



THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED

PRESS RELEASE

NGC hosts Timor-Leste's NPA



Representatives of The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste's National Petroleum Authority (NPA), accompanied by representatives of the Norwegian Petroleum Assistance Programme, were recently hosted by NGC. They were here as part of a government delegation to learn more about the oil and gas industry in Trinidad and Tobago, NGC and the Point Lisas Estate. NGC's President Mr. S. Andrew Mc Intosh welcomed the representatives to Trinidad and to NGC and presentations were delivered to

the group by senior NGC and NEC representatives.

Timor-Leste (formerly East Timor) is located in Southeast Asia, on the southernmost edge of the Indonesian archipelago, northwest of Australia. Like Trinidad and Tobago, Timor-Leste is a small island developing state with a wealth of natural resources. Roughly the size of the American state of Connecticut, it has approximately the same population as Trinidad (1.1 million) but is significantly less developed having experienced a number of years of civil unrest.

The delegation, which comprised young oil and gas professionals, was very interested in the Trinidad model of industrial development and particularly in how such a small island could have such an educated population to support its energy industry. Timor-Leste's literacy rate is approximately 58%. Trinidad's is 98.7% (UNDP, 2009).

The group's questions focused on the education system, particularly the University of Trinidad and Tobago and its contribution to education of energy industry workforce. The team was then taken to Methanex where they were taken on a tour of the facility. The group was impressed by the size and scope

of the Estate and the fact that Trinidad has such a high local content with respect to running and operations of the plants. The underlying economic policy for Timor-Leste is how best to use oil and gas wealth to lift the non-oil economy into higher growth thereby reducing poverty.

Groups from countries from around the world have been visiting Trinidad and have been hosted by NGC. The groups also meet with local business chambers of industry and commerce. Earlier this year, NGC hosted a Nigerian delegation from Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Though oil and gas may have been the focus of the visit, the group was hosted by the President Mc Intosh and NGC at the Hotel Normandie for a cultural evening entitled, “*A Taste of our food, our music and our Joie de Vivre*”. The group was very impressed by the cultural show and was surprised at the variety of cultures which could be found in our small island.