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ABSTRACT

African Scientific Institute Energy Forum

“Optimizing Energy Strategy for Maximum Country Development – Applying and Adapting Proven Experiences”.

In looking at the potential of energy-rich countries in Africa as they proceed with the process of the modernization of their economies, they face many choices on the uses of energy and the value to its ultimate owners, the citizens. All modern economies are energy dependent and economic prosperity can be achieved and sustained, living standards improved, if appropriate policy planning for energy utilization is understood and applied effectively.

Africa is an energy-rich continent but has had many struggles in optimizing the development of these resources in a way in which the average citizen experiences the benefits of the existence of such valuable resources. In early 2009, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago decided upon the pursuance of an African Energy Initiative as a strategy of Government to lend strategic assistance by sharing experiences and expertise, without cost, to interested nations.

Trinidad and Tobago has a multi-faceted global brand that has demonstrated the country’s proven success in developing one of the most vibrant energy centers in the world on the basis of policy-driven actions and strategies. Trinidad and Tobago is a small developing island state with modest reserves of oil and gas, but was able to generate a very high level of interest from a host of multinational companies. The catalyst for this interest was the deliberate policy intention of the government to develop a gas-based industry and the transmission of this intent to the international business community.

In mid-2009, Trinidad and Tobago hosted an African Energy Ministers Meeting, and the objective was to open dialogue between the African continent and countries of the Diaspora particularly in areas that can bring benefits to all. Further, the meeting was set up to clearly outline and develop strategies by which Trinidad and Tobago can meaningfully assist attending countries. In this regard, the Ministry of Energy and

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Energy Industries was host to the African Initiative Coordination Secretariat for which the author had ministerial responsibility. The outcome of that meeting was a set of clearly identified needs and areas of potential assistance/cooperation which informed the agenda for further work..

With the global focus on energy continuing to be more and more sharply focussed, the opportunity is here for African nations with energy development issues to respond positively to the challenge. The ongoing structural changes in Nigeria point to the clear need to ensure the supporting mechanisms, structures and strategies are in place to really optimize oil and gas development – even 30 years later! In countries such as Ghana and the newly emergent resource-rich East African nations of Mozambique and Tanzania a developmental opportunity has emerged that requires structured approach if the country is to gain maximum benefit from the exploitation of its newly found natural resources. In this situation, there is the clear need to devise strategies whereby these countries learn from the missteps of other countries in similar situations as well as adapt the most successful strategies to their peculiar circumstances. What really matters is how this is to be done.

My presentation will demonstrate that the key issue is that oil and gas development requires a structured approach guided by clearly articulated and evenly applied Government policies. The preference would also be to have appropriate guidance from persons/institutions with proven “hands-on” experience in achieving these objectives. I will also delve into the core strategies that drove Trinidad and Tobago’s oil and gas development and show how they could be very relevant to countries trying to develop their own sectors.

My presentation will also posit that the case of the strategy of Trinidad and Tobago deciding to pursue a type of “South-South” cooperation in offering to leverage its own experiences, at no cost, to African countries was a truly unique opportunity that was not maximised upon. But logically, the Government of the day saw it as the missing “piece of the puzzle” in that genuine sharing of experiences and knowledge about how to effectively develop such a sector was truly lacking and could only make everyone stronger.

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CONRAD ENILL

Global Business, Energy & Finance Consultant.



Conrad Enill is former government Minister of Finance & The Economy and Minister of Energy & Energy Industries in the Government of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago.

He is a sought-after expert in energy affairs and international finance with broad experience in policy design and implementation. A strategist and skilled negotiator in joint ventures at the country level, Conrad Enill has a successful track record in project implementation for a number of ventures involving transnational companies in both the finance and the oil and gas sectors.

Enill has proven expertise in governance and leadership roles with major international agencies and private sector institutions and at various times, has served successfully as Governor for the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Chair of the IMF G24, Head of Delegation for the Commonwealth Finance Ministers, Representative to the- World Council of Credit Unions Caribbean Development Education initiative, Governor of the World Bank; and - of the International Development Association and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency.

More recently, Enill led the Fifth Summit of the Americas as Energy Head and was a serving member of the Trinidad & Tobago Standing Committee on Energy Matters, and a member of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) whose members include Algeria, Bolivia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Iran, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Russia, Venezuela as well as Trinidad and Tobago.

Prior to his ministerial roles, Conrad Enill held a number of executive positions including that of Chief Executive Officer, General Manager and Management Consultant with a number of regional organizations involved in the businesses of information technology, cooperatives, credit unions and insurance.

Enill is very knowledgeable in country-to-country trade matters and business-to-country negotiations, having delivered major changes in legislation in the finance sector and supervised a number of agreements with blue-chip companies in the energy industry. Among his key achievements as Minister of Energy and Energy Industries, he negotiated sensitive multinational cross-border energy agreements, significantly enhanced project delivery time, developed a new fiscal regime to expand deep water drilling, re-established the production sharing contract to support new exploration, and led expansion of downstream activities. He also commissioned an acclaimed critical energy infrastructure security response plan to address potential disasters such as the recent oil rig spill in the Gulf of Mexico; and is credited with introducing a Renewable Energy Policy and leading the development of compressed natural gas to replace liquid fuels.

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During his tenure as Minister of Finance & The Economy, Enill successfully led investment teams to raise financing on international financial markets; engaged with the Government of the United States of America Customs and IRS on joint projects such as the Mutual Financial Information Agreement and the US/TT Tax Treaty. He drove reform of the tax system to modernize the investment climate to support country competitiveness, and implemented the Heritage and Stabilisation Fund. He is also recognized for establishing the revolutionary International Finance Centre as an alternative for oil and gas revenues.

Conrad Enill has productive relationships with state officials and industry leaders at all levels and serves as an indispensable advisor to a number of government and business leaders and lectures in the Caribbean Latin America (CLA) Region on financial and energy matters. As Minister of Energy he guided the - African Countries Initiative, advising on establishing oil and gas business in Nigeria, Tanzania, Ghana, Uganda, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Republic of Congo and Gabon.

Enill is the holder of a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the Brunel University and Henley Management College in the UK, and a graduate of the CWC School for Energy, with professional certification in Oil & Gas. He is also trained in Economic Reforms, Public Expenditure and Debt Reform. Enill is Chairman and Partner at Connill Enterprises - a limited liability company of Specialist Advisors in Business, Energy & Finance.

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