

# Energy Chamber to focus on Caribbean Vocational Qualification



T&T Energy Chamber president and CEO Dr Thackwray “Dax” Driver

Gas industry development requires long-term investments over many decades, so basic policy consistency and stability are vital and social acceptance of the industry is an important component of this.

This, from Thackwray “Dax” Driver, CEO of the Energy Chamber, who posted a piece titled “Reflections from SEOGS (Suriname Energy Oil and Gas Summit and Exhibition) 2025” on the Energy Chamber’s website yesterday.

Driver also advised that all players along the gas value chain must remain competitive, adding that a successful natural gas industry needs upstream gas developers, a midstream to transport and process gas and a downstream sector to transform gas into products. All companies along that value chain need to be profitable for the sector to be sustained.

Further, Driver recommended that there be a “big emphasis” on training and development of people and invest in human capital ahead of the curve.

“This does not just mean people in the professional roles (geologists, lawyers, engineers etc) but perhaps even more importantly in the skilled technicians and craft workers who actually make up the bulk of the employment in the sector,” he explained.

He further noted that the area of workforce development would seem to be one where a regional Caricom approach could be very useful.

“There is an existing technical and vocational framework through the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) system, and it would seem logical to try to leverage this in the development of skills throughout the region. If we can develop a strong cadre of workers with CVQs who can seamlessly move around the region using Caricom Skills Certificates, we will have a much better chance of matching supply and demand for skilled workers,” Driver explained.

This is an area, he said, where the Energy Chamber would be placing a lot of focus over the next few years, adding, “We look forward to continuing and deepening our relationship with Suriname to jointly address this challenge.”

Last week’s Suriname Energy Oil and Gas Summit and Exhibition (SEOGS 2025) was the first since the historic announcement of a final investment decision for the GranMorgu development by TotalEnergies and their partners in October last year.

Driver noted it was, therefore, not surprising that it garnered a lot of attention and interest from the global oil and gas community.