

En route to sustainability

In years to come, this decade will be remembered as one of the most critical decades in modern history. While geopolitical conflicts, economic upheavals and humanitarian crises grab the headlines across the world, there is another insidious battle we are fighting in the background and against the clock.

Climate change and unsustainable practices are threatening the future of our planet. We are not just experiencing intensified weather conditions, but increased risk to food security, habitats, livelihoods, settlement patterns and economies. Alongside these, we also face interconnected technological and social challenges that can have equal bearing on our collective future.

For us at NGC, sustainability has become the cornerstone of every business decision we are making. We believe we cannot plan for a future as a company if the actions we take to grow are endangering our tomorrow. We are not only searching for ways to make our business cleaner and more efficient, but we are investing in causes that have the same goal of sustainability in mind.

In this issue of *GASCO News*, we take a broad look at some of the matters that need regional attention, as well as some of the work we are doing in the sustainability space.



For example, we believe that a core pillar of any climate action plan must be the education of our youth - not only because their futures are at stake, but because they have the power to influence change, and will be the leaders making the important decisions in a few short years. We need to involve them early, we need to equip them with the right resources, and we need to challenge them to bring novel ideas and innovation to the table. This is the objective of the Re-Energize TnT programme - a joint initiative with Shell, to educate our students around climate action and give them an opportunity to engage with the problem. The programme has had commendable outcomes to date, some of which we share here.

On the environmental front, we shine a spotlight on two urgent issues. The first is the evolving impact of climate change on food production, and

what can be done to ensure changes in our biosphere do not compromise our ability to feed ourselves in future. The second is the matter of microplastics - a scourge that is not only affecting our oceans and marine life, but has implications for human health.

Of course, sustainability is about more than just the environment. To build a sustainable future for all, we need to focus on expansion of economic opportunities. The concept of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) is one we need to integrate more thoughtfully into our businesses across the region, to support equitable participation of citizens in the economy and society. We also need to look at the development of alternative industries, to diversify our job markets and income streams. Culture is a rich resource we can develop and leverage in that regard, and NGC has been doing significant work to support that effort through our investments and partnerships.

As always, we hope that this issue gives some insight into our achievements this past quarter and our strategic focus as a business, as we work to support sustainable national development.



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