

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ABSTRACT

Global Competitiveness of Trinidad and Tobago in the Services Export Sector: A Case Study of the Information Technology Industry.

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This dissertation highlights the potential of a new model of competitiveness- the Dynamic Model of International Competitiveness - for small, open economies such as Trinidad and Tobago based on the export of services. The model hinges on the building of competitive advantage in knowledge-based segments of the services export sector, particularly the Information Technology (IT) industry, through the attainment of platform competitiveness at the national and international levels. This Dynamic Model incorporates specific elements from Porter's Diamond of National Advantage and other competitiveness theories but introduces additional variables that are more relevant to determining services sector export competitiveness in developing economies. A key focus of the dissertation is the determination and measurement of competitiveness in the services sector, particularly the IT industry in Trinidad and Tobago. The thesis also offers some policy prescriptions aimed at enhancing competitiveness at the national, sectoral and firm levels.

Keywords: Debbie Ann Mohammed; export competitiveness; competitiveness theory; Michael Porter; services exports; knowledge-based services; information technology; Dynamic Model of International Competitiveness; Trinidad and Tobago.