Remarks by the Honourable Minister

Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries (MEEI)

CARICOM Energy Month, 2016 Prize-giving for Winners of the Regional Photograph and Art Competition and the Regional Video Competition

Monday 5th June, 2017

Good Afternoon All,

I am delighted to join you today, on the occasion of honoring the winners of both the Regional Photograph and Art Competition and the Regional Video Competition, hosted by the CARICOM Secretariat in Guyana as part of CARICOM ENERGY MONTH, 2016. We are proud to announce, of the two years that Regional Competitions were held, this year’s events marks the 2nd year in which we have winners from Trinidad and Tobago.

The transition of CARICOM’s celebration of energy, which started as one week and now spans the entire month of November, was a smooth and welcomed one. This transition enabled member states like ourselves, to distribute activities in honor of CARICOM Energy Month over a longer period, and host more activities, which targeted a wider cross section of the population than previously possible.

This year’s Regional Theme, “Sustainable Energy for Sustainable Development (SE4SD)” focused on the potential contributions that sustainable energy options can make to economic development, social advancement and environmental management within CARICOM member-states. In addition to this, T&T had a National Theme, “weEnergy: Connecting OUR People.”

As CARICOM’s leading producer of crude oil and natural gas, and the region’s only net exporter of natural gas, we have been afforded low electricity and gas prices. However, this same reason is why, now, more than ever, especially in light of low global energy prices, which have contributed to our economic hardships, it is especially important for us in Trinidad and Tobago to vigorously continue to sensitize our public to the importance of energy efficiency, reducing wastage, and adopting sustainable habits in all that we do.

CEM 2016 was celebrated here with 3 major activities:

* Social Media Photo and Video Competition
* Radio Competition
* Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Youth Forum

In addition, the RE & EE team conducted internal activities, including hosting game sessions during lunch, and energy efficiency seminars, which were conducted by Energy Dynamics Ltd., who we thank for partnering with us to share their valuable knowledge. One of the games in particular, ClimaQuest, was created by the Parvati Girls’ Hindu School, here in Trinidad. This game takes you on a journey exploring the topics of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, linking it to the school’s syllabi on different topics including Biology, Chemistry and Geography. We congratulate them on the success and appropriateness of their innovation on such an important issue that is dear to all of us in the CARICOM region.

Our Social Media Photo and Video Competition is a combination of both regional competitions, the Photograph and Art Competition and the Video Competition, where we also decided to make use of the Social Media Platforms, Instagram and Facebook, to encourage more youth participation. Some of the winners of the national Competition are here today, as winners of Competitions that were open to the entire CARICOM Community. For this accomplishment, I say a heartfelt congratulations as you have proven you are Winners, not just at the national level, but regionally as well.

It is my great pleasure to congratulate you, the winners, on continuing to take part in activities and competitions at a regional level, and bringing pride to Trinidad and Tobago with your achievements.