

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

WELCOME REMARKS

Dinner and Cultural Evening for Mitsubishi Corporation

August 13, 2013

Salutations

“In the twilight rain

These brilliant-hued

Hibiscus...

A lovely sunset”

Konbanwa esteemed ladies and gentlemen. Our partners of the Mitsubishi Corporation and Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company Incorporated may recognize the words that I just read. They are the poem of one of the greatest masters of Haiku that Japan has given to the world - Matsuo Basho. These lovely lines contain sentiments that are as much about the islands of Japan, as they are about the islands of Trinidad & Tobago. Matsuo Basho's poetry reminds us that, over hemispheres and continents, diverse nations share the same flora, the same rainfall at dusk, and sunsets that invite reflection.

How vastly different is the world of today from Basho's, who was writing in medieval times! This week, we have united in an alliance, which will have far-reaching and beneficial effects for our Nation, and for your respected companies.

Over the past months, seven organisations, which are represented here tonight, have come together with a single focus: to realize a plan for a duo of petrochemical Plants, which will be constructed at Union Industrial Estate in La Brea. Seven is an auspicious number in numerology. The qualities with which it is associated are: spiritual, analytical, knowledgeable, persevering, and gracious. It indicates inner wisdom. The number seven bodes well for the progress of this joint venture.

When our colleagues from Mitsubishi Corporation/MGC came to us with this insightful proposal last year, it meshed with the National Gas Company of Trinidad

& Tobago's own vision of where our company is going. That is, "To be a valued partner in the global energy business." Our vision is a little longer than a haiku, but only a little! For us, this statement captures the essence of what drives the people who work at NGC.

For both you, and us, "national interest" is key. NGC is custodian of the natural resource which is the single greatest driver of the Trinidad & Tobago economy, accounting for 42% of GDP, and which nurtures the ambitions of our citizens, and helps them achieve their personal dreams of success. NGC and our subsidiary, National Energy, look forward with anticipation to the upgrades in port capacity and other infrastructure on which we will have to embark to cater for the needs of this project. When functioning, the plants will have wide-ranging, positive rewards for our people. Some of these benefits are: capacity development, job creation, exchange of technology, and the foray into an alternative to diesel for transport and other industries. The projects will substantially boost our Government's plans to revitalize the south-western part of our country.

We are all very excited!

Esteemed guests, ladies and gentlemen... shortly some of our talented artistes will take to the stage to entertain you. They will offer a small taste of the huge ability of this small island Nation. I would like to close, as I began, with a taste of Japanese art. It is another haiku by Matsuo Basho. I chose this one because it is a fitting comment on where we are in our journey together:

*"Wake, butterfly -
It's late, we've miles
To go together."*

I wish you all an enjoyable evening ahead, and perseverance for the miles we have to go, together.