



From left to right: Mark Loquan, President, National Gas Company, Claire Fitzpatrick, Regional President, BpTT, The Hon Franklin Khan, Minister of Energy and Energy Industries, The Hon Mia Amor Mottley, QC, Prime Minister of Barbados, Dr the Hon Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Eugene Tiah, Chairman, Energy Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago, Karen Darbasie, Group Chief Executive Officer, First Citizens Bank and Darryl White, Managing Director, RBC Royal Bank TT Limited



THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ENERGY CONFERENCE

The Trinidad and Tobago Energy Conference is the major annual conference of the energy sector in Trinidad and Tobago and is one of the largest and most respected in the region. In 2020, the theme of the conference was "Shaping the Caribbean's Energy Future" where our Energy Minister Senator Khan delivered a speech at which he spoke of the work being done by the MEEI.

An excerpt of this speech can be found below:

"The recent exploration successes on land, in shallow water and in the deep-water have reaffirmed the prospectivity of T&T as a hydrocarbon province. We intend to leverage on these successes by accelerating the conduct of bid rounds in all areas. In this regard, we have acquired or have access to extensive and new seismic 2D and 3D data, gravity and magnetic data. To facilitate easier and quicker access to data by companies the MEEI is reviewing its current methodology and is looking to establish a platform that will facilitate such access.

In keeping with our mandate of continuous exploration of our open acreage, the Ministry undertook a 2018/2019 Shallow Water Bid Round. We offered six (6) offshore blocks, in water depths less than 400 metres, namely Blocks 1(c), NCMA 2, NCMA 3, U(c), 4(c) and Lower Reverse 'L'. We received one bid each, for the three east coast blocks, U(c), 4(c) and Lower Reverse 'L', by a consortium of BPEOC and BG International Limited (Shell). After evaluation of the bids received, the Consortium has been invited to enter into negotiations with the Ministry to improve their bids.

The Ministry has been reviewing its options for a bid-round on land, shallow water and in deep-water. BHP, together with their partners, has been exploring our eastern/northeastern deep-water acreage, with great success. Its recent exploration has unveiled the presence of a working petroleum system. BHP's aggressive deep-water exploration drilling campaign has confirmed the presence of a thermogenic Cretaceous source rock as well as viable biogenic gas sources. The company has declared commercial potential for its several gas discoveries. It is to submit assessment plans, which provide for in-depth appraisal and options for marketing for the MEEI's approval.

Given the recent successes and the strong interest by upstream companies in deep-water exploration in the region, the MEEI will be embarking in 2020/2021 on a new phase of exploration in the deep-water area. At present, approximately 70% of our deep-water acreage is yet to be explored. A request for nominations will be issued within the near future. Interested parties will be allowed to view and/or license data.

The future for domestic energy sector is bright. The fiscal measures put in place and negotiated agreements with the major upstream companies would significantly improve the financial returns from sector. The returns from the sector are instrumental in the transformation of the domestic economy and improvement would help to accelerate the diversification of the economy...



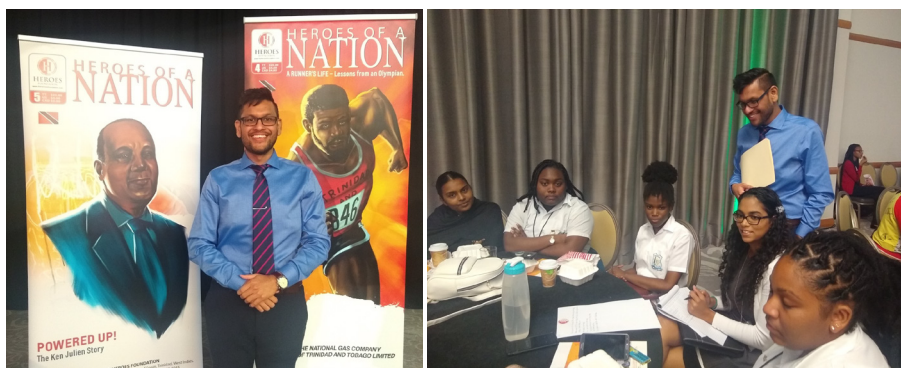
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RENEWABLE ENERGY IS NOW IN THE FOREFRONT OF CHANGE.

In terms of the energy mix, renewable energy is now in the forefront of change. The movement to renewable energy is relentless and cannot be ignored. Government has pledged its commitment to renewable energy and energy efficiency in keeping with its goal of sustainable development. To create a platform for sustained development the Government has introduced a number of fiscal support mechanisms such as tax credits, import duty concessions and the zero-rating of VAT. The MEEI has led the way with installation of solar lighting in the car parks of community centres and solar PV systems and distillation units in schools. The Ministry's Head Office, Tower C in the International Waterfront Centre has been selected for the implementation of a pilot energy efficiency and energy conservation project. Recently RFPs were issued for a 130 Megawatt Utility Scale Generation Project and the proposals are currently being evaluated."

THE HEROES OF ENERGY YOUTH FORUM 2020

The future of Energy is in great hands



On Wednesday 5th February 2020, as part of the Trinidad and Tobago Energy Conference 2020 (TTEC 2020) hosted by the Trinidad and Tobago Energy Chamber, the Heroes Foundation held its Heroes of Youth Energy Forum. The Heroes Foundation is a registered non-profit organisation that was established in October 2002 by Phillip Julien, son of legendary local energy pioneer, Prof Kenneth Julien, to service the needs of youths in Trinidad & Tobago.

The Foundation attempts to nurture the next generation of youths and embolden their strengths through the creation and promotion of mentorship activities. These mentorship activities are also being undertaken by the youths themselves to empower other youths. The Foundation maintains that youths need positive role models and the opportunity to participate in improving their own communities. This enables them to develop the confidence and life skills necessary to become leaders and mentors to the next generation.

The Foundation's Ultimate Goal is to improve the youth's self-belief, by exposing them to positive achievers and achievements, and by empowering them to make a positive difference in someone else's life. The organisation has established projects and programmes that are in-line with their founding mission:

"To provide a source of inspiration to Trinidad and Tobago's youth, by fostering an appreciation of Local Achievers and the Concept of Heroism".

One of their key projects that helped them to achieve their goals is the Heroes Convention, which has always been the Foundation's flagship event. It provides an opportunity for all stakeholders and other NGOs to showcase their involvement and contributions towards positive changes in our society.

The Convention is an opportunity for the Foundation to highlight relevant social topics in an environment where attending youths and the general public are shown opportunities where they can become more involved with improving their communities and the future of our nation.

At the most recent Heroes Convention, the Heroes of Youth Energy Forum, housed approximately 400 students, ages ranging from 11-16 years old, from 19 high schools across Trinidad and Tobago. Within this forum were designated "Champions of Energy" who were assigned to a group of students.

MEEI chosen Champion Steffan Ramlogan, engaged students and shared his insights and personal experiences in the Energy Sector and answered their many questions to help youth participants understand the various opportunities available to them within the Energy Sector. Another MEEI chosen Champion, Melissa Mannan led two groups of students from Diego Martin North Secondary School and Manzanilla Secondary School through discussions on The Energy Transition and Climate Action. Students from Diego Martin North Secondary concluded that T&T should aim to use its resources more efficiently and focus on projects such as Waste to Energy plants. Students from Manzanilla Secondary School chose to champion greater public education on the causes and effects of climate change on the average T&T citizen, as well as encouraging large industrial users of energy to do their part to conserve and use energy more efficiently.

Throughout the day, rousing presentations by Phillip Julien and Lawrence Jason Arjoon helped to inspire youth participants to dream big and be brave enough to engage on matters of national importance. Youth participants were educated about the history and development of Trinidad and Tobago's Energy Sector, and were encouraged to engage in discussions on the future of energy – with a focus on climate change and climate action.

A visit to the TTEC 2020 Tradeshow exposed youth participants to various operating companies, jobs, and persons within the Energy Sector and exposed Energy Sector companies to potential future employees.

The Forum lived up to its name, with a strong superhero theme, including an Avengers-themed quiz and special appearances from Captain America, Black Widow and Iron Man. The outcome of this forum was a combined list of actions, recommendations, and insights from the forum discussions and activities that will be combined into a youth-led input into the ECTT's June 2020 Renewable Energy Conference.

ENERGY CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

During January 27-31, 2020, the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries (MEEI), in collaboration with the British High Commission and Shell Energy, hosted its 2nd Energy Capacity Building Workshop at the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs Conference Centre, Port of Spain. Approximately 145 participants from the MEEI as well as other Ministries and State Agencies gathered to receive training on the evolving roles of oil, gas and renewables in an effort to meet the growing global energy demand sustainably and responsibly.

Recognising the importance of building Government's human resource and institutional capacity to ensure the national energy agenda remains at the forefront of international trends, the training was a follow-up to a similar workshop held in 2018. Senator the Honourable Franklin Khan, Minister of Energy and Energy Industries and His Excellency Tim Stew, the British High Commissioner championed both events.

As was done in 2018, the 2020 workshop was facilitated by Professor Erling John Karlberg, Module Co-ordinator for Oil and Gas Law at the Robert Gordon University, one of Scotland's leading universities for energy studies. Prof Karlberg guided participants through active discussions on a variety of topics including:

- Exploration and Production for Non Engineers
- Joint Venture Agreements
- Health and Safety Regulation in Offshore Oil & Gas
- Environmental Regulation of the Oil & Gas Industry
- Pricing and Marketing Structures
- The Trinidad & Tobago Oil & Gas Sector: Possible Future Scenarios
- The Low Carbon Transition
- The Role of Renewable Energy in the Energy Transition
- The Impact of Climate Change on Small Island Nations
- Renewable Energy in Trinidad and Tobago

The intent is to make the training an ongoing initiative among the partnering organisations. At the opening ceremony, in which remarks were delivered by the Director, Energy Research and Planning Division Timmy Baksh on behalf of the Permanent Secretary, the value of this collaboration was underscored.



"Today's occasion is a tangible demonstration of how collaboration and joint partnerships can yield real dividends in benefits to the sector, its stakeholders and by extension the national community.... This course is a pathway into that future that lies ahead."

PROTECT YOUR HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Scientific evidence shows a clear correlation on how varying environmental factors impact our health. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), modifiable environmental factors account for approximately 22% of the global disease burden and 23% of global deaths. WHO defines environmental risks to health as “all the physical, chemical and biological factors external to a person, and all related behaviours, but excluding those natural environments that cannot reasonably be modified.” Environmental factors that are modifiable include

- Pollution of air, water, or soil with chemical or biological agents
- UV and ionizing radiation; noise, electromagnetic fields
- Occupational risks
- Built environments, including housing, land use patterns, roads
- Agricultural methods, irrigation schemes
- Man-made climate change, ecosystem change
- Behaviour related to the availability of safe water and sanitation facilities, such as washing hands, and contaminating food with unsafe water or unclean hands

Reducing the disease burden of environmental risk factors will contribute significantly to the Sustainable Development Goals. Within the seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals, there are clear health-related targets, but these sit alongside environmental and other sectoral areas that strongly influence determinants of health.

Actions do not need to come from health alone, but rather from all sectors making decisions which impact on environmental determinants of health. Here are ten (10) things you can do to reduce the impact of the environment on your health:

1. Walk/ Ride/ Travel- reduces carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases emissions, promotes more exercise and thus healthier lifestyles.
2. Grow your own food- Gardening is proven effective in reducing stress levels and improving overall health.
3. Eat more local- If you have to purchase food, purchase more local fruits and vegetables do not require chemicals to preserve their longevity. You can easily determine from the local farmers whether or not pesticides or other chemicals were used on the produce. Buying local also reduces carbon footprint because of the less mileage (ergo less combustion exhaust) in transporting items from greater distances.
4. Rare your own livestock or seek alternative forms of proteins- The livestock industry generates 18% of greenhouse gases. Due to the demand, animals are given hormones and other chemicals for early maturation. There are studies correlating these chemicals to the increase in heart disease and obesity among humans.
5. Drink clean water- By using water filtering mugs/ pitchers, you can ensure that unwanted pollutants that bypassed WASAs water filtering system are reduced. This also reduces the need to purchase water bottled in disposable plastic material.
6. Use reusable containers- there are health concerns surrounding the use of disposal plastic material as the breakdown of the material may be carcinogenic.
7. Wear more natural material clothing- There is a growing concern that chemicals used in clothing to keep them wrinkle free are toxic to the environment and is possibly linked to cancer. It should be noted that not all fabrics are eco friendly as some cotton fields require heavy pesticides. Materials made from hemp, chemical free cotton, wool or silk are your best options.
8. Clean like your grandparents used to- Using white vinegar and/or natural soaps can be combined with salt and baking soda to clean a variety of surfaces in your household.
9. Plant more trees! This contributes to cooler temperatures and improving water quality as well as improve oxygen levels and reduces carbon dioxide concentrations. The aesthetics of the trees can also reduce mental health issues.
10. Keep away from dry cleaners- Chemicals used to dry clean have been found to be carcinogenic and some of the chemical remains in the fabric.

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