



## **NGC President's Speech re Excellence in HSE Port of Spain Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Trinidad 6:00 p.m. Monday November 26, 2012**

It is indeed a great pleasure to be here this evening at this celebration of excellence in the field of Health, Safety and the Environment. The National Gas Company is extremely proud to be the main sponsor of this event which is organized by the American Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad and Tobago in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development.

NGC wholeheartedly endorses the primary objectives behind these awards and these are:

- To recognise entities that have HSE well integrated as a key organisational value and in which measurable achievements in HSE performance is linked to productivity and profitability;
- To establish a validated process by which companies can measure the performance of their HSE operations system against well tested and internationally accepted systems;
- To capture and evaluate successes through a rigorous and systematic review process and to share HSE lessons learnt;
- To foster the sharing of leading HSE management systems ad best practices for educational purposes.

NGC as one of the nation's leading corporate entities, is committed to responsible stewardship of the environment and we adhere to stringent health, safety and environment standards. We support the recognition of excellence in safety, health and environmental management amongst and encourage the implementation of HSE best practices and the pursuit of the highest standards of HSE management.

The issues of health and safety have been an important consideration for all commercial enterprises but especially for those which, like NGC operate in the energy sector. I know this has been a major concern for the Honourable Minister of Labour who during a long and distinguished career as a labour leader was a tireless advocate for safety in the workplace. I wish to assure the Ministry and the national community that a key principle of NGC's HSE Policy is to conduct its business with minimum risk to employees, customers, the public and the environment. In pursuit of this ideal NGC is guided at all times by socially responsible and ethical conduct.

One of the major HSE issues that confronts the local energy sector is its impact on communities in proximity to its operations. It is a matter that has become increasingly challenging in recent years as communities become more aware of the social and



environmental impacts of industrial development. It is an issue that NGC has successfully dealt with over the years and I am very pleased with the approach we have adopted in minimizing any adverse impacts on our neighbouring communities.

It is guided by a philosophy that views these communities as partners with NGC in the pursuit of sustainable development. As a result there is a process of regular engagement and consultation with residents in which we listen to their health and safety concerns and we seek to provide the information they need.

In addition NGC is determined that its presence in the community improves the quality of life of residents and we have therefore implemented an enlightened Corporate Social Responsibility programme that promotes long-term sustainability. Central to this programme is the recognition that effective health and safety practices and the preservation of the environment are the foundations of sustainable community development. Our CSR programme also promotes the institutional strengthening of NGOs and other community-based organizations while building the capacity of residents. NGC believes that a closer relationship between the business sector and the national community especially in the area of public education will result in the improvement of HSE practices throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

We therefore wholeheartedly support the establishment of these Excellence in HSE Awards which have served to place the importance of HSE firmly on the national agenda. The inclusion of 24 categories in the awards scheme is evidence of the scope and tremendous impact of the event. In addition, the facts that the awards are open to small, medium and large enterprises and that a category for service industries has been added for the first time, help to enhance its overall prestige.

NGC is extremely pleased to be a sponsor of these awards and I take this opportunity to congratulate the winners in the various categories. I also wish to commend the organizers of the evening's ceremony for their sterling efforts in ensuring its success.

Thank you.