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**ABSTRACT**

**THE PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY IN TRINIDAD AND  
TOBAGO: ITS DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE PROSPECTS**

**Karen Franka Lynch** by international  
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The study analyses the petrochemical industry in Trinidad and Tobago and the prospects for the development of the industry within the international environment.

The present international industry is assessed and predictions are made about its future in light of existing trends. Case studies of two oil exporting developing countries, Venezuela and Saudi Arabia are reviewed to see the lessons which may be available for Trinidad and Tobago's industry.

The evolution of the domestic industry is analysed in terms of its organisational structure, the planning exercises and the performance throughout the last thirty years. A strategy for the future development of the industry is outlined.

Generally, it was found that environmental awareness has been a significant influence on the industry. This has influenced the research and development activities as well as the move out of 'smokestack' industries. Research and development in the life, material and physical sciences will be as influential on the future of the industry.

Trinidad and Tobago's industry is small by international standards, but it represents a substantial investment of national resources. It is also not feasible to follow the example of some oil exporting developing countries and enter bulk chemical and other 'smokestack' industries which are being abandoned by some large scale chemical producers (for environmental and economic reasons).

To maximise the benefits to be derived, there is need for the country to review its industry and undertake detailed analyses for the international industry and devise a long term strategy.