Human Security and Sustainable Development – a covid-19 Response" and "public assistance programme" which were implemented during the 2020-21 period to mitigate the adverse impacts of the Covid pandemic in St. Lucia, for which a grant assistance of USD 1 million was provided by India.

Dr. Karleen Nason, Executive Director, C.A.R E Limited made the welcome remarks. Hon'ble Minister of Equity, Social Justice and Empowerment Mr. Joachim Andre Henry representing his constituency where the project is located appreciated India's contribution to his constituency. He wished to see an early completion of the phase II of the project. Mr. Kendall Khodra, Deputy Permanent Secretary proposed a vote of thanks.

Thereafter, Hon Shawn A. Edward and High Commissioner Dr. Shankar Balachandran jointly unveiled the bilingual plaque in the presence of all speakers, invited guests and a large number of the Indian diaspora. The Hon'ble Education Minister also presented a memento to the High Commissioner.

The guests numbering over 50 included senior Government officials from the Education and External Affairs Ministries, Chairman and board members of C.A.R.E Ltd, stakeholders, student trainees, members of the Indian Diaspora and the media.

Castries, St. Lucia

18 April 2024



The Government and People
of Saint Lucia
express sincere gratitude
to the

**Government and People
of India**

*for your contribution to our
education sector through the
"Upgrading Saint Lucia's capacity
to provide impactful vocational
training for marginalized youth
Project."*

April 18, 2024



PLAQUE UNVEILING CEREMONY
C.A.R.E. Limited Catering & Hospitality Block
Thursday, 18th April, 2024

Mistress of Ceremony — Ms. Schenelle Leonce, Chief Planning Officer

Prayers

Bro. Raymond Dwyer
Presentation Brothers

National Anthem

Welcome Remarks

Dr. Karleen Mason
Executive Director - C.A.R.E. Limited

Remarks

H. E. Dr. Shankar Balachandran
Ambassador of India to the Republic of Suriname & High Commissioner of India
to Barbados, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines and Saint Lucia

Hon. Joachim Andre Henry
Minister for Equity, Social Justice and Empowerment

Hon. Shawn A. Edward
Minister for Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation,
Science, Technology & Vocational Training

Special Presentation

C.A.R. E. Trainees

Vote of Thanks

Mr. Kendall Khodra
Deputy Permanent Secretary
Department of Education, Innovation & Vocational Training

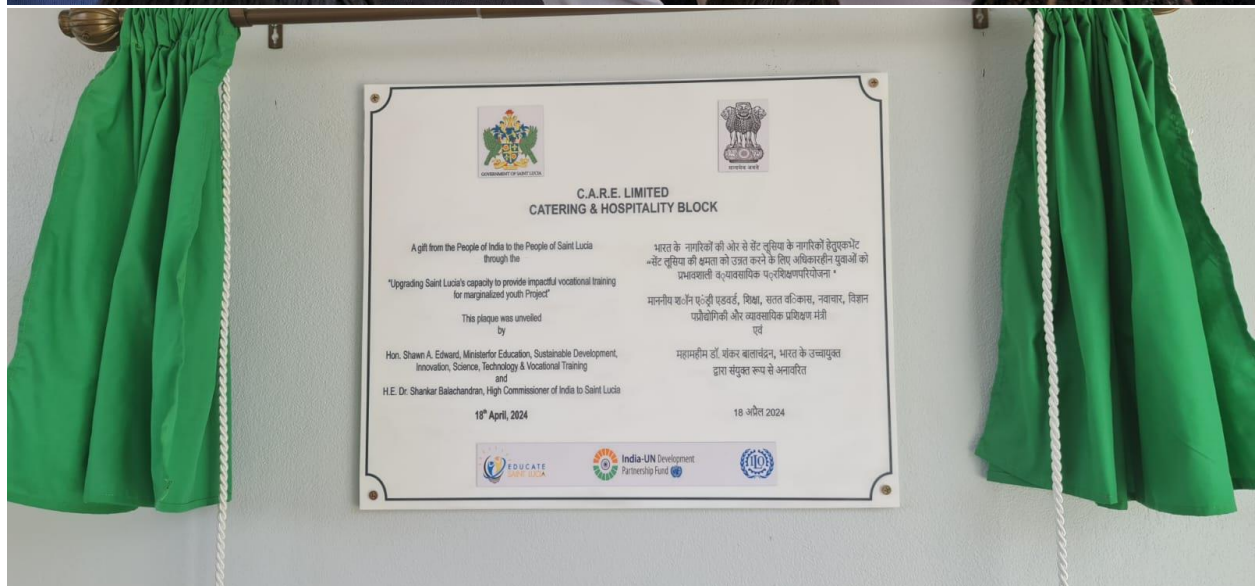
Unveiling of Plaque













































UPGRADING SAINT LUCIA'S CAPACITY TO PROVIDE IMPACTFUL VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR MARGINALIZED YOUTH



Government
of Saint Lucia



International
Labour
Organization



India-UN Development
Partnership Fund









