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The Chinese Association of Trinidad & Tobago

## **PRESS RELEASE NO. 2**

### **TALENTED YOUNG DANCERS AWARDED DAI AILIAN FOUNDATION FIRST INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP TO THE BEIJING DANCE ACADEMY, BEIJING, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

The Dai Ailian Foundation was launched last night. A premier international dance icon and widely regarded as 'The mother of Chinese ballet and dance', the accomplishments of Dai Ailian, or Madam Dai as she was affectionately called, who was born in Couva to Chinese parents on May 10, 1916, were highlighted and lauded. Dai Ailian, a principal dancer, teacher, choreographer, dance company artistic director, researcher, labanotator, lecturer and demonstrator, died on February 9, 2006, at age 89. It was also announced that the Dai Ailian Foundation was formed to recognize and, therefore, inform Trinidad and Tobago about this cultural icon as well as be the conduit to educate and promote the cultures of The People's Republic of China and Trinidad and Tobago in each country.

One of the special announcements was the winner of the Foundation's first international scholarship to the Beijing Dance Academy, Beijing, the People's Republic of China. The Foundation was honoured that a 5-member Beijing Dance Academy adjudicator group, led by Director Zhang Ping, visited Trinidad to select the scholarship awardee. It was stated that the group was very impressed with the performances of the 7 talented young dancers who were selected to perform in the final audition. Juan-Pablo Alba Dennis, a student of the Caribbean School of Dance, was announced as the scholarship awardee and his artistic performance was enthusiastically applauded. The surprise for the evening was the announcement of a second full scholarship to the Beijing Dance Academy, awarded to Seon Nurse. Seon, a student of the North West Laventille Cultural Movement, was the first runner-up in the final audition and this surprise was met initially with disbelief followed by elation. These talented dancers will be leaving Trinidad very early in September for Beijing and there is every confidence that not only will they learn and grow professionally and personally but will be excellent cultural ambassadors for Trinidad and Tobago.

This is an impressive start for the Dai Ailian Foundation.

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