TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTRICITY COMMISSION Vol. 31 #4/October - December 2014

VISION - Leadership in Energy Delivery, Excellence in Customer Service... enhancing the quality of life for all.

MISSION - To provide a safe, reliable, high quality electricity supply, in an environmentally responsible manner, utilizing best practices, through empowered employees committed to excellence and customer satisfaction.

Merry hris

T&TEC signs new Power Purchase Agreement

Gandhi Substation nears completion

60 yrs of Employee Recognition and Awards

Editorial

Finishing on a high note

Twelve months ago we suggested several visualization and time management tips to plan for a productive and successful year. Now, as we close off 2014, the Commission can celebrate several wins, as major planned projects are proceeding according to schedule (See pages 4 and 9) and we triumphed over unanticipated challenges (page 7).

Our stories of this final quarter of 2014 again show the fortitude of the staff of T&TEC and the Board and Management wishes to thank every employee for their contributions to the productivity of the Commission.

As a demonstration of appreciation for the continued hard work by staff, the Commission

annually recognises employees for their service as well as rewards high performance. The 60th anniversary of these celebrations, where close to 300 employees were recognised, is covered on pages 17 to 19. Other events intended to give back to employees, and the public, included the Divali celebration and children's Christmas parties.

As we close off another year with stories of accomplishments and celebration, let them serve as a guide for 2015, as we move forward to greater things.

Happy New Year!

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T&TEC's GM, Kelvin Ramsook and PowerGen's GM, Fitzroy Harewood, sign documents for the new PPA. Looking on are Ministers Nizam Baksh and Kevin Ramnarine, with T&TEC's Corporate Secretary, Grace Maharaj (left) and Joy Ramlogan, Director – Legal and Regulatory Affairs, PowerGen (right).



T&TEC and PowerGen sign new 15-year PPA

A new Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) has been signed between T&TEC and PowerGen, stipulating contract details for the supply of 705 megawatts (MW) of power from PowerGen's three plants at Penal, Point Lisas and Port of Spain.

The 15-year "Amendment and Restatement Agreement relating to the amendment and restatement of a Power Purchase Agreement dated 23 December 1994 (as amended)", takes effect from January 2015, and will help to meet the Commission's current peak demand of 1,322MW for Trinidad and Tobago.

Speaking at a signing ceremony on December 5 at the Radisson Hotel, Minister of Public Utilities, the Honourable Nizam Baksh said "the signing ... is based on the principle of efficient management of our nation's assets to achieve maximum benefit... T&TEC has acquired more

Highlights of the PPA 2014

- Absence of an automatic roll-over period. More favourable terms based on prevailing conditions can be renegotiated by the Commission at the end of each period.
- Pricing calculations are less dependent on the US Consumer Price Inflation Index.
- Fuel efficiency requirements tightened to incentivize fuel conservation, further reducing T&TEC's natural gas costs, contributing to a net effect of 17% cost reduction in PowerGen's bill in 2015.
- Less efficient generators to be in a state of "inactive reserve." More fuel efficient generators at the TGU power station to be utilised. Annual savings in fuel costs are expected.

Continued on page 6

WATTS HAPPENING

Gandhi Substation nears completion – Ministers visit

T&TEC's Chairman, Susilla Ramkissoon-Mark and General Manager, Kelvin Ramsook (centre) in discussions with the Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs, Sen. the Hon. Kevin Ramnarine and Minister of Public Utilities, the Hon. Nizam Baksh during their tour of the Gandhi Substation.

As construction of the Gandhi Village Substation nears completion, a Ministerial team, along with journalists, toured the plant to learn firsthand of the coming benefits for the country. The team, which was briefed by General Manager, Kelvin Ramsook, and included the Honourable Nizam Baksh, Minister of Public Utilities; Senator the Honourable Kevin Ramnarine, Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs; T&TEC's Chairman Susilla Ramkissoon-Mark and other senior officials from the Commission, toured the Gandhi Village site to get a full appreciation of the work being carried out.

This first phase of the \$100M investment is designed to take power from the Trinidad Generation Unlimited (TGU) Power Station at Union Estate in La Brea onto the existing grid via a series of new and upgraded electrical infrastructure. The transmission system expansion project, which links T&TEC's largest substation at Brechin Castle (BC) in Pt. Lisas with the Union Estate 220/66kV Substation, is a massive undertaking that required several phases being carried out simultaneously.

During the November 12 tour, Mr. Ramsook told the



Composite photograph showing employees from Transmission Development and Engineering Services, Transmission Technical Support and Transmission Maintenance, together with contractors who worked on the Gandhi Village Substation project.

group "this is one of the most important projects in the country right now ... the construction of this substation will provide greater flexibility in distributing power throughout the country. If, for any reason, our other power producers cannot deliver we will be able to use the 720MW out of TGU's power plant to back up any

shortfall."

Minister Ramnarine outlined the benefits of the new substation saying that operating costs will be reduced significantly from the reduced purchase of natural gas, when the maximum load of TGU is utilised. Minister Baksh endorsed this statement and noted that TGU "has the best thermal efficiency of all the power plants in Trinidad and Tobago...customers can expect 15-20 years of a reliable supply of electricity." The Minister congratulated T&TEC for the speed of execution of the project.

Construction of the four associated transmission lines took an expedited time frame of just under two years to complete. The projects covered construction of tower lines between Gandhi Village, Debe and Reform. "Each aspect of each phase required careful planning," Sahadeo Latchmepersad, Manager - Transmission **Development and Engineering** Services Department said about the collaboration among onsite contractors and T&TEC's Protection and Scada, **Transmission Maintenance** and System Planning and Research Departments. He praised the team for their quick solutions in keeping the project execution on target. "Our aim," he said, "was to commission a

significant segment of the infrastructure on schedule to allow the transmission of 320MW of additional power to customers across the country."

Phase two of the project will involve the construction of another tower line between Union Estate Substation and Gandhi Village Substation, and the installation of 132/12 kV transformers at Gandhi Village Substation to serve the areas surrounding Gandhi Village.

As crews and engineers worked to ensure that the interconnection between TGU and T&TEC's transmission grid, via the 220kV double circuit twin bundled conductor tower lines, was tested and ready, a second 220/132kV transformer, of similar capacity to the one at the BC Substation, was being assembled at the new Gandhi Village 220/132/12 kV Substation. Its connection to the Debe 132kV Substation facilitates the injection of power into the existing transmission grid, boosting supply to customers throughout the country.

On December 9, the 220 kV Bus was energised, marking the achievement of a significant milestone in the project.

T&TEC and PowerGen sign new 15-year PPA

Continued from page 3

authority to conduct tests and checks on PowerGen's facilities, and penalties have been instituted to discourage false/inaccurate capacity declarations as well as annual capacity shortfalls. Senator the Honourable Larry Howai, Minister of Finance, noted that the new PPA "sets a stage for putting power generation requirements on a sustainable, secure and reliable basis...until 2029." A second Agreement, the "2014 Amended and Restated Implementation Agreement," was also signed by PowerGen, its shareholders Maruenergy and NEL Power Holdings Inc., and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. This Agreement provides a guarantee for T&TEC's payment obligations pursuant to the new PPA as well as other assurances, indemnities and undertakings to PowerGen. The signing of both Agreements was witnessed by Senator the Honourable Kevin Ramnarine, Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs, as well as several Permanent Secretaries and members of the media. T&TEC's General Manager, Kelvin Ramsook and PowerGen's General Manager, Fitzroy Harewood were signatories to the new contract.



The power to make it work

For three days at the end of November, T&TEC's engineers worked feverishly to balance the declining bulk power from the Trinidad Generation Unlimited (TGU) plant to avoid possible load shedding to customers across the country.

The rapidly deteriorating power situation, caused by a leaking pipeline from the National Gas Company (NGC) on November 26, prompted T&TEC to urgently institute measures to minimise the impact of the loss of power, since uncertain variables about repairs to the pipeline predicted several days of an inoperable TGU plant. Advisories to domestic and commercial customers called for conservation; 15 industrial customers were taken off line and asked to use standby generators; and 200 recreation grounds remained unlit as the Commission kept a close eye on usage versus the balance of power supplied from the Commission's other five sources of bulk power. These included PowerGen, Trinity Power and the Cove Power Station in Tobago, including the Scarborough diesel plant which was pulled into action in an all out attempt to manage the situation and maintain power to the national electricity grid.

Continued on page 10

The end of an era

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The grounds at PowerGen's Penal plant are now safer for users as T&TEC recently completed the dismantling and demolition of a 34-year old 70MW steam power generator at the site. The project was the first of its kind to be undertaken by T&TEC and marked the end of a generation era which started in the 1950s.

The project was managed by the System Control and Generation Interface Department and utilised the expertise of a United Kingdom based contractor, Technical Demolition Services Limited. State-of-the-art equipment was used in the mechanical demolition, removal and disposal of all mechanical, electrical, control and instrumentation systems associated with electrical power generation from the old power station, inclusive of the steam turbine/generator floor and civil structures. Bulk asbestos, tonnes of ferrous material and several cubic meters of residual





T&TEC's AGM - Engineering, Courtenay Mark (3rd from left) assesses the demolition work being done at the old Penal Power Plant. asbestos found on the site, were removed and disposed of by local contractor, SWMCOL. T&TEC's Health, Safety and Environment Department kept a watchful eye and several Departments from the Transmission Division and PowerGen were part of the project process. At the end of the project, the building structure, roof and overhead gantry cranes were what remained of the old Penal plant which was decommissioned in 1984.

On site: Operations Manager - Tobago, Ganesh Narine, with an employee in this composite photo showing the Northside 12kV feeder project.



Seventy poles have already been installed, and thirty-five pole spans of conductors have been strung along roads, mostly from Castara to Englishman's Bay, where no lines existed before, in the 1st phase of the Tobago Northside 12kV feeder project. This is already a major milestone for the project, which started in October said Operations Manager - Tobago, Ganesh Narine.

The installation of this infrastructure will allow for the installation of streetlights in these areas. The project involves the reconstruction and relocation of a 21km section of the network out of the Scarborough Substation and passes along heavily forested areas on rugged terrain near the coast. When completed in approximately 12 months, customers from Runnemede to Campbleton, Charlotteville will experience a significant improvement in the reliability of their electricity supply.

Executive Appointment



Ainsley Stewart has been promoted to Assistant General Manager (AGM) – Administration. His appointment became effective on October 09 2014. Mr. Stewart holds a BSc in Management Studies, a MBA and a MSc in Accountancy.

He joined the Commission in 1982 as an Accountantin-Training and, over the next 16 years, advanced to several positions in the Finance Division. In 1985 Mr. Stewart was appointed Accountant II; in 1993 Senior Accountant (Management) and in 1995 as Senior Accountant (Finance). His acting stints included Chief Accountant, Senior Accountant (Treasury) and Pension Plan Administrator. In 2001 Mr. Stewart was appointed

Internal Audit Manager, a position he retained until his recent promotion as a senior executive at T&TEC.

As AGM-Administration, Mr. Stewart will be accountable for planning, directing, coordinating and controlling the policies, programmes and processes of the Departments under the Administration Division – Information Systems, Metering Services, Supplies and Commercial – to ensure consistency with the Commission's objectives and statutory requirements.

The power to make it work

Continued from page 7

The loss of gas to TGU meant the plant's gas and steam engines had to be ramped down, causing a shortfall of 300 megawatts (MW) out of the approximately 1300MW of electricity needed to supply the Commission's 450,000 customers.

The NGC gas leak was repaired at 11:50 p.m. on November 28, 2014 and TGU's first machine was brought online at 9:36 a.m. on November 29. Industrial customers were simultaneously also given the all clear to return to normal operations along with commercial and residential customers, the latter who were eager to continue their Christmas preparations.

The Commission thanks all of its employees, especially those at the Control Centre, for ensuring no major loss of supply for the period.

10

Increased load capacity out of Trincity Substation

An upgrade of T&TEC's Trincity Substation will surpass the electricity supply needs of customers at the expanding Trincity Mall, the largest mall in the Caribbean, and surrounding housing developments, schools, banks and recreational facilities. This is the news coming out of Distribution East Area as crews work to complete the final stages of a project to upgrade the existing network capacity of the Trincity Substation, just in time for the busy Christmas season.

Conceptualised in 2012, the project involved changing the Substation's cables and the 12kV switchgear, and also saw the original 4/0 conductors being upgraded to 199mm² conductors,

significantly increasing the load capacity out of the Trincity Substation.

Ian Lewis, Technical Assistant III, explained that the exercise will not only improve the Substation's capacity by 50 percent, it will also cater for the future load growth of the populous Trincity area.

The upgrades, which were conducted on a phased basis, also coincided with a request made in 2013 by the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure to relocate existing poles to facilitate the widening of the Trincity Central Road. A combination of substation and overhead lines crews, along with contractors, worked tirelessly on the project to bring it to fruition.



Top and below: contractors and employees completing the upgrade work near the Trincity Substation



Awards for T&TEC's young scholars

Children of T&TEC employees continue to make their mark in the academic field, winning national scholarships for outstanding achievement at this year's Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE).

The T&TEC Family is proud of all these winners and shares the stories of four of them - Suriah Heeraman, Chantal Varsha Boodram, Ayesha Alexandria Ali and Sadika Mohammed.

Suriah Heeraman, daughter of Goutam Heeraman, Supervisor of the Penal Training Facility, was awarded an Additional Scholarship in Science. Suriah is a graduate of St. Joseph's Convent, Port of Spain and is currently pursuing an Engineering degree at the University of Trinidad and Tobago. At the moment she is considering specialising in maritime engineering operations, but remains open to other opportunities. Of his daughter's success, Mr. Heeraman said, "Suriah was always given the freedom to make her own choices academically; she was never forced to go in any particular direction. Ultimately, children must be happy about their studies."





"I wish to someday to own my own accounting firm," asserted Chantal Varsha Boodram, a former student of Laskmi Girls' Hindu College and recipient of an Additional Scholarship in Business. Chantal, the daughter of Oma Mohammed, a Stewardess at Head Office, is currently pursuing a BSc in Accounting at the University of the West Indies. Her mother is understandably "very proud" of Chantal's achievement. "I know she has worked very hard and has the capability to achieve many other great things" she said, "I wish her all the best in her future endeavours." Ms. Mohammed urged parents to "always motivate and be the pillars of support for their children."

Another recipient of an Additional Scholarship in Science, Ayesha Alexandria Ali, is a former student of St Augustine Girls' High School. The daughter of Constable Roger Ali, a Security Officer at Head Office, she is his second daughter to receive a national scholarship. Ayesha plans to pursue a career in pediatrics, with particular interest in children's cancer research. "She is a hardworking, organised individual," said Constable Ali, "I am very proud of her and I wish her all the best in her chosen field. I urge all parents to support their child and always provide helpful words of wisdom."





Sadika Mohammed, a graduate of Iere High School, Siparia, has received an Additional Natural Science Scholarship. She is currently pursuing a BSc in Petroleum Geoscience at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. Her father, Saied Mohommed, a Security Officer attached to T&TEC Mount Hope remarked, "Sadika's excellence in the Cape examinations has made me extremely proud. In my family, my motto is that no dream comes true until you wake up and go to work. Sadika's calm and pragmatic approach allowed her to be successful. God always gives His best to those who leave the choice to Him."

T&TEC employees attend Mexico Power Summit

Buenas tardes, amigos. Me llamo Kavita Deonarine y soy una ingeniera electrica con la comision de electricidad, en la republica de Trinidad y Tobago." Good afternoon, friends. My name is Kavita Deonarine and I am an Electrical Engineer with the Electricity Commission in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

This was the introduction by the System Control & Generation Interface Department's Shift Control Engineer 1 as she stepped in, at the last minute, for an absent presenter at the 2014 Mexico Oil, Gas and Power Summit and Power Summit. The conference was framed in the context of Mexico's ongoing deregulation of its electricity/energy sectors and the resulting need for regulators' decisions to be based on comprehensive scenario analysis and sound assumptions. Ms. Deonarine's presentation was based on "T&TEC's success" and was premised on a paper she had submitted for the Summit's Service Provider of the Year Award. The winner of this Award will be announced in March 2015.



Kavita Deonarine, Shift Control Engineer 1 (left) and Acting Audit Manager, Gerard Emmanuel-Rodriguez (right)

Gerard Emmanuel-Rodriguez, Acting Internal Audit Manager, delivered a scheduled presentation entitled "A Scan of Trinidad and Tobago's Electricity Sector – Key Issues and Requirements." The presentation demonstrated the history of the Commission and structure of the electricity sector in Trinidad and Tobago, and gave an overview of some of the impacts of regulatory decisions on the Commission, from the days of the Public Utilities Commission (from 1966) to the current Regulatory Industries Commission (RIC, up to 2012).

Ms. Deonarine, Mr. Emmanuel-Rodriguez and Shastri Gayadeen, Senior Engineer - System Control and Generation Interface Department, were among 200 international delegates who attended the annual conference from October 20 to 21.



Another successful year for Divali celebrations

Elaborate bamboo bending displays telling the story of Divali; well-rehearsed performances by resplendent Queens; and inspiring words from specially-invited speakers made T&TEC's annual Divali celebrations on Saturday October 18 an evening to remember and one of the premier celebration leading up to the Festival of Lights.

The crowds gathered from as early as 5:00 p.m. at the Mid Centre Mall to visit the bamboo displays and partake of refreshments before the official start of the celebration, while being entertained by the T&TEC-sponsored Gayatones Orchestra and the Nada Sangama Steel Orchestra. They came out dressed in traditional Indian wear for the annual free event widely acclaimed for capturing the traditional essence of Divali.

General Manager, Kelvin Ramsook lauded the Divali Committee for their continued commitment and leadership towards taking the event to higher levels. He told the crowd of over 1500 people, "What you see tonight is the volunteer hard work of employees -Hindus and non Hindus - and I want to thank them for their effort in bringing the message of Divali to us." T&TEC's Chairman, Susilla Ramkissoon-Mark added to this sentiment saying, "Divali reminds us that our nation is home to many faiths and traditions and [that our] diversity makes us stronger."

Diversity of another type was certainly on display for those who visited the bamboo bending displays. They were treated to impressive Divali depictions, some of which even incorporated aspects of T&TEC's operations, like Distribution North's large lit deya on a bamboo transmission tower; a representation of the evolution of electricity



T&TEC's Chairman, Susilla Ramkissoon-Mark and Deputy PS at the Ministry of Public Utilities, Ms. Vashti Singh Jitman enjoy a light moment.



Distribution North's transmission tower alit by deya.

infrastructure in Trinidad and Tobago by Mt. Hope; and an interesting mix of traditional deyas and electric lights from Distribution Tobago. Many were impressed by the Public Lighting Department's display powered by solar energy and the gigantic elephant put on by Distribution East especially fascinated the children. Distribution South's meandering bamboo canopy was inviting and adults could be heard explaining to children about the journey of Ram and Sita, as shown in the display by the Supplies Department. The Transmission Division also re-entered the competition this year with a bamboo display of towers and transmission lines. Guests commented about the attention to detail with many noting that "they had not seen anything like this before." Cash prizes were awarded to the top three places in this competition with first place and bragging rights going to Mount Hope.

As the formal programme got underway, several speakers addressed the growing crowd. Among them were High Commissioner Gauri Shankar Gupta from



The Fatel Razack, part of Distribution East's display.

the Republic of India; His Worship the Mayor of Chaguanas, Gopaul Boodhan; and Deputy Permanent Secretary, Vashti Jitman who spoke on behalf of the Minister of Public Utilities who was out of the country. Ms Jitman said "That commitment [of Divali] to spread light and hope is something that we must all adopt, not only in our corporate lives, but in our families and communities, and as individuals."



T&TEC's Divali Queen 2014, Laurel Bhairosingh of Distribution South (5th from right), with the other beautiful contestants. I-r: Cintra Pariag – Central, Wendy Pakeerah - Supplies, Francisca Romany – North, Shivana Thompson-Arvelay – East, Karla Mohan – Transmission, Ms. Bhairosingh, Daena Badree - Public Lighting Department, Krystal Stewart – Tobago, Anita Lacaille – Head Office and Padmina Maharaj – Mount Hope.



A traditional bamboo oven constructed by Distribution Tobago.

Following the speeches, the crowds positioned themselves for a better visual of the highlight of T&TEC's Divali celebrations, the popular Parade of Queens. Ten queens, representing T&TEC's operating centers, vied for prizes which included all expenses overseas paid trips and US dollars in spending money. Fans made their support known with banners, flags and applause as the Queens paraded in exotic Indian wear and showed their talent through dance, song and recitations on the meaning of Divali. In the end Distribution South's Laurel Bhairosingh was crowned T&TEC's Divali Queen 2014.

Winners of T&TEC's Divali competitions 2014:

Queen competition:

1st place – Laurel Bhairosingh, Distribution South 2nd place – Crystal Stewart, Distribution Tobago 3rd place – Padmini Maharaj, Mt Hope

Bamboo Bending Competition

1st place - Mt. Hope 2nd place - Supplies Department 3rd place - Distribution Tobago

Employees celebrated at 60th awards ceremony

It was 60 years ago, on February 19, 1954, when 78 employees were honoured for long service to the Commission at T&TEC's first employee awards ceremony held at the Service Centre, Head Office. Sixty years later, at the now annual Employee Recognition and Awards Ceremony, T&TEC recognised close to 300 employees at a black-tie gala at the Regency Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Trinidad.

Held on November 1 under the theme, "Celebrating the Gems of the Organisation," bedecked guests entering the Ballroom of the Hyatt Trinidad were welcomed to an old-Hollywood themed decor and were treated to a diverse cultural programme that included appreciative remarks from T&TEC's dignitaries.

The gala began with a presentation by African performing group Wasafoli, which left the guests, including the Speaker of the House, the Honourable Wade Mark; and senior officials from PowerGen and the Ministry of Public Utilities, anticipating an exciting programme. Speeches and presentation of awards were interspersed with performances by T&TEC's Divas; Signal Hill Alumni Choir; and the Shiv Shakti Dancers accompanied by T&TEC-sponsored band Malik Tassa Drummers.

In keeping with the theme, T&TEC's General Manager, Kelvin Ramsook, singled out some employees for special recognition for going above and beyond to improve the quality of life for the citizens of the country. "T&TEC has been in existence for sixty nine years," he said, "but as the company grew and changed, one thing has remained consistent...the calibre of employees." As he concluded his remarks, Mr. Ramsook told the employees that "the Commission is nothing without you."

Echoing these sentiments, T&TEC's Chairman, Susilla Ramkissoon-Mark said that "T&TEC's history is

"Celebrating the Gems of the Organisation"

punctuated by employees who, through their talent, hard work and dedication, have left their mark on significant milestones in [its] history." She went on to share that despite the diminishing number of organisations that recognise their employees, T&TEC will continue to publicly recognise their employees for excellent work.

The remarks were a fitting prelude to the feature address by Minister of Public Utilities, the Honourable Nizam Baksh, who exclaimed that "T&TEC is the envy of the Caribbean region and indeed the Hemisphere." His comment was in reference to Trinidad and Tobago's electrification rate of 99%. As for T&TEC's annual awards ceremony he said,



The elite awardees - 40 years and over long service recipients – back row, I-r: Herman Noel, Joseph Bandoo, Shawn Ramroop (who collected on behalf of his father, Jai Ramroop), Dave Patterson, Calvin Moses, Ruthven Daniel, Ardene Hart. Bottom row, I-r: Deendath Ramdeo, Uric Jagrup, Julien Isaac, Errol Hodge, Tage Nowrang.

"As an organisation it is very important to set aside the time to say 'thanks' to its employees and to shine the spotlight on the individual players of that great team which makes up the organisation as a whole."

Appreciative applause, and comments from Masters of Ceremonies, Corporate Communications Manager, Annabelle Brasnell and Consumer Liaison Officer, Nigel Charles, greeted each recipient as they took center stage to receive their award. This year, two hundred and sixty employees received awards in various Long Service categories ranging from 15 to 41 years; Best Performing Employees, Area/Department; Safe Driving; Cost Effectiveness; and Chairman's Award, awarded this year to Westly Orr, Manager -Cove Power Plant of Distribution Tobago.

As the official function concluded, guests were treated to a sumptuous buffet dinner while they enjoyed the multi cultural performances that included the Chinese Dragon Dancers, sitarist Darshanee Ramlakhan, vocalist Neval Chaitlal, pannist Noel La Pierre and T&TEC sponsored Luces Brillantes Parang Band.
For those guests who remained after dinner, dancing, led by Kereem Quashie, completed a night to remember.

Winners of Area and Departmental/ Divisional Awards

MOST SERVICE ORIENTED AREA Distribution East

BEST PERFORMING AREA – SAFETY Distribution Tobago

MOST COST-EFFECTIVE AREA Distribution North

MOST COST-EFFECTIVE DEPARTMENT/ DIVISION – SMALL Assistant General Manager-Administration

MOST COST-EFFECTIVE DEPARTMENT/ DIVISION – LARGE Supplies Department

BEST PERFORMING AREA – OVERALL Distribution South

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD Westly Orr, Manager - Cove Power Station, Distribution Tobago

WATTS HAPPENING



Chandrawatie Hosein-Rambarran, a 25-year award recipient from Distribution East, collects her award from Mr. Ramsook.



Westly Orr – Manager - Cove Power Station after being presented with the Chairman's Award by Mrs. Susilla Ramkissoon-Mark.



Area Manager - Distribution South, Harold Lee, accepts the trophy from T&TEC's Chairman, Mrs. Susilla Ramkissoon-Mark for the Best Performing Area overall.



Commissioner Moriba Kwamina, presents Jaden Mc Kree, with his father Kenneth's award for 30-years service. Kenneth Mc Kree is currently receiving treatment in Miami after suffering severe burns while on the job.



The Best Performing Employees from each Area/Department for 2014



Over 1,500 employees in health and wellness training

According to research by the World Health Organisation (WHO) the worksite environment might significantly contribute to an unhealthier diet and sedentary behaviour of employees. It is also an excellent setting to attempt behaviour/lifestyle change, because workers spend about half their waking hours at the workplace. These findings have prompted a global move to eradicate health issues in the workplace.

T&TEC's response to this call was to establish an Employee Wellness Programme and, in 2014, the Commission rolled out a series of awareness sessions that encouraged the creation and sustenance of healthier lifestyle choices. Forty-two sessions, covering Diabetes, Family Planning, Cardiovascular Health and Nutrition, were conducted at locations across the Commission.

One thousand, five hundred and forty-four employees were taught how to prevent and reduce signs of chronic disease such as heart disease, high blood pressure, osteoporosis, diabetes, arthritis, drug abuse, obesity and cancer.

Edward Charles, Clerk III from the St. James Service Center, attended one of the Family Planning sessions, which focused on male and female contraception, treatable and non treatable STDs – preventative methods, information on testing methods and pre and post result counseling. Mr. Charles was appreciative of the information, suggesting that "every employee attend this session to raise awareness on AIDS and other STDs. Condoms can burst, they are not guaranteed protection, people need to be reminded of the consequences of unsafe sexual behaviour. It's very important, especially for younger people, to make better lifestyle choices in relation to sexual acts."

Better lifestyle choices was the theme at the session on Nutrition and for Heera Boodram, Meter and Relay Technician I in the Protection and SCADA Department, the message was poignant, "I had open heart surgery earlier this year and my doctor ordered me to change my lifestyle. The session came at the right time as it reinforced what I was told to do – practice a healthy lifestyle – eat healthy meals, exercise daily and drink lots of water." Mr. Boodram recommends that the programme be extended to all employees as, "a healthier employee is a more productive employee."

The Human Resource Department is the driving force behind the Commission's Employee Wellness Programme and is expected to continue offer these awareness sessions in the new year.

Additional safety measures at Central's substations

Distribution Central led the way in improvements in substation safety after the first advanced portable fall arrest post system was installed and used at the Charlieville 66kV Substation in November 2014.

The compact light weight post of only 17.2 kg (or 38 lbs) is portable and easy to transport and affix on top of substation power transformers or other types of vertical platforms which present potential fall hazards. Richard Sitahal, Assistant Area Manager, said it was decided to install the safety system, "because the height of substation power transformers exceed two meters (6ft) [and] fall protection is required for employees to work on top of these units."

The fall-arrest system is designed specifically for use in these cases and can be used on other power transformers with suitable adaptors. The portable fall-arrest system has the ability to expand or contract in length thereby reducing a worker's fall distance should an accident occur. Using self retracting lifelines or fixed length lanyards, the three independent swivel anchor points provide 360 degree rotation mobility for up to three workers.



The Distribution Central project was initiated by then Acting Area Manager, Curvis Francois and Nick Thompson, HSE Coordinator, and is intended to be part of the Commission's safety procedures whenever substation crews are required to perform work on power transformers in 2015.



Kids have fun at Christmas parties

"I am having fun!" exclaimed a little boy with a wide smile as he tugged his mommy on to the next activity on his list...the bouncy castle. This was the consensus of those who attended the T&TEC's Children's Christmas party at the grounds of the S.P. Ottley building, Mount Hope. The event was one of two Christmas parties that catered for about 1600 employees' children – the first in Tobago on November 30, and the second, a week later in Trinidad on December 7.

Organisers of both parties ensured that the children were kept engaged with events that captured imaginations, tested fortitude and encouraged the spirit of Christmas. At the Signal Hill Secondary School in Tobago, the children excitedly participated in inflatable games like rock climbing and the ever-popular go-carts. In Trinidad, children dressed to portray their favourite superhero or princess, were greeted by Batman, Spiderman and Superman. Foosball, bouncy castles, tin-pan alley, face painting and digital entertainment,





including various interactive gaming consoles and movies, were some of the activities that keep children engaged during the afternoon.

The highlight of both parties however was the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus, who came bearing treats. At Mount Hope, before making their grand entrance, the jolly couple made a stop at the Mount Hope Children's Hospital to spend some time with the children, deliver treats and bring some Christmas cheer into their lives.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of volunteers and workers of the Electric Family, the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves, making T&TEC's Children's Christmas parties a resounding success.

22

Watts happening























Endeavour



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20.50

Lights adorned major intersections, walkovers and poles along Trinidad's highways as T&TEC joined in the Christmas celebration.

The lights were first affixed at the newlyconstructed Endeavour walkover and poles along the Uriah Butler Highway in time for the start of Divali activities. They were switched on by the Minister of Works and Infrastructure, Dr. the Honourable Surujrattan Rambachan, T&TEC's Chairman, Susilla Ramkissoon-Mark and General Manager, Kelvin Ramsook at a simple ceremony on October 13 to launch the series of holiday illuminations. Two weeks later, on October 28, similar lights were placed at the Golconda Interchange, Solomon Hochoy Highway Extension to coincide with the opening of the new portion of the San Fernando to Pt. Fortin Highway. The Cocorite walkover was also similarly decorated, in conjunction with the Diego Martin Regional Corporation.

Cocorite

The lights were installed by T&TEC's Public Lighting Department.

Tribute to departed employees at 60th Awards

Three employees who passed away this year were specially remembered at the Commission's 60th annual Employee Recognition and Awards Ceremony on November 1.

During his speech, T&TEC's General Manager, Kelvin Ramsook, invited awardees and other guests to give a round of applause as he paid tribute to the memory of our colleagues. Surviving family members, who were specially invited to the event, were presented with hampers as a further gesture of compassion since the funerals.



Nicholas Seucharan, a Meter and Relay Mechanic II in the Protection and SCADA Department, lost his life in March while rescuing two drowning children at a beach in Mayaro. This brave young man, who would have marked six years at T&TEC this year, was the recipient of a posthumous national award, the Hummingbird Medal (Silver), for gallantry. His father, Kenel Seucharan, is employed at Distribution Central as a Driver – Aerial Lift Truck.

Woman Estate Constable Josanne Dufeal-Mohan passed away in June. She was employed at T&TEC for over eight years and worked at the Arima Service Centre, Distribution North, Mt. Hope and Head Office.

Outside of her duties Josanne's generous spirit and willingness to assist others found her often times volunteering at the Commission's Beach Clean-up and at Sports and Family Day. This dedication to duty, and to others, earned her the respect of colleagues and superiors and so it was no surprise when she copped the Security Department's best performing employee award for two successive years, 2012 and 2013.





Estate Constable, Madan Seetaram passed away in October. He was a member of the T&TEC Family for just over 34 years. His first assignment as a permanent employee was at the Penal Power Station in 1980. He was transferred in 2000 from the PowerGen Penal Security to the Security Department at T&TEC and was assigned to the Central Distribution Area and finally to the Southern Distribution.

As a long serving member of the Security Department, Officer Seetaram saw himself as a natural coach, always willing to give advice and motivate the younger ones about the duties of being a Security Officer.

We miss our colleagues, may their souls rest in peace.

Multicultural fare at beach football and cookout

- The 12th annual Hubert Maingot 5-a-side Beach Football and Cookout competition took place a few weeks later than usual due to inclement weather, but the excitement was the same fever pitch on September 27, as football teams and amateur chefs heated things up at Maracas Beach.



The judges about to sample the dishes from team TATECO Credit Union.

The battle on the sand featured nine teams from all Sports Clubs, including last year's culinary champs, TATECO Credit Union. The cooks aimed to create the tastiest and most impressive dishes from a surprise multicultural menu of green fig souse, bhagi rice, curried chicken and salad. As a twist, competitors also had to create a signature dish using mango as the main ingredient. Some of the creations included mango amchar from Northern Area, mango salsa from TATECO and curried mango from Tobago.

The judges, led by Michael Hendrickson of the Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism, had a difficult task picking a winner from the culinary magic that resulted, but the chefs at

TATECO Credit Union had the necessary mix of ingredients to retain their title for the third successive year.

Also performing well was the Tobago Sports Club, which took the football title and second place in the cookout.

The final results follow:

Beach Football:

1st Place	-	Tobago
2nd Place	-	Southern Area
		(Rio Claro)
Most	-	TATECO
Disciplined		
Team		
Cookout:		

- 1st Place - TATECO
- 2nd Place - Tobago Sports Club
- 3rd Place - Northern Area Sports Club
- Best Tent TATECO
- Best Mango TATECO

Footballers from the Tobago and Northern Area Sports Clubs square off.

Central wins Tobago 7-a-side football



The victorious team from the Central Area Sports Club.

Football remains the sport of choice for employees, judging by the record 12 teams that participated in the annual 7-a-side football competition, which took place at the Plymouth Grounds, on October 25. In the end, it was the Central Area Sports Club that cleaned the competition to emerge in first place, beating Southern Area Sports Club and TATECO Credit Union into second and third places, respectively. Central's goalkeeper, Kent Subero, did a masterful job thwarting off attacks and was awarded the Most Valuable Player of the tournament for his efforts.

Final results are below:

1st Place – Central 2nd Place – Southern Area (San Fernando) 3rd Place – TATECO 4th Place - Tobago Most Disciplined Team – Central MVP – Kent Subero

Inter-Area Pool

The Port of Spain Training Facility clinched the top two spots at the inter-area pool competition, which took place on October 4 at Foxy's in Marabella. Maurice Mathura and Shivanand Bhagwah held off veteran Surendra Ramnath of Mt Hope to secure the first, second and third places at the annual event.

Retirees receive ID cards



Whether it is to collect monthly pensions, sign life certificates, or pay their old friends a visit, the 1,860 retirees of T&TEC and PowerGen have a variety of reasons to visit their old workplaces. In order to easily identify our erstwhile colleagues

during these occasions and minimise any hindrance to their entry into the buildings, the Pensions Department recently instituted identification cards for all pensioners. Lisa Sargeant, Pension Plan Administrator, explained that the cards will not only facilitate ease of access to both T&TEC's and PowerGen's various locations. "It is also the intention to ensure that the retirees continue to feel a sense of belonging, having dedicated several years of service to both organisations," she said. Retirees, Fabien Antoine, Gloria Balbadar and Hector Harewood were the first to receive their new identification cards, which were handed out at a simple ceremony at the Pensions Department on September 23.

The Retirees ID card drive will be continued until December 31 by the staff of the Pensions Department, who will also be visiting various Area offices to meet with retirees over the coming months.



Employee Update

Appointments, Promotions, Moving On and Accomplishments

APPOINTMENTS

NAME

Nirmala Baldeo Ravindra Sharma Susan Pooran - Churaman Tracy Ramcharan

PROMOTIONS

NAME

Amanda Zama Anne - Alicia Seegobin Anthony Joseph Ashleigh Clarke Asif Mohammed Avinash Maharaj Billy George Carlyle Butcher **Curtson Thomas** Dale Ramkissoon Darril Patterson Davidson Johnson Dean Walters Farisha Hosein - Sukal Garvin Lalchan Hanson Thom Ian Lewis Jamel Reid Jennifer Mc Collin Johnny Sampson Julieann Mc Dougall Kareem Turton Karen Mc Lean Keith Johnson Keron Seebaran Keshan Maharaj Leanna Hart Lyndon Joefield Michael Khadoo Matthew Bhola Michael Jennings Mikhail Greene Nakita Rajkumar Nandalal Maharaj Narendra Biptah Nigel Harding Patricia Duke

POSITION Engineer II

Engineer II Engineer II Engineer II

POSITION

Clerk II Clerk II Crew Foreman Clerk II Technical Assistant III Technical Assistant I Linesman 'B' (Hotline) Substation Foreman Linesman 'B' (Hotline) Technical Assistant I Crew Foreman Driver - Aerial Lift Truck Driver - Aerial Lift Truck Consumers Investigator Electrician 'B' Line Foreman (Hotline) Technical Assistant III Technical Assistant II **Commercial Officer** Driver – Aerial Lift Truck Clerk II **Communications Technician II** Area Administrative Officer Crew Foreman Technical Assistant I Electrician 'B' Clerk II Driver- Aerial Lift Truck Consumers Investigator Trans. L/Lry. Ldr /B/Lft. Comb Linesman 'B' (Hotline) Maintenance Technician II Clerk II Cashier Technical Assistant II Communications Technician II Clerk Typist

AREA/DEPARTMENT

Protection & Scada System Control & Gen. Interface Communications Department System Control & Gen. Interface

AREA/DEPARTMENT

Industrial Relations **Distribution Central Distribution Tobago** Pension Administration Transmission Maintenance Trans Devel & Eng Services **Distribution East Distribution North Distribution Tobago** Transmission Maintenance **Distribution Tobago Distribution Tobago** Distribution Tobago **Distribution Central Distribution North Distribution East Distribution East Distribution North Distribution East Distribution Tobago Distribution Tobago Communications Department** Public Lighting Distribution Tobago Corporate Support Distribution North **Distribution Central Distribution Tobago Distribution Central Distribution North Distribution Central Distribution Central Distribution Central** Commercial **Distribution East Communications Department** Human Resources Department

Employee Update

Appointments, Promotions, Moving On and Accomplishments

Peter Thomas Ray Campbell Roger Clarke Sacha Boothman Sekon Alves Selby Campbell Shawn Campbell Shawn Campbell Sherwin Lopez Simone Crichlow Sundaire Gangaram Susan Sookdeo Troy Thomas Viren Ramrekersingh Zahir Rahim

MOVING ON

NAME

Ashton Leid Barry Oliver Bryan Woo Dave Maharaj Edmund Lyder Godwin Jerome Jane Piontkowskie John Hutchinson John Sooklalsingh Joseph Bandoo Junior Young Kowlessar Ragoobar Mahadeo Ramlochan Prem Bhagan Rawle Romain Salmani Sinanan Simeon Francis Steve Joseph

Substation Foreman Driver – Lift Truck Technical Assistant I Cashier Consumers Investigator Substation Foreman Crew Foreman Electrician 'B' Clerk II Clerk Typist Technical Assistant II Driver – Aerial Lift Truck Technical Assistant III Distribution North Distribution Tobago System Planning and Research Commercial Distribution Central Distribution North Distribution Tobago Distribution North Distribution Tobago Human Resources Department Communications Department Distribution Tobago Distribution East

POSITION

Estate Corporal **Telecom Operator** Driver- Aerial Lift Truck Senior Clerk Electrician 'A' Driver - Dist. Line Truck Stewardess Substation Foreman Crew Foreman Meter Reader **Telecom Operator** Ganger Ganger Driver- Dist. Line Truck Substation Foreman Driver- Aerial Lift Truck Driver- Aerial Lift Truck Substation Foreman

AREA/DEPARTMENT

Security - Distribution North Distribution East **Distribution East Distribution Central Distribution North Distribution Central** Human Resources Department **Distribution North Distribution South** Distribution East **Distribution East Distribution North** Distribution South **Distribution South** Distribution South Distribution North **Distribution Central** Distribution South

- Second Systems Systems C
 - 6. Metering
 - 5. Human Resources
 - 4. Public Lighting
 - 3. Pensions
- 2. Protection and Scada
- 1. Corporate Communications

ANSWERS

A few good things Christmas, the true Trini way

If you think back to the 'ole time days,' some local Christmas traditions would seem primitive by current standards, but life was simpler then and preparations, without modern appliances, took on a different meaning.

Some Corporate Communications staff agreed to take readers down memory lane as they share their stories of Trini Christmas traditions with you.

Ayesha Scott-Hinkson remembers the tradition of **boiling ham**:

Boiling ham is rarely done now, but I fondly remember hearing my father reminisce about this lost tradition. My grandparents would buy the heavily salted cured ham from the butcher, which had to be thoroughly boiled to make it edible. An empty oil tin, (not pitch oil, but cooking oil!) was used as the receptacle to boil the ham and, since it would usually take many hours to cook, my grandfather would build a fire outside to do the job. Older children – my Uncles Hugh and Trevor – would stand watch to tend the fire and refill the water and also be on the lookout for the



neighbourhood ham thief who would be drawn to the scent of succulent ham boiling. Six hours later, the ham is finally done and then prepped with cloves before serving, usually just in time to satiate the appetites of my father and his eight siblings on Christmas morning.

Another memorable tradition is the making of **Ponche De Crème**, fondly recalled by Akeilya Placide:



I grew up in a family where Christmas traditions were passed on, so we all learned to make different Christmas dishes like pastels, bread, black cake and Auntie Beulah's famous ponche de crème from scratch.

Making this sweet alcoholic beverage took an entire day just to make six bottles, but we all enjoyed the time spent together. The longest part of the process was the beating of the eggs; my cousins and I would take turns, vigorously beating them to be just right – fluffy. Then, the other ingredients – condensed milk, rum, evaporated milk, bitters, lime bud – were added to the eggs in the bucket (a plastic bucket was always used) and poured into empty White Oak rum bottles. Alcohol was never given to the children in our family, but we all would always get a taste when the drink was completed, a special part of the process which we looked forward to.

Judyann Babwah recalled the happy times spent window shopping with her family:

As a child, one of my fondest Christmas memories was going window shopping with my family on High Street, San Fernando. Every year, my parents would take the family out for dinner and then we would indulge in the very popular pastime of window-shopping. This was an exciting time for us children, as we got to leisurely take in the beautifully-decorated Christmas trees and view the awesome showcases of popular stores like Nandlal's, Stephens and Johnsons, Y De Lima and Woolworth. It was a safe way to spend quality time and we were usually not alone in this tradition, as groups of families and couples would also be seen strolling along this main shopping area on evenings leading up to Christmas. Our exclamations about the toys on display were how my parents knew what to get us from Santa.



Osei Holder shared his tradition of going to **midnight service** with his family:



Christmas used to be about midnight Church service. Our family would go to service at the Wesleyan Holiness Church in Belmont to ring in Christmas. I remember a hectic day of last minute Christmas preparations and then spending the evening with my younger brother watching Christmas movies on television, so that it was difficult to remain awake during the Church service. After we returned home, we'd hurry to get into bed, not only because we were exhausted, but also because we were anxious for Christmas presents. Today most churches, especially in urban areas, do not host midnight services anymore due to the increase in crime, but it remains one of my cherished Christmas traditions.



Watty says

Watty says your health is important; learn about the Chikungunya virus to protect yourself:

CHIKUNGUNYA VIRUS (CHIK V)

This is a viral disease that is spread to humans by the bite of an Aedes Aegypti mosquito. Once bitten, a number of symptoms may surface including fever and severe joint pains.

Symptoms



The most common symptoms are muscle pain, severe joint pains, high fever, backache, rash, and headaches.

Persons most at risk are those with medical conditions such as hypertension, diabetes or heart disease. Also vulnerable are women late in their pregnancy, newborns, and the elderly.

Treatment



Unfortunately there is no formal medicine to treat chikungunya and there is no known vaccine. However, painkillers can be taken to reduce pain and fever.

Consult your doctor for appropriate treatment.

Preventive action



Rid your home and neighbourhood or dispose of all unwanted containers/ items in the yard or environs. These receptacles hold water

and are potential mosquito breeding grounds.

Ensure that drains and guttering are clear and water can flow freely.

Empty and scrub the sides of water vases. Use soil or sand to support flowers instead of water.

Cover extremities when out in the evenings.

Use insect repellant that contains DEET, as an active ingredient. Bed nets, electronic vaporisation mats, door or window screens (mesh) are also good deterrents.

Which Departments are responsible for the following initiatives?



6. Purchasing and testing of all meters

Letters

The following are excerpts of some letters and emails that have been received over the last quarter.

September 11, 2014

To whom it may concern,

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation for the high level of professional service and courtesy extended by your staff at the Chaguanas Service Centre.

I did not get the opportunity to ask the young lady her name but I hope that this reaches her in some form.

She provided a great customer experience and should be commended for same.

Have a great day.

Regards, Andre' Ripla Director | Information Technology | DIRECTV CARIBBEAN

*Editors note: The T&TEC representative is Lauren Rambert, CSR at the Chaguanas Service Centre. October 03, 2014

Dear Mr. Thompson

You may not be aware but most people dread conducting business in T&TEC or any other state owned enterprise.

However, I have recently had such a pleasant experience at your Frederick Street Office, that I had to let you know about it.

I came in to have my name put on an electricity bill to replace the previous owner and Ms. Roxanne Johnson was extremely helpful, courteous and went beyond her listed duties to ensure that I could successfully conclude my business.

I must tell you that T&TEC would only get better with employees like Ms. Johnson.

Thank you Sincerely Kenneth Medford

Contributing to Watts Happening

Do you know of a topic that can be considered for coverage in Watts Happening? Do you have articles, photos or suggestions for the fun page? If the answer is yes, then share these with us.

Send your submissions to the Corporate Communications Manager at abrasnell@ttec.co.tt or drop them off at the Corporate Communications Department, Head Office on Frederick Street.

The deadline for the January-March issue is February 9, 2015. You might even win a prize for your contribution!



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ANUARY

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTRICITY COMMISSION

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SEPTEMBER

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NIN



6th - 27th Annual Calypso Competition 16th - 17th Carnival Monday and Tuesday



3rd - Good Friday, 5th - Easter Sunday, 6th - Easter Monday



9th - 5k & 10k (tentative) 30th - Indian Arrival Day 16th - 49th Annual Sports, Cultural and Family Day (tentative)







30th - Spiritual/Shouter Baptist Liberation Day



4th - Corpus Christi 19th - Labour Day





Sat **1st - Emancipation Day** NOVEMBER

31st - Customer Appreciation Day

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31st - Independence Day



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OCTOBER



1st - World AIDS Day 6th - Children's Christmas Party - TRINIDAD 25th - Christmas Day 26th - Boxing Day



