



## MESSAGE FROM PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR FOR GRADUATE STUDIES & RESEARCH

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**Professor Stephan Gift**

*Pro Vice-Chancellor for Graduate Studies and Research*

Faculty of Engineering,

The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus.

On behalf of The University of the West Indies, I welcome everyone to this International Conference organised by the Faculty of Engineering here at St. Augustine. The conference has as its main theme “*Emerging Trends in Engineering Technology*”. Technology today is advancing at an increasingly rapid rate and a conference that identifies and examines these trends will provide important information for the attendees as well as other researchers and professionals. We especially welcome visitors from outside of Trinidad and Tobago and hope that your stay here in Trinidad and Tobago is a pleasant and rewarding one. The University of the West Indies actively promotes high-quality research as we recognise its importance to our well-being as an internationally accredited tertiary institution as well as the impact such research can have on the region we serve. We have also been promoting innovation and entrepreneurship among our staff and students with the goal of making our University more entrepreneurial. In this way we can both increase opportunities for our graduating students as well as develop new ideas and intellectual property that would allow us to influence these emerging trends in technology.

The presence of local and international scholars will no doubt contribute to meaningful discussions over the 2 days of the conference and we look forward to the many presentations. It is my hope that everyone, especially our young researchers, will benefit from this experience and can develop fruitful collaborations with our visiting colleagues. I offer my best wishes for a successful conference.