

PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
Monday September 29, 2008**

The PPIC addresses Skills Shortage in the Local Printing Industry

The Printing and Packaging Industry Council (PPIC) in conjunction with The Business Development Company Limited (BDC) successfully conducted a two-day training programme entitled **Printing Fundamentals** on September 25-26, 2008 at the Centre of Excellence.

The training was designed specifically for Operators, Sales Representatives, Supervisors and Apprentices within the local printing industry as well as secondary school graduates interested in entering the industry.

The training programme discussed and explored printing processes, equipment and manpower and provided participants with both the skills and up-to-date technology of the global printing industry.

The purpose of the programme was to ensure that local printers, as well as, school graduates who attended were given a comprehensive introduction that would be their foundation for other specialized programmes in printing.

The training will benefit the Printing and Packaging Industry overall as technical expertise and skilled manpower is critically needed to enhance competitiveness and encourage innovation in this sector.

To ensure international competitiveness of our local workforce, the training curriculum was developed by the world renowned Graphic Arts Technical Foundation (GATF), USA.

It is anticipated that graduates from these various programmes will be immediately placed in the industry to fill the existing vacancies and continue in an apprenticeship or traineeship to meet the requirements of certification.

A Sector Stakeholders meeting will be held on Friday 3 October at the Crowne Plaza.

PPIC

The Printing and Packaging Industry Council (PPIC) appointed by Cabinet in 2005 comprises of Printing and Packaging Experts and Practitioners who work to identify the industry needs and to develop strategic plans for development.

A major element of the PPIC strategic development plan is Human Capital Development.

The objective of this Workforce Development Plan is to revolutionise the training and human development of the sector to ensure a modern and globally competitiveness printing and packaging industry.