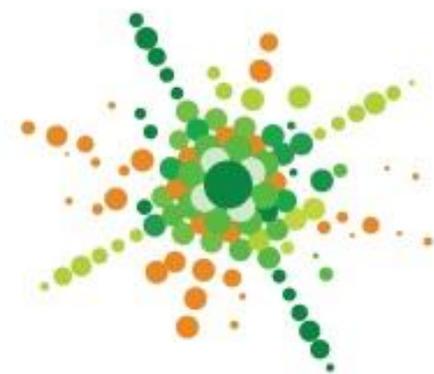




ADDRESS TO THE STAKEHOLDERS GROUP BY
THE HONOURABLE CAROLYN SEEPERSAD BACHAN,
MP FOR SAN FERNANDO WEST
MINISTER OF ENERGY AND ENERGY AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
AT THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY
INITIATIVE EITI 5th GLOBAL CONFERENCE
PARIS, FRANCE
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SALUTATIONS

I am delighted to address you at this significant global conference and also bring greetings on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

My country's return to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) comes at a time when change has taken the spotlight on the stage of global politics and economics. In fact, as you will know, Trinidad and Tobago's return to the EITI came as a result of sweeping political changes in my country in May of 2010 when a new Government was elected by landslide.

For the EITI also, change has taken place. And may I join with my colleagues in bidding farewell to Dr Peter Eigen, who has been a remarkable leader and champion in taking forward and implementing the ideals and objectives of the EITI. On behalf of my Government, I thank Dr Eigen for his extremely valuable contribution.

May I also welcome Clare Short as the new Chair of the EITI. Ms Short, as many of us know, is a former Secretary of State for International Development of the British Government who earned distinction during her time of service to the people of Great Britain, for her courage and mettle.

Recently when I was browsing her online blog, I read of her perspective on the purpose of the EITI. Personally, I think it is one of the most complete summaries which captures the critical importance of the initiative, in a simple and forthright way.

Ms Short says of the EITI: *“The purpose is to get companies to make transparent what they pay and governments to be transparent about what they receive. This does not in itself guarantee that the money is well spent but it makes available the information that can secure this. And*

transparency tends to lead to more efficient and better considered use of resources.”

No doubt, therefore, you will share my happiness and confidence in Ms Short’s ascension to the Chair.

Ladies and gentlemen, this conference brings together Governments from around the world; Governments with a common belief in the value of ***transparency, accountability, and good governance*** to our confidence and global competitiveness.

As a demonstration of our commitment, Trinidad and Tobago has moved with vigour over the past six months to re-introduce the EITI to our nation. In addition, equal energy has been applied to ensure that strategic policy measures were implemented to work in tandem with each other to institutionalise transparency.

Underlining my Government's thrust, was the appointment by Cabinet of an EITI Steering Committee. This committee is charged with the responsibility of *addressing all technical and implementation issues*, and consists of a 15 member tripartite mix of Government, the Extractive Companies, and Civil Society.

As you know, Trinidad and Tobago has been producing hydrocarbons for over 100 years. Our primary revenue generator is the hydrocarbon sector. In fact, the hydrocarbon sector contributes 63% of my country's foreign exchange earnings, and represents 45% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

We have also been at the forefront of world energy with the distinction of being a world leader in the production and exports of petrochemicals.

At one point in time with the coming online of LNG Train IV, Trinidad and Tobago had also earned the distinction as possessing the largest LNG Train on Earth.

Production and export of LNG began in 1996 with our main markets including the United States, Spain, the Dominican Republic, Japan, Mexico, and Argentina.

Our energy infrastructure (supporting our oil and gas production of 100,000 bpd and 4.2bcfd, respectively) is also rather substantial and includes:

- 1 Natural Gas Liquids Processing Facility
- 1 Crude Oil Refinery (throughput - 160,000 BOPD)
- 4 Liquefied Natural Gas Plants (18.6 MTPA)
- 11 Ammonia Plants (5,670,000 MTPA). This includes an AUM- Ammonia Plant.
- 1 Urea Plant (710,000 MTPA)

- 7 Methanol Plants (6,570,000 MTPA)
- 4 Iron and Steel Mills (4,200,000 MTPA)
- 5 Power Generation Plants (~1,900MW?)

However, even with significant achievement in energy development and expansion, we appreciate our fortunes are built on non-renewable resources.

We have therefore initiated a bold thrust in promoting energy efficiency and developing renewable energy resources and assets. These programmes, as colleagues will know, have an extended gestation period if they are to be done correctly. And our commitment will remain in bringing the renewables sector up solidly to its feet.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has also dedicated significant resources to inspiring a rebirth of our upstream sector. Upon our election in May of 2010 one of

my first undertakings as Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs was to completely transform the fiscal regime and incentive strategies governing exploration.

I am pleased to tell colleagues here at this conference that we achieved remarkable success with our shallow and average waters, as well as our deep waters exploration thrust. The recently closed deep water bid round has in many ways validated our policy transformation measures. Companies such as Total, BP, BHP Billiton and Repsol have shown deep confidence by their interest in exploring our deep water. It is expected that significant oil resources will be proved up.

The Energy Sector of Trinidad and Tobago is on the upswing. But this time, we are doing things differently. The people of all of our nations depend on us and the extractive sectors we exploit, for their safety, security and

protection. We must honour our collective commitment to serve our peoples.

If we are to live up to their expectations and deliver on their needs equitably, transparency and openness must be the cornerstones of our sustainable development thrust.

Internationally, our Transparency International Corruption Perception Index rating in 2010 of 3.6 (on a scale of 0-10) and a ranking of 73 among 178 countries leaves room for improvement. And as I have committed to the citizens of my country, I also commit to colleagues that the work entailed in delivering an improved rating, will be done.

It is with this continued commitment to the EITI we will enhance our position in attracting greater investments, as well as technical support from investors and international financial institutions such as the World Bank, the European Union, the European Bank for Reconstruction and

Development, the European Investment Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank, and others.

Ladies and gentlemen, the world is watching us. The world is listening and the world is becoming less patient with talk, and more demanding for action.

In our collective efforts to end poverty and deliver safer, more meaningful livelihoods, we cannot fail. We must not fail!

It is in this context that I give the assurance to colleagues gathered here that Trinidad and Tobago accepts and endorses the EITI Principles and shall satisfy fully the EITI Criteria for us to become EITI compliant.

Our work plan has been prepared as part of the Sign-up requirements to support the country's membership application to the EITI International Secretariat.

The EITI Steering Committee is the author of our work plan. It sets out fully costed measurable targets and a timetable for implementation. It covers the period from GORTT's public announcement, on December 8, 2010, of its reaffirmation to the EITI to the projected completion of the first Validation Report by February 28, 2013.

Potential constraints have been identified and listed as Goals Nos. 7, 8 and 13 and steps will be taken to determine the extent of any constraints and the strategies needed to overcome them.

The overall budget is projected as TT\$10 Million (US\$1.5m). The funding will be a mix of:

- (a) budget-support grants from the World Bank and the European Union,
- (b) a budget-support soft loan from the Inter-American Development Bank and
- (c) direct funding by the GORTT. Additional sources of funding will be explored.

Discussions have been started with the named agencies and, when completed, agreements will be entered into by the GORTT.

Colleagues, my country has demonstrated our commitment by our actions and we look forward to engaging and partnering with you to ensure that transparency, accountability and openness can become the hallmarks of how our Governments do business.

Ladies and gentlemen, I THANK YOU!