

MEDIA RELEASE

25.05.2024

Vessigny Secondary School Triumphs in National Energy's Energy Sustainability Debate Finals

Vessigny Secondary School emerged victorious in the highly competitive 2024 edition of National Energy's Energy Sustainability Debate Finals held on Friday 24th May, at Queen's Hall. This event, saw young minds from across the nation coming together to discuss and propose solutions for the adoption and utilisation of cleaner energy sources. The Competition featured 104 debaters from 26 secondary schools, including finalist and 2023 champs, Presentation College, Chaguanas.

The Honourable Dr. Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, Minister of Education, delivered the feature address at the grand finale. Minister Gadsby-Dolly encouraged the students to focus on the positives and embrace their roles in shaping a brighter future for the country. She applauded National Energy for its efforts in offering secondary school students the opportunity to develop their critical thinking and public speaking skills on a topic that impacts the well-being of all countries, including Trinidad and Tobago.

In delivering his remarks, President of National Energy, Dr. Vernon Paltoo, commended the dedication, research, and teamwork displayed by the debaters who participated in this year's competition. He emphasised National Energy's commitment to promoting sustainable energy development and raising awareness about climate change through educational initiatives like this debate Competition.

Dr. Paltoo also highlighted National Energy's role in several recent projects aimed at supporting a sustainable future, including:

- installation of solar panels at The University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus, to power an electric vehicle charger;
- execution of energy audits at various entities to facilitate the incorporation of renewable energy and drive energy efficiency measures;
- addition of Trinidad and Tobago's only low-emission tug to the fleet of vessels, featuring technologies that significantly reduce nitrous oxide emissions; and
- implementation of the country's restructured Green Hydrogen Development Plan and the Wind Development Plan, marking a significant step towards a lower carbon and economically sustainable energy future.

This 2nd edition of National Energy's Energy Sustainability Debate Competition reaffirms the Company's dedication to climate education and action, aiming to inspire and equip the next generation of our society to lead the charge towards a sustainable energy future for Trinidad and Tobago and beyond.



Photo 1 Caption: 1st place students and teacher from Vessigny Secondary School after receiving their medals and prizes from National Energy President, Dr. Vernon Paltoo (3rd from right).



Photo 2 Caption: Debaters from Vessigny Secondary and Presentation College, Chaguanas get ready to deliver their summary arguments.

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