

Ragbir, Thompson get top posts at Proman

■ Joel Julien

joel.julien@trinidadexpress.com

PROMAN has named Anand Ragbir, former vice-president of Commercial and Finance at Atlantic LNG, as managing director of its Trinidad operations.

Giselle Thompson, who was previously vice-president of Communications and External Affairs at bpTT, has been appointed deputy managing director.

Speaking to the *Express* yesterday, Proman chief executive officer David Cassidy said the appointments reflect the global organisation's continued commitment to Trinidad and Tobago.

'Proman has been investing in Trinidad for over 30 years and I guess this (the appointments) just shows the confidence we have that we have got a lot to achieve over the next decade or so. I am absolutely delighted to be welcoming Anand and Giselle into the organisation,' he said.

'We have obviously known them and worked with them at other organisations over their careers and we have admired their abilities. We have had a pretty interesting recruitment process and we have been delighted with the amount of people who applied for the job and as I said with the things we want to try and achieve over the coming five to ten years, we think these are a great couple of hires and it is really going to benefit us with what we are doing,' Cassidy said.

He described Ragbir and Thompson as 'two highly-experienced and well-regarded local energy executives'. 'Trinidad and Tobago remains at the heart of our global operations and I am looking forward to working with Anand, Giselle and the senior leadership team as we look to drive the business here forward,' he said.

In 2015, Proman invested US\$250 million in DeNovo, becoming the first downstream group to invest in the upstream sector in Trinidad and Tobago. 'De Novo was a major pivot for us in terms of making sure that we had more exposure to the upstream sector. We continue to work on that. It is not only the potential developments in Venezuela, which we are keeping an eye on, but our own upstream sector has improved over the last five years. The collaboration that we see between upstream, downstream, and the Government is so much better than it was. We see clear policy direction, and the fact is that the two of them (Ragbir and Thompson), although they have other experiences, both have tremendous experience in the upstream-Anand as well in LNG and Atlantic-and so it fits us, and it fits our view of how we continue to make sure that our energy sector and our downstream sector is vibrant by connecting and being better connected with the upstream,' Cassidy said.

Through its operations, Proman has contributed US\$12 billion to Trinidad and Tobago's economy to date, with CSR investment between 2014-2024 amounting to US\$9.5 million.

'We are definitely not divesting. We are a global company so we have investments all over the world including an exciting project in Mexico-where, by the way, we use the intellectual and human capital of Trinidad to train our workforce in Mexico. So we absolutely continue to leverage our position in Trinidad and continue to invest,' Cassidy said.

Ragbir said: 'I have long admired Proman's role in Trinidad's energy sector and the global energy transition. I'm looking forward to getting to work and bringing my experience to support the next phase of the business as we seek to open new opportunities for our products and our people. I am also looking forward to getting to know the Proman family and learning from the great expertise that I know exists within its ranks.'

Thompson said: 'With close to two decades of experience in the upstream energy business, I am excited to be joining Proman. I look forward to expanding my knowledge and expertise in the downstream side of our energy sector. The energy industry remains core to Trinidad and Tobago's economic prosperity, and Proman has enjoyed a long and successful history in this country. I look forward to joining the Proman family and to continuing to apply my skills and expertise to add value to our energy sector and our wider economy.'

Ragbir will start in his new role on May 26, and Thompson on June 2.

Proman is an integrated energy company and the world's second largest methanol producer headquartered in Switzerland, with assets in Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, and Oman, and ongoing expansion in Mexico and the UAE.