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PRESS RELEASE

STRONG CASE FOR PRIVATE SECTOR LED GROWTH IN DEVELOPING RENEWABLE ENERGY

The European Business Chamber in Trinidad and Tobago (EUROCHAMTT) jointly hosted with The Delegation of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago, a presentation and consultation with the private sector on: 'A Sustainable Energy Implementation Plan 2021/2030 for Trinidad and Tobago.' The session took place on the 13th September 2017 at 3.00 p.m., at the Alliance Française building which is the location of the EUROCHAMTT office. It was facilitated by I.Stefanou, Senior Expert in Renewable Energy and targeted at the members of EUROCHAMTT and other private sector operators with a keen interest in renewable energy. Hosts included the EU Delegation represented by H.E. Arend Biesebroek, Ambassador, Natasha-Helena Zoric (Environmental Programme) and Karen Sheppard (Press Officer) as well as EUROCHAMTT represented by Marie Louise Norton-Murray, Director.

Participating organisations included:

- Mr. Cor Stouten, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Mr. Oriol Solà Pardell, Consul / Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Spain
- Mr. Derek Alan-Noël Parker, Chargé de Mission Economique, French Embassy in POS
- AIR LIQUIDE
- Caribbean Well Services
- Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI), University of the West Indies (UWI)
- Circular Energy
- Hydrosol Technology Limited
- ECT Solutions Ltd/ Solar World
- Energy Dynamics
- Five Star Quality
- FUGRO TRINIDAD LIMITED
- Justice Associates
- PALMASOLA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
- SM Solar
- SMART ENERGY LTD
- Solar Power Installation Association
- The University of the West Indies and also Association of Professional Engineers of Trinidad and Tobago (APETT) - (Dr. Trevor Townsend)

Stefanou's work was funded by the EU under the EU Technical Assistance Facility for the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SE4ALL). The technical assistance was initiated by the Delegation to assist the Government with an implementation plan aimed at: (i) the achievement of the 15% GHG emission reduction target from the power generation, transport and industry sectors from business as usual and (ii) the achievement of the 10% target for power generation from Renewables by 2021. These indicators are based on this Country's intended nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement on climate change. The private sector expects this draft implementation plan should assist the Ministry to move faster in terms of improving the enabling environment for the development of the renewable energy sector in Trinidad and Tobago.



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Despite availability of fossil fuel energy resources in Trinidad and Tobago, their use for domestic industry including for the supply of electricity, transport, manufacturing and other industry is highly subsidized and those subsidies might be better utilised elsewhere, for example, in developing the country's infrastructure for long term sustainable sources of energy. Furthermore, higher value and foreign exchange can be earned by providing natural gas resources for LNG and methanol and other energy based export industries. There are currently two methanol plants whose operations have been shut down due to supply conditions of natural gas.

Developing renewable energy sources and facilities is also good business: renewable energy (RE) technology and the payback period for investment continues to decline as proven by recent RE projects implemented around the region. Development of renewable energy sources will also allow this country to meet its commitments on climate change. There is also new investment, economic diversification, innovation, new skills, employment, SME development and significant opportunities for disadvantaged communities associated directly with the development of the RE sector. Yet, unlike many developing and Caribbean countries, Trinidad and Tobago is far behind in terms of putting in place the conditions to develop and grow this sector.

So, what must the Government do?

According to the analysis performed by the energy expert, priority actions are largely of a legislative and policy nature. It is our view that many of the actions requiring capital investment could come from private sector involvement once the legislative and policy framework is in place to encourage the private sector to invest.

Some of the Priority Actions for Government:

1. Complete certain studies on wind and solar resources and on waste characterisation and waste to energy to confirm most promising technologies to promote for Trinidad and Tobago. *Such studies should be done through a tendering process among private RE providers.*
2. Adopt energy efficiency (EE) targets, standards, labelling and possible secondary legislation/regulation for EE
3. Assess internal organisation for managing renewable energy in future given several agencies with varying interests (Ministry of Energy, TTEC, RIC, NGC)
4. Review legislation (T&TEC Act and Regulated Industries Act) and provisions regarding
 - a. Allowing access to the grid for other operators of RE generation facilities
 - b. Feed In Tariff scheme for small scale RE generation including net billing, net metering
 - c. Renewable energy portfolio standards
 - d. Power purchase agreement contracts for renewable energy sources.
5. Consider amending the building code to introduce a mandatory requirement of solar water heaters installation for all those establishments with a high consumption of hot water, such as hotels, restaurants, hospitals etc. and for new constructed buildings effective immediately, for existing buildings after a grace period.



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6. Assess impact on grid stability and capacity if relevant levels of wind or solar energy are fed into distribution or transmission lines
7. Prepare tendering process for large scale wind, PV and waste to energy projects. This could be supported with technical assistance.

Other areas mentioned such as: energy audits, training of electrical inspectors and private electricians for solar PV installations, establishment of a Renewable Energy Sources Group or Association, introduction of know-how on wind energy in university and college courses, training of technicians for construction, operation and maintenance could be performed by non-governmental organisations and the private sector.

Feedback from participants:

The private sector operators attending the presentation raised some additional points for consideration:

1. The lack of coordination among the Ministry of Energy, TTEC and NGC and conflicting interests making a shared vision and leadership on renewables difficult;
2. The fact that so much had been invested in the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) programme for transport making it unlikely that Government would consider renewables for transport in the near future, despite the fact that the CNG programme relied on natural gas and is outdated technology;
3. With the Chinese and many European car manufacturers announcing targeted percentages for electric cars, Trinidad and Tobago government will soon be left with no choice as it is highly unlikely that private car owners will move to CNG, while the cost of electric cars will decrease and consumer demand will shift to electric;
4. The potential for renewable energy systems in disadvantaged communities throughout Trinidad and Tobago especially where there was no formal source of electricity is a good opportunity. For example, could the scatter regularisation programmes consider renewable energy as well as other environmental programmes such as waste separation and recycling in the design of these housing developments. This would allow disadvantaged communities to be more involved in the RE market opportunities.

For more information and to be involved in advocacy for a Renewable Energy sector, please contact marielouise.norton-murray@eurochamtt.org at the European Business Chamber in Trinidad and Tobago. For information on the European Business Chamber in Trinidad and Tobago, please visit us at: Website: www.eurochamtt.org and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EurochamTT> .
