

MEDIA RELEASE

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Dear Editor / Head of Department

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NIHERST and PowerGen add fuel to STI advancements

On October 10th, 2022, the National Institute of Higher Education, Research Science and Technology (NIHERST) and the Power Generation Company of Trinidad and Tobago (PowerGen) signaled the start of a partnership to invest in the expansion of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) initiatives.

This partnership was advanced by an official Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by Mrs. Marleen Lord-Lewis - NIHERST, President, and Dr. Haydn I. Furlonge - PowerGen, General Manager at the NIHERST Head Office, Port of Spain.

The agreement, inter alia, is geared towards the development of renewable energy programmes and the hosting of interactive communication forums and activities to stimulate our citizenry's interest in STI.

Expressing her sentiments on the collaboration, Mrs. Lord-Lewis stated, "NIHERST has for some time acknowledged the unwavering strengths in partnerships. This shared venture with PowerGen will serve to further forge the national effort towards building sustainability in the area of Science, Technology and Innovation."

Standing in agreement, Dr. Furlonge shared, "Our strategic partnership with a key agency such as NIHERST, is geared towards sparking a new cadre of technicians, scientists and engineers that will forge the much needed energy transition."

As the national leader in STI, NIHERST's mission is to stimulate sustainable national capability and capacity in Science, Technology, Innovation, and Technopreneurship through insightful research and relevant programmes.

PowerGen is the largest independent power producer in Trinidad and Tobago committed to technological transformation as it envisions itself to be a reliable and socially responsible long-term energy partner, committed to a greener, more sustainable T&T.

Guided by their shared core values it is quite certain that the results yielded from their collaboration will provide the fuel to power the aspirations of our future generation.

About NIHERST

NIHERST is a statutory body established in 1984 to promote science, technology and higher education in Trinidad and Tobago consistent with national development goals. The Institute is an agency under the Ministry of Education. Its current work focuses on the development of a more diversified, knowledge-driven economy, based on the ingenuity of our people and their ability to create, adapt and use science and technology for wealth generation and national development. Many of its programmes aim to strengthen the innovative, creative and entrepreneurial capabilities of the general population. NIHERST is also engaged in research, such as in foresight and innovation, to support economic diversification; promoting innovation and the commercialisation of technology in priority sectors; and building global partnerships.

About PowerGen

The Power Generation Company of Trinidad and Tobago (PowerGen) was established on December 23rd, 1994 as a joint venture company created out of the partial divestment of the generation assets of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC). Currently, the organization's ownership is divided amongst its shareholders, the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission with a 51% shareholding, MaruEnergy Trinidad LLC (owned by Japanese multinational - Marubeni) with a 39% shareholding, and NEL Power Holdings Limited with a 10% ownership. On behalf of the shareholders, the company continues to scan the generation horizon for the possibilities that will keep them at the forefront of the sector.



Left to Right: Dr. Haydn I. Furlonge (PowerGen) and Mrs. Marleen Lord-Lewis (NIHERST)



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