



The 3rd Biennial UWI Faculty of Law, Oil & Gas Law Conference & the Just Transition Initiative Conference 2019



The 3rd Biennial UWI Faculty of Law, Oil & Gas Law Conference & the Just Transition Initiative Conference was held on 27-29 March 2019 at the Hilton Trinidad Conference Centre. Several major energy companies, international universities and the MEEI collaborated with the UWI to bring industry and academia together to examine from a particularly legal perspective this year's theme of 'The Relevance of Renewable Energy in the Caribbean.'

At the conference, oil and gas law experts from around the world vibrantly debated the need for transparency, inclusion and sustainability in 'transitioning' to a low carbon based economy. The keynote speakers were Vonda Brunsting, Programme Manager of The Just Transition Project at Harvard University and Professor Raphael Heffron of the Centre for Energy, Petroleum, Mineral Law & Policy, University of Dundee and visiting Professor at Oxford University.



The presentation considered the international obligations of Trinidad and Tobago to reduce our carbon footprint and contemplated the use of renewable energy auctions against this backdrop. Other panel discussions included environmental justice, oil and gas law contract re-negotiation and the legal and regulatory framework governing decommissioning activities. Participants at the conference were urged to be a catalyst for change in moving towards a low carbon economy throughout the region.

Mrs. Indira Rampaul-Cheddie, MEEI Senior State Counsel delivered a presentation on the 'Effective use of Renewable Energy Auction Schemes in Trinidad and Tobago.'





National Oil Spill Contingency Plan- Technical Talk.

On 25th March 2019, The Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries in partnership with the Society of Petroleum Engineers Trinidad & Tobago Section (SPETT) hosted a Technical Talk covering the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

Mr. Craig Boodoo, Senior Petroleum Engineer at the MEEI and the Deputy National Controller for the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) lead the discourse which covered, jurisdiction of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan, various legislations that govern the NOSCP, other agencies and authorities involved in the plan, tiered system response for large, medium and small oil spills and various response mechanisms to an oil spill. The Technical Talk was well received by members of the SPETT, MEEI employees and Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ms. Sandra Fraser.



About Craig Boodoo

Craig Boodoo is a Senior Petroleum Engineer at the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries and the Deputy National Controller for the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan(NOSCP).

Mr. Boodoo has over 18 years of experience in the oil and gas sector across various technical disciplines and he has authored several technical papers. Mr Boodoo is attached to the MEEI's South Office.



“THRILLS OF TRINITY HILLS”

In March 2019 the Environmental Unit of the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries (MEEI) participated in “The Thrills of Trinity Hills” environmental exhibition. The event was hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO/UN) on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT) at the Koskeros Panyard in Rio Claro during the period March 20th – 24th, 2019. This coincided with the annual observances of International Day of Forests (21/3), World Water Day (22/3) and World Meteorological Day (23/3).

“The Thrills of Trinity Hills” was hosted in support of the Improving Forest and Protected Area Management in Trinidad and Tobago (IFPAMTT) project, managed by the FAO. The overall project goal is to conserve globally-important biodiversity in Trinidad and Tobago. The project is being implemented in six pilot protected areas: Northeast Tobago marine area, Main Ridge Forest Reserve, Matura Forest and Coastal Zone, Nariva Swamp, Trinity Hills Wildlife Sanctuary and Caroni Swamp.



The Trinity Hills and Eastern Extension Pilot Protected Area is located in South-east Trinidad. The pilot protected area comprises the Trinity Hills Wildlife Sanctuary (8,200 ha) and a part of the adjacent Victoria-Mayaro Forest Reserve (3,325 ha), referred to as the Eastern Extension. Presently Crude oil production and storage is undertaken at the Beachfield, Trinity, Catshill and Goudron fields, managed by the Heritage Petroleum (formerly PETROTRIN) within the pilot protected area. The event targeted members of communities surrounding the protected area, including preschool, primary and secondary school students.

“The Thrills of Trinity Hills” exhibition was aimed at increasing public awareness of the Trinity Hills Wildlife Sanctuary...

At the exhibition the MEEI displayed educational posters, videos, and brochures, raising awareness on topics such as the oil and gas industry, oil spill preparedness and response, and environmental management within the oil and gas industry. The MEEI’s booth also featured “Spin ‘d’ Energy Wheel”. This exciting and interactive game attracted many students who were quizzed on their knowledge of The Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries, the Trinity Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, and Environmental Science.

Informative discussions were also held with groups of students and adults who expressed interest in the energy industry of Trinidad and Tobago.

In keeping with the theme of the event, participants also had the opportunity to take part in a forest walk in the pilot protected area. Other exhibitors included the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO/UN), Ministry of Planning and Development, Environmental Management Authority, Forestry Division, Hunters' Association of Trinidad and Tobago and Trinidad & Tobago Field Naturalists' Club.

The event included a feature address by The Honourable Clarence Rambharat, Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries. A series of discussion sessions were also held on various environmental themes such as the value of wildlife sanctuaries, ozone layer depletion and protection, biodiversity, and assets and attractions of Trinity Hills.





www.worlddownsyndromeday.org



On 21st March 2019

The MEEI joined in the single global voice for which advocated for the rights, inclusion and wellbeing of people with Down Syndrome
#LeaveNoOneBehind



We are ALL different and different is a GOOD thing to CELEBRATE!