

San Fernando.
28th November, 2009.

Dear Sir,

Welcome to Trinidad and Tobago! I hope you had a great flight here on our new airline – the Caribbean Airlines. I also hope your hotel room is comfortable and you like the local food. I know your stay here will be wonderful!

I understand that this is your first visit to our wonderful nation. Trinidad and Tobago is a twin island Republic, so I hope you will find some time to go to Tobago while you are here. As you were flying over the Northern Range you would have noticed the lush, green vegetation on the hills. A sign that we are a “green nation” and care about our environment. This is something that people are becoming more aware of on a global level. Even children at my school recently got into the act with our walkathon where these issues were highlighted. We all try to conserve water and electricity. So, this is a message you can share with your people – everyone has a part to play.

Our national instrument is the steel pan. It is the only instrument invented in the 20th century. Imagine, an old steel drum discarded like garbage, was turned into such a beautiful thing by my people. What a spirit of imagination! What a spirit of determination! What a spirit of rising up against all odds! In this is a valuable lesson you can teach your citizens and the whole world. Even though times are hard (especially with the economic crisis) do not let it get you down, keep trying and you will rise above it.

In my country, people of different races and from many different cultures live together in harmony. This teaches us understanding, respect, cooperation, love and appreciation of others. Imagine if the whole world followed this pattern, there would be no more war! There would be no poverty. The world would be a better place.

Of course, we are not without our problems. The crime situation continues to be a challenge, even worldwide also. Although it is always in the news, people try not to allow it to get them depressed. We try to keep our spirits high by focusing on our many festivals and uplifting religious events. Eg. Easter, Christmas, Divali, Eid-ul-Fitr.

So you see, Sir, that even a small country – just a little dot on the Earth, can teach us something. Thank you for coming and please make sure you come again. Have a great day!

Yours truly,
Tareeq Ali

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