

Thinking Tomorrow

In recent years, countless authors and screenwriters have attempted to envision what our world will look like in years to come. Based on the current trajectory of climate change and humanitarian crises, many posit that we are headed toward a dystopian future. However, scientific advancements and breakthrough technologies offer hope that we can change paths and land on a brighter tomorrow.

We at The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) are among the hopeful, based on the heartening progress we have seen in our space of operation. The world of energy is rapidly evolving, led by facilitative policies and regulations as well as clean energy technologies. In Trinidad and Tobago, we are seeing more partnerships and initiatives focused on climate action and sustainable development as a whole.

There is growing consciousness in both the public and private sectors of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles, greater business alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and more public education programmes that seek to bring the population on board with the national sustainable development agenda. We are happy to see such support being galvanised to secure our country's future.

Future-focused

NGC and the wider NGC Group of Companies are similarly thinking of tomorrow, looking for ways to make our own business more sustainable and help our industry achieve the same. Through our subsidiaries, we are exploring renewable energy options, with solar being the most advanced. After successfully



installing a rooftop solar array at the Preysal Service Station, subsidiary National Energy is using project and performance data from that initiative to help guide new projects, such as its work with government towards installation of solar panels on national emergency shelter facilities.

On the education front, we recently expanded our consumer app Energy SmarTT, as well as our online research hub CariGreen, to streamline their functionality and enhance their

usefulness to target publics. The rationale is that if we can connect more people with information about the green agenda, we have a greater chance of buy-in and success. For that same reason, over recent issues of GASCO News, we have been leveraging this publication to share more academic articles relevant to the green agenda and sustainability.

In this issue, we are exploring the issue of green financing - options available for companies looking to access funding for clean energy projects. In the interest of promoting more sustainable consumption and production, we are also taking a look at the circular economy, and what can be done in the Caribbean region to transition to that model.

Additionally, we explore a topic of growing importance to us as we partner with local stakeholders in the agriculture industry. The issue of food and nutrition security is one we have incorporated into our CSR agenda, and we have been investigating how we can use technology to build the productivity and resilience of local farming, particularly in the face of climate change.

In short, our hope is that this issue of GASCO News leaves our reader better informed about the work we are doing - and indeed the importance of that work - as we help create a safe, healthy and sustainable future for all. ■

Mark Loquan

**Mark Loquan
President**

