

MEDIA RELEASE
(For Immediate Release)

**Trinidad and Tobago
Securities and Exchange Commission
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September 17, 2024

TTSEC Virtual Investing Competition Winners

TTSEC - Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission hosted a **Prize Giving Ceremony** for the winners of its inaugural virtual investing competitions: ‘**JAVA Mini Quest**’ and ‘**Big Up You Mini Quest**’. The brief ceremony took place on Monday 16th September 2024 at the TTSEC’s offices, International Waterfront Centre, Port of Spain.

JAVA and Big Up You both utilised the TTSEC’s interactive stock market simulation gaming platform, **InvestorQuest-TT.com, or IQTT** and were executed over the periods July 29th to August 16th 2024 and August 19th to September 6th, 2024.

IQTT is a free investing gaming platform that allows members of the public to trade in virtual and fictitious stocks, bonds and mutual funds to further assist in their investing journey.

JAVA targeted nationals 13-19 years and attracted **138** players while Big Up You, which was geared towards adults 20 years and over; attracted **388** participants - totaling **525** players. The top (3) gamers from each leaderboard were selected as the overall competition winners.

The winners in each category are as follows:

Java Mini Quest:

- 1st place: Alyssa Kumar, won a Samsung tablet and \$2,500 to invest. She is a form 4 pupil of Bishop Anstey East High School.
- 2nd place: Samantha Beharry, won a Samsung tablet and \$2,000 to invest. She is an Upper 6 pupil of San Fernando Central Secondary.
- 3rd place: Tenisha Ochoa, won a Samsung tablet and \$1,500 to invest. She is a form 5 pupil of Cowen Hamilton Secondary School.

Big Up Mini Quest

- 1st place: Sylvester Lutchman, won \$5,000.00 to invest.
- 2nd place: Shantee Lalla, won \$3,000.00 to invest.
- 3rd: Alejandro Andalcio won \$2,000.00 to invest.

In delivering the keynote address at the ceremony, TTSEC’s Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Kester Guy, pointed out that, *“Gamification, as demonstrated through IQTT, is an effective way to promote practical understanding of trading and investment strategies in a real-world environment. By simulating actual market conditions, participants can safely experiment and learn how their decisions influence returns, without the fear of real financial loss. This practical experience is invaluable for*

those new to investing, providing the opportunity to gain confidence and competence in the marketplace.”

He noted that: *“The TTSEC recognises the value of IQTT in improving financial literacy, and we plan to expand its use by hosting quarterly investing competitions. These ongoing competitions will offer more people the chance to engage with the platform, refine their investment strategies, and deepen their understanding of the securities market. We are committed to continuing to innovate, creating an environment that is both educational and enjoyable.”*

When it was first launched in 2019, IQTT was the first stock market simulator to be developed in the Caribbean. It was developed by Caribbean Ideas Synapse.

In 2022-2023, the platform was redesigned and upgraded through a collaboration with the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) with modern gaming features including:

- **Dynamic Trading:** Users buy and sell securities, manage a diverse portfolio, and react to market updates that reflect real-world economic impacts on stock performance.
- **Educational Resources:** The game offers continuous learning through quizzes, daily investing tips, and direct links to educational materials and market summaries.
- **Realistic Broker Interaction:** Players select from different broker-dealers, each with unique profiles and fee structures, mimicking the true costs and considerations of real trading.

Mr. Dinesh Soodeen, Senior Instructor of the Mechanical, Manufacturing and Entrepreneurship Unit, UTT, stated, *“ This platform, developed in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission, is a testament to what can be achieved when institutions come together for a common educational purpose.”*

The TTSEC would like to thank the **525 participants** of our IQTT Mini Quest Competitions and looks forward to wider public participation in future competitions, as we continue to promote education on the benefits, risks and liabilities associated with investing in securities.

Representatives of the Securities Dealers Association of Trinidad and Tobago were on hand at the ceremony to provide guidance to the winners on opening brokerage accounts and navigating their investment options.

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About the TTSEC: The TTSEC is governed by the Securities Act Chapter 83:02 and is responsible for overseeing the securities market and ensuring that fairness, equity and transparency remain common values in the marketplace. Our vision is to be an innovative regulator of a thriving securities market, enabling economic development for the benefit of all.

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