



**THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
LIMITED (NGC)**

NGC Bocas Lit Fest OCM Prize Ceremony

Venue: Old Fire Station, Port of Spain

Date: April 30th, 2016

Time: 7:15pm

Remarks by Wynda Chandler

Head, Community Relations

SALUTATIONS

Mrs Dawn Thomas, Group Chief Executive Officer, One Caribbean
Media

Ms Marina Salandy-Brown, Founder and Director of the NGC Bocas Lit
Fest

Ms Dionne Brand, Chief Judge of the OCM Bocas Prize for Literature

Finalists for this evening's OCM Bocas Prize for Literature

(Tiphany Yanique, Olive Senior and Jacqueline Douglas)

Mr. Jeremy Poynting, Founder of Peepal Tree Press

Members of the Media

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

Good evening

We are here this evening to celebrate excellence in literature, to recognise the talent that has sprung from our home soil. And I am pleased to be in company of the literary clerisy.

I am sure you will all agree with me that we need our writers. And our writers need us. Our relationship is one of reciprocity.

Sir W Arthur Lewis, one of the region's greatest public intellectuals and winner of a Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences once said, "if the society rewards achievers, it will have plenty of achievers." And this evening I congratulate and thank OCM - as a main Bocas partner every year - for acknowledging the writers and the arts through continued sponsorship of the book prize. We are proud to have such a partner with us in Bocas.

Of course the main reason we are here this evening is to celebrate our writers. On behalf of NGC, I should like to congratulate this year's finalists – Tiphonie Yanique, Olive Senior and Jacqueline Bishop. You are already winners in the individual categories of poetry, fiction and non-fiction and we believe the NGC Bocas Lit Fest which, in a very short time

has become the premier literary event of the Caribbean, is a victory for Caribbean literature and all its participants.

Motivational speaker, writer and consultant Denis Waitley said that “Winners have the ability to step back from the canvas of their lives like an artist gaining perspective. They make their lives a work of art - an individual masterpiece”. I congratulate each finalist by recasting Mr Waitley’s words: “You are an individual masterpiece and as winners you have made your lives a work of art which you unselfishly share with us.” And for this we sincerely thank you.