

## FORUM SPEAKERS

### SESSION I: ENERGY – RELIABILITY AND COSTS

#### *RAMÓN ESPINASA*



Ramón Espinasa is the Lead Oil and Gas specialist at the Energy Division of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). For twenty years up to 1999 worked at Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) where he was Chief Economist between 1992 and 1999.

Dr. Espinasa, is an Industrial Engineer from Universidad Católica Andrés Bello in Caracas (1974) and holds degrees of Ph.D. and M. Phil in Energy Economics and Economic Development from the University of Cambridge and a Master in Economic Development from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague. At present Dr. Espinasa is Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University where he teaches two postgraduate seminars on World and Hemispheric Energy Security.

#### *MICHAEL JOHN*



Michael John is currently Manager - Projects in the Strategy and Business Development Department of The Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago (Petrotrin), a position he has held since 2011. In addition he serves as a part-time lecturer in Energy Economics at The University of the West Indies St Augustine.

He joined the Strategic Planning Department of Trinidad and Tobago Petroleum Company Limited (Trintopec) in 1991 after five years as an economist in the Research Department of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago and thirteen years as a teacher. With the merger of Trintoc and Trintopec and formation of Petrotrin in 1993, he was moved to the Strategic Planning Department rising to the positions of Head- Strategic Planning and Manager Strategic Planning. Between 2007 and 2011 He was seconded as Chief Executive Officer to Petrotrin Employee Assistance Programme Services Limited a subsidiary of Petrotrin and returned to Petrotrin in February 2011.

A former Council member of the Energy Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago he is also a member of the government appointed Permanent Committee for the advancement of Local Content in the Energy Sector.

Michael holds a BA Education (USC), BSc. Econ (1st Class Honors) (UWI), an LLB (University of London) and an MBA (Andrews University). He has also had post-graduate training at the College of Petroleum Studies, Oxford.

***KARL NASSIEF***



Karl Nassief, a Dominican national, and holds a Bachelor of Economics Degree from the University of Western Ontario, Canada. He then went on to become a commercial pilot and worked with Liat from 1990 to 1994.

In 1994 he acquired an existing Automotive dealership and established Auto Trade Limited which represents Nissan, Suzuki, Kia, Goodyear Tyres and Yamaha, along with a car rental company called Island Car Rentals. At a later stage, Dominica Freight Services, a full freight solutions company, was added that represents Amerijet, ITN and Ezone internet shopping.

In 2008, Fine foods Inc. was started to enter the food industry and now includes restaurants, supermarket, wholesaling and distribution. In 2011, Real Foods Inc. was born to take over the KFC Operations in St. Lucia.

At this stage, with the growing amount of businesses in his group, Karl was faced with the prevailing issue of high energy costs affecting their viability and decided to do something about it. As a result of this, in June 2013, Karl began Energy Management Services (EMS) Limited which is a full service provider company for energy solutions. EMS Limited distributes and installs Solar PV, Solar Thermal Systems, Air conditioning and energy management facilities and is also the Caribbean Master Franchisor of Led Source ([www.ledsource.com](http://www.ledsource.com)). Karl's group of Companies employs over 500 employees.