

# HAPPY INDEPENDENCE

Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. The Honourable Keith Rowley, Minister of Energy and Energy Industries, Senator The Honourable Franklin Khan, National Security Minister and Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, The Honourable Stuart Young and the Shell Trinidad and Tobago team along with NGC in all smiles at the Term Sheet Signing Ceremony

## TERM SHEET SIGNING BETWEEN THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY AND SHELL

Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley and Senator the Honourable Franklin Khan, Minister of Energy and Energy Industries spoke to the media at the Term Sheet Signing between NGC and Shell at the Hyatt Regency on 24 June, 2019.

Amidst recent calls for NGC to be downsized, the Honourable Prime Minister gave the assurance that the NGC will continue to play a vital role in the local energy industry since the company delivered equitable returns to the economy through the sale of its resources.

Dr. Rowley indicated that NGC is the realisation of the investment made by the people of Trinidad and Tobago in the local energy industry and is largely reflected in the pipeline infrastructure which allows the company to act as an aggregator, marketer, transporter and merchant of natural gas. He said the company was established to create returns for the people of Trinidad and Tobago and it remains a key economic partner, generating great value for the country.

NGC President Mark Loquan provided the context for the importance of the agreement as he underscored that it will make an important contribution to the energy sector of Trinidad and Tobago by securing gas from Shell's portfolio and secure the NGC's position for downstream negotiations.

Professor Gerry Brooks, outgoing Chairman of the NGC Group of Companies noted that the companies contributed to approximately TTD2.2 billion in taxes and dividends in 2018. Professor Brooks called today's term sheet signing a critical milestone for NGC and the country as it sets the foundation for fulfilling our gas supply obligations.



## FACTS ABOUT T&T

- Trinidad and Tobago gained independence from British rule in 1962.
- Trinidad is home to the world's largest natural deposit of asphalt with an astonishing 99 acres known as The Pitch Lake.
- The Queen's Park Savannah in Trinidad's capital city, Port-of-Spain, is the world's largest traffic round-a-bout.
- Trinidad and Tobago has the second largest leatherback turtle nesting site in the world.
- The Main Ridge Forest Reserve, found in Tobago, is the oldest protected rainforest in the Western Hemisphere.
- In 2012, CNN Travel listed Trinidad as having the 10th Sexiest Accent in the World

# MINISTER KHAN MEETS WITH THE NEW NGC CHAIRMAN



**Senator Khan welcomes on board New NGC Chairman Mr. Conrad Enill**

Senator the Honourable Franklin Khan, the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries met with the new Chairman of the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC), Mr. Conrad Enill on July 26, 2019.

Also present were the Board of the NGC which included new members, President of the NGC, Mr. Mark Loquan, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries, Ms. Sandra Fraser and Mr. Dan Martineau, Financial Manager. The Meeting discussed ongoing NGC issues as well as the future strategic direction of the Company.

During the meeting, Minister Khan took the opportunity to recognize the contributions of the former NGC Chairman Professor Gerry Brooks.



# Saudi Arabian Ambassador visits the MEEI



**Permanent Secretary (Ag) Azizah Baksh-Backredee in all smiles as she presents His Excellency Saad Bin Abdullah Al-Saad, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with a welcoming token.**

On Friday 12th July 2019, His Excellency Saad Bin Abdullah Al-Saad, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia paid a courtesy call to the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries and was hosted by Permanent Secretary Azizah Baksh-Backredee, Deputy Permanent Secretary Sandra Fraser and other MEEI officials where matters of mutual interest to both nations were discussed.

According to OPEC.org Saudi Arabia possesses around 18 percent of the world's proven petroleum reserves and ranks as the largest exporter of petroleum. The oil and gas sector accounts for about 50 per cent of gross domestic product, and about 70 per cent of export earnings. Apart from petroleum, the Kingdom's other natural resources include natural gas, iron ore, gold, and copper.



**Director of ERPD Timmy Baksh, DPS Sandra Fraser, His Excellency Saad Bin Abdullah Al-Saad, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Permanent Secretary (Ag) Azizah Baksh-Backredee**

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLES CONFERENCE AND TRADESHOW



**Ms. Anita M. Hankey, who spearheads the RE Division, provided the status on the Utility-Scale RE and Waste-to-Energy Projects.**

The Energy Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago hosted its 3rd Annual Energy Efficiency and Renewables Conference and Tradeshow on June 10th and 11th at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre. The Theme of this year's Conference was "Industry Collaboration for a Low Carbon Future", aimed at highlighting collaboration opportunities for the energy sector, to find mutually beneficial ways towards improving efficiency, and reducing CO2 emissions. Key energy players and stakeholder Companies showcased their capabilities in Renewable Energy (RE), Energy Efficiency (EE) and environmental services, through Presentations and Panel Discussions during the two days.

Day 1 of the event focused on opportunities for EE within the industry, whilst Day 2 touched on global, regional, and local RE landscapes. It was on Day 2, that the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries acknowledged their role in advancing RE through the creation of an enabling environment. Parliamentary Secretary in the MEEI, the Honourable Nicole B. Olivierre opened Day 2 by delivering the keynote address on behalf of Senator the Honourable Franklin Khan. Ms. Olivierre indicated that the MEEI via Cabinet's approval, saw the establishment of a Renewable Energy Division in July 2017. She further mentioned that this newly formed Division of the MEEI, actively engages various nationally established stakeholder agencies such as The Ministry of Public Utilities, The Ministry of Planning and Development, The Ministry of Education, National Energy Corporation, and the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission, to assist the Government in meeting its initial national target of 10% RE electricity generation by 2021. Mr. Hannibal Anyika, Senior Sustainable Energy Development Analyst of the RE Division, engaged the audience with an update on RE Projects intended to be connected to the Trinidad and Tobago electricity Grid. In his delivery, he mentioned that Trinidad and Tobago met the requirements to access a USD3M Grant provided by the United Arab Emirates which is meant to facilitate a Renewable Energy Solar PV System. The System is set to have an impact on public perception, EE/saving possibilities, and overall awareness/sensitization, to the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. The Project will be installed at the Grand Stand Queen's Park Savannah and once completed it will be the country's largest grid-connected RE Solar Project. Following Mr. Anyika's contribution, Ms. Anita M. Hankey, who spearheads the RE Division, provided the status on the Utility-Scale RE and Waste-to-Energy Projects. Ms. Hankey highlighted climate change as the main driving force for RE implementation. However, T&T's low fossil fuel product prices

poses a critical challenge to the uptake of RE, thereby encouraging RE stagnation. The WtE Project is proposed to have electricity generated at the Beetham Landfill from Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), and the Utility-Scale Project is geared towards having electricity generated from Solar Plants and/or Wind Farms, situated at designated locations throughout the country. Ms. Hankey concluded by mentioning, that even though these projects are macroscopic in nature, there are also plans to have members of the general public contribute by imprinting their own RE footprint. In this regard, she informed, that the RE Division, together with several major stakeholders, are working together to have policies, such as a Feed-in-Tariff (FiT), implemented, allowing for small and residential scale RE power generation to contribute to the country's overall generation capacity.



**Parliamentary Secretary in the MEEI, the Honourable Nicole B. Olivierre opened Day 2 by delivering the keynote address on behalf of Senator the Honourable Franklin Khan**



**Hannibal Anyika, Senior Sustainable Energy Development Analyst of the RE Division engages the audience at Energy Efficiency and Renewables Conference and Tradeshow**

# LET'S TALK HYBRID ANDELECTRIC VEHICLES AT THE MEEI

A Renewable Energy Talk on Hybrid and Electric Vehicles was the final installment of an eventful Environmental Consciousness Month-June 2019 at the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries. This talk was presented on 17th June 2019 by the MEEI's very own Senior Sustainable Energy Development Analyst, Mr. Hannibal Anyika on behalf of the Renewable Energy Division. The talk highlighted the emergence of hybrid and electric vehicles in light of the Paris Agreement where a number of countries pledged to reduce their carbon emissions due to rising global temperatures and climate change. As a part of this agreement many countries are moving towards an effective ban on internal combustion vehicles. South Korea is carded to implement its ban as early as 2020 and major vehicle exporters like Germany and Japan have committed to do so by 2050. Therefore the vehicles most of us use every day are currently being phased out with newer models such as hybrid and electric vehicles emerging to replace them. These models are being described as 'environmentally friendly' and having lower fuel costs however a number of uncertainties still exist for those considering making the switch. This Renewable Energy Talk on Hybrid and Electric Vehicles sought to clarify some of these uncertainties and misconceptions by addressing the respective environmental impacts of hybrid, electric and internal combustion vehicles, their respective fuel efficiency or battery range and the long term costs and benefits involved.



Mr. Hannibal Anyika on behalf of the Renewable Energy Division on Hybrid and Electric Vehicles



# 10 TIPS FOR REDUCING WASTE

By Candice De Gale

Hi I am Candice De Gale, Manager, Energy Data Operations in the EIM&T Division and I have always had a passion for the environment! I strongly believe that what is done today can impact what we leave for future generations to inherit. It is because of this, I pursued a MSc. in Environmental Science and Management at the University of Trinidad and Tobago, and I got involved with a non-profit organisation called Central Pathfinders Environmental Foundation (CPEF). CPEF aims to promote ecological conservation through sustainable environmental and agricultural awareness and development. Pollution is a serious issue and as such we encourage a zero waste lifestyle, where waste generation is minimised, thereby reducing what ends up in the landfills. Avoiding single use plastics and other non-environmentally friendly materials as much as possible helps a great deal. We believe that simple lifestyle changes can make a huge impact without hampering convenience.

The following are some tips on ways that we as individuals can use, tips that can have a huge long term impact:



## 1. **Avoid single use plastics!**

- **Use reusable water bottles.** Use food-grade stainless steel and glass bottles. If using plastic bottles, however, please use bottles with recycling codes (found at the bottom of the bottle) 2, 4 and 5 and avoid the bottles with codes 3 and 7. Please learn what your recycle codes are! Using water filters on taps and tanks also reduces the dependency on bottled water.
- **Avoid using plastic straws.** If, however, you require a straw, bamboo straws are available on the market and they are easy to carry around and easy to clean. You can purchase these straws in the Green Market in Santa Cruz and Upmarket as well as online.
- **Avoid plastic cutlery.** There are many environmentally safe and convenient options that are designed to be transported easily. Personally, I have a small pouch that contains all my cutlery and bamboo straws that fit neatly into my hand bag.

2. **Avoid Styrofoam.** Buying take-away food is sometimes necessary but taking the Styrofoam container doesn't have to be. You can walk with your own container and ask the vendor to put your meal in your reusable container. This tip also goes for any event as you can walk with your reusable containers, plates and cups. You can have fun without the pollutant!

3. **Use reusable shopping bags.** Cotton bags are most advised as they are convenient to carry around, strong, durable and biodegradable!

4. **Buy in Bulk.** This uses less packaging and as such less waste. It also saves you money.

5. **Use natural products.** Natural products do not contain as much chemicals and would, therefore, have less impact on you as well as the environment. I make my own bath soaps and shampoo and conditioner bars. This also eliminates the plastic packaging.

6. **Recycle/Upcycle.** This reuse/repurpose means that less items like it would have to be produced and it will take a longer time for it to reach the landfill.

7. **Repair, Don't Discard.** Why discard an item that can be repaired? This increases the longevity of the item and can also save you money.

8. **Compost.** Home gardening is encouraged as it provides you with cleaner, more organic foods with less chemicals and pesticides. Composting provides your garden with the nutrients it requires, so you would not have to resort to a lot of fertilisers.

9. **Use real plants instead of plastics ones.** We all love to decorate our homes. Using live plants, not only minimises plastic use, but can increase oxygen production as well as purifies the air within our homes. Some plants even keep away certain insects!

10. **Save energy!** Simple steps can be taken to avoid wasting energy

- Air dry your clothes instead of using a dryer. If using a dryer, however, ensure that it is a full load.
- Plug all home electronics into power strips which can be turned off when not in use.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with energy saving bulbs.

It is important to remember that if each one of us make a positive individual change, there will be a positive collective result. We all can contribute to end pollution, namely plastic pollution to have a cleaner and greener Trinidad and Tobago.

