

PAN IN THE CLASSROOM UNIT

HISTORY

During the period June to September 2000, a joint committee of the Ministry of Education, Pan Trinbago and the Pan in Schools Coordinating Council met to consider a proposal for the establishment of a "Pan in the Classroom" project. Primary and Secondary School teachers were then invited to a Consultation on "Pan in Schools" in October 2000, where views were received and a "Survey of Steelband Activities" was distributed.

After tabulation of the survey results and consideration of the views expressed at the consultation, a report was presented. This report was reviewed by the Ministry of Education officials and representatives of the Pan In Schools Coordinating Council, who together formed a Committee that prepared and submitted a Final Report to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education.

After an internal review of the Report's contents, the view was that it presented significant justification for a programme of the general nature proposed in the report, with such a programme holding the promise of important benefits for the Education system, the Pan movement and the country as a whole. In this regard, the Honourable Minister of Education took a Note to Cabinet on the subject and on **June 13th 2002 Cabinet agreed to the establishment of a National Programme for "Pan in the Classroom"**.

The Pan in the Classroom Project Unit officially began work in 2003 and today is in its eighth year of existence and is continuing to grow from strength to strength. The following are some of the principles that guide its operations:

GOALS

- To implement the Ministry of Education's music curricula in schools, utilizing the steelpan as the primary instrument.
- To facilitate all schools in Trinidad and Tobago in the acquisition of steelpan instruments and other accessories on a phased basis.

OBJECTIVES

- To establish a framework for supervision and evaluation of the programme.
- To develop a programme database to provide accurate and timely information to aid programme planning, networking and execution
- To develop common approaches for implementation through a continuous programme of teacher training
- To adapt the existing music curriculum as it relates to the steelpan

OBJECTIVES continued

- To guide in the development of building infrastructure for sound-proof classrooms and adequate storage areas to enable the curriculum to be effectively implemented during school hours
- To guide in the establishment of the standardisation of the steelpan instruments for use in schools
- To liaise with stakeholders and other interest groups who share the vision of the programme

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- Over one hundred and fifty schools have been provided with a sixteen-piece steelband ensemble, while another thirty five are expected to receive instruments in this financial year (2009-2010).
- Over two hundred and fifty primary and secondary teachers have been trained in utilizing the steelpan to implement the music curricula of Trinidad and Tobago.
- Specifications for standardised steelpan instruments for use in schools have been de-



• To establish policies for:

- the selection of schools to receive instruments
- the selection of pan tuners to provide instruments

veloped and distributed to tuners selected to supply instruments for the programme.

- Finalising arrangements for the National Junior Steelband Music Festival which should be held in November 2010 in collaboration with our stakeholders - Pan Trinbago and the Pan In Schools Coordinating Council.

