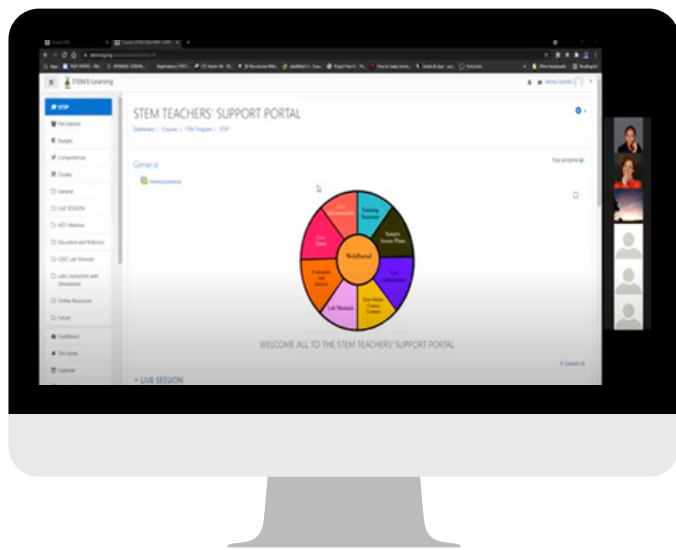
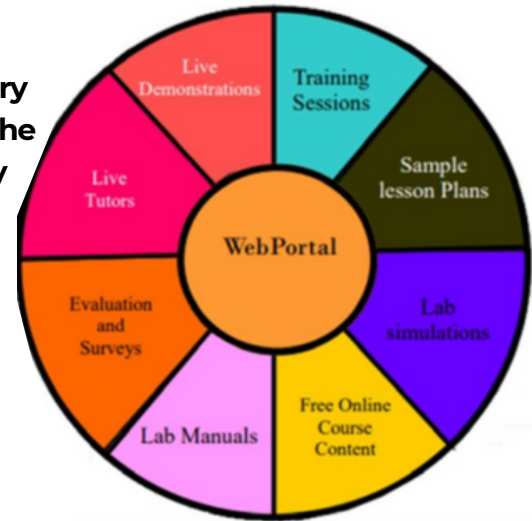


# Country Focus: Jamaica & Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

From February to August, two Caribbean institutions collaborated as an ITEN Project Team to bring digital STEM resources to their teachers: the **Ministry of Education of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG)** and the **University of Technology of Jamaica (UTech)**.

The team initiated their work by doing a need survey of practicing STEM teachers. Results from this survey of teachers across both countries demonstrated that teachers are eager for **simulations of lab experiments**, links to **science websites**, **laboratory manuals for virtual labs**, and a **portal** to curate these resources. Surveys also revealed that **chemistry** teachers feel particularly impacted by the lack of access to laboratory spaces as a result of COVID.



This team's members were present from **July 7 to 8** to share their progress through a two-day presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Science Teachers of Jamaica. Their presentation, "**Affirming our Commitment to STEM Education in Spite of the Pandemic**" described their collective challenges to teach online--and in the midst of natural disasters.

**400**

**teachers** attended this presentation.

Over the course of their Project Team work, both institutions developed the **STEM Teachers' Support Portal**.

On **August 17 and 18**, all four members of the Project Team presented a training, "**Improving the Delivery of Practical Skills and Critical Thinking in Online Science Lessons**" to introduce the portal to teachers.

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The training included learning to use online lab resources to promote critical thinking, with a special emphasis on PhET simulations. Teachers worked in small groups to consider how they would integrate these resources into their teaching, and attendees were asked to share their lesson plans on the portal.

**teachers** received a certificate from the SVG Ministry of Education, UTech, and the OAS, for participating fully in the training.

## Team Members

### SVG Ministry of Education

- Juanita King
- Petrus Gumbs

### UTech, Jamaica

- Dr. Debbie Devonish
- Dacia Bonnick

