

# The Energy and Climate Ministerial of the Americas

Secretary Steven Chu  
Inter-American Development Bank  
Washington, D.C.  
15 April 2010

# The Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas



“I pledge to you that we seek an equal partnership. There is no senior partner and junior partner in our relations; there is simply engagement based on mutual respect and common interests and shared values.”

President Barack Obama  
5<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Americas  
April 2009

# The Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas



- Accelerating clean energy
- Advancing energy security
- Reducing energy poverty

**Flexible framework** – projects can be bilateral, multilateral, regional

**Broad participation** – governments, industry, non-governmental organizations, Inter-American organizations

Through this Partnership,  
we will:

- Learn from each other and share best practices

# Partner countries have hosted three regional meetings

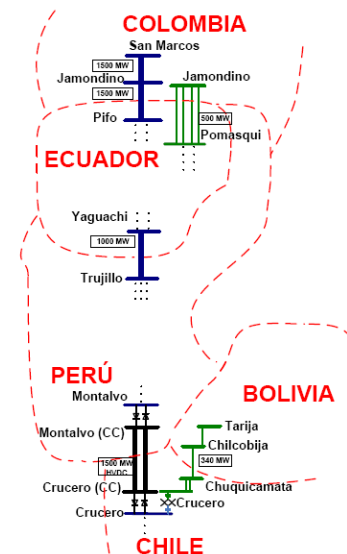
## Colombia

Developing long distance electricity interconnections



## Mexico

Improving energy efficiency



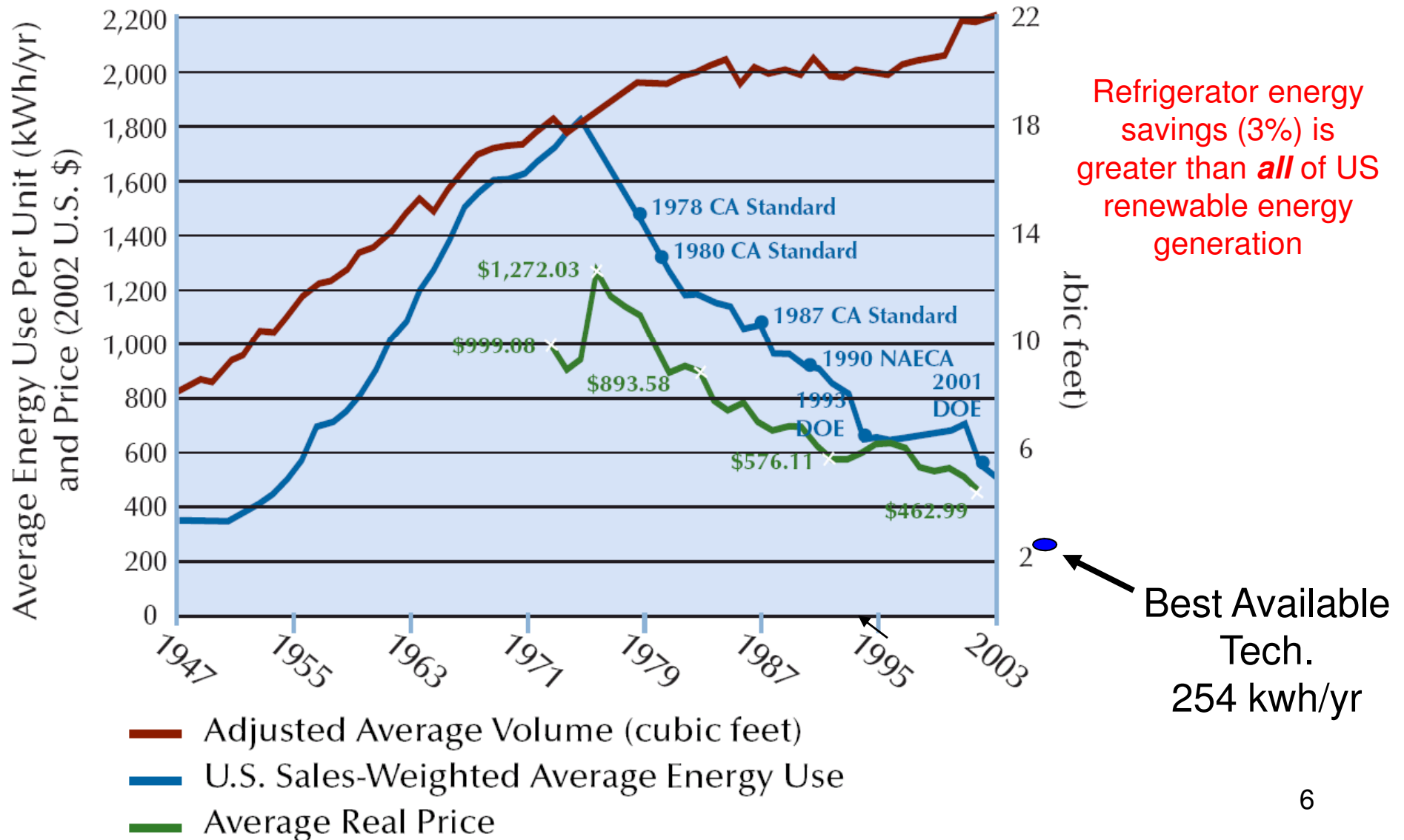
**Trinidad & Tobago**  
Starting a renewable energy research center



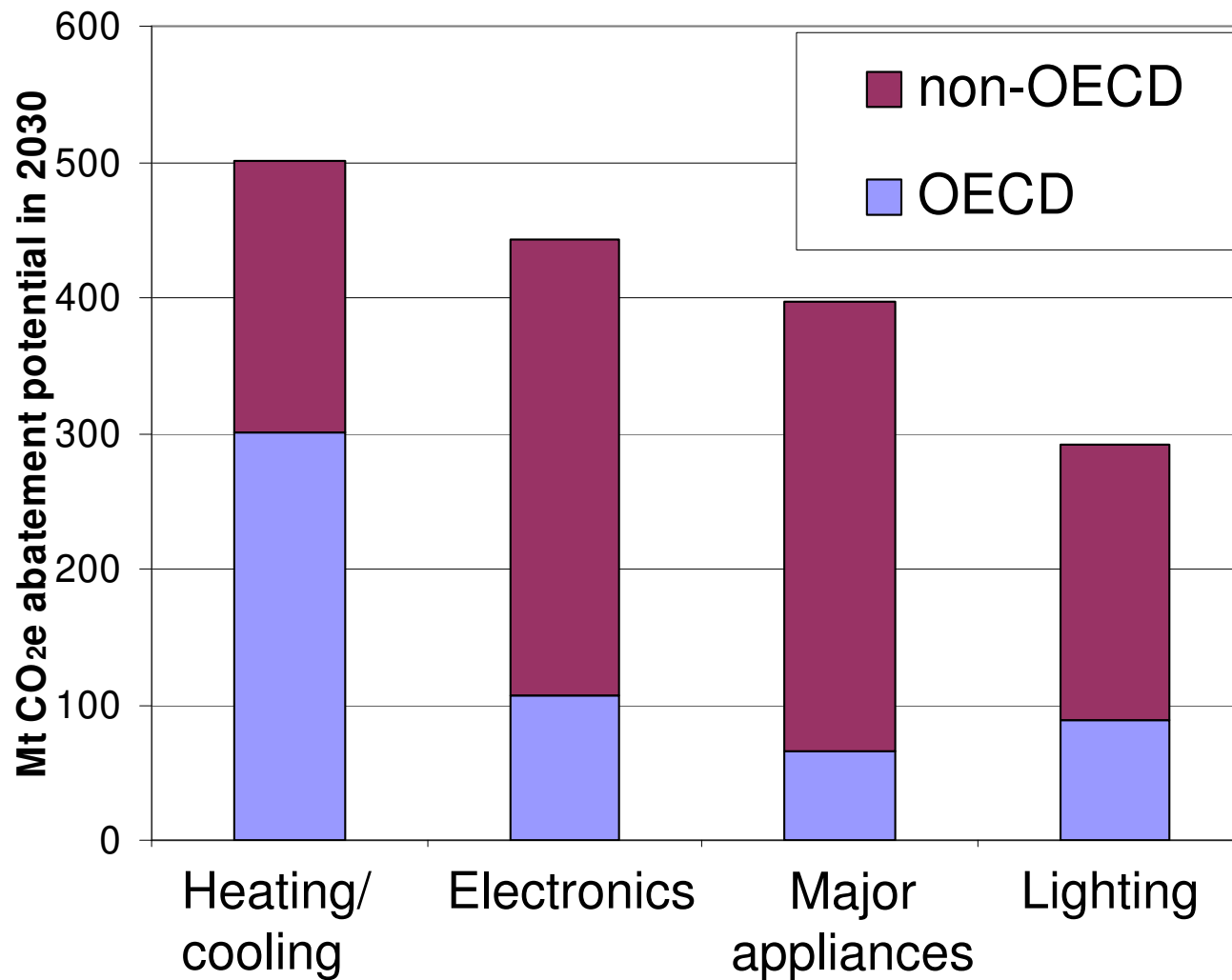
Photo courtesy the Trinidad Guardian  
Newspapers - Shirley Bahadur

DOE's Sam Browne & Minister Conrad Enill

# Standards stimulate technology: Refrigerator efficiency standards and performance



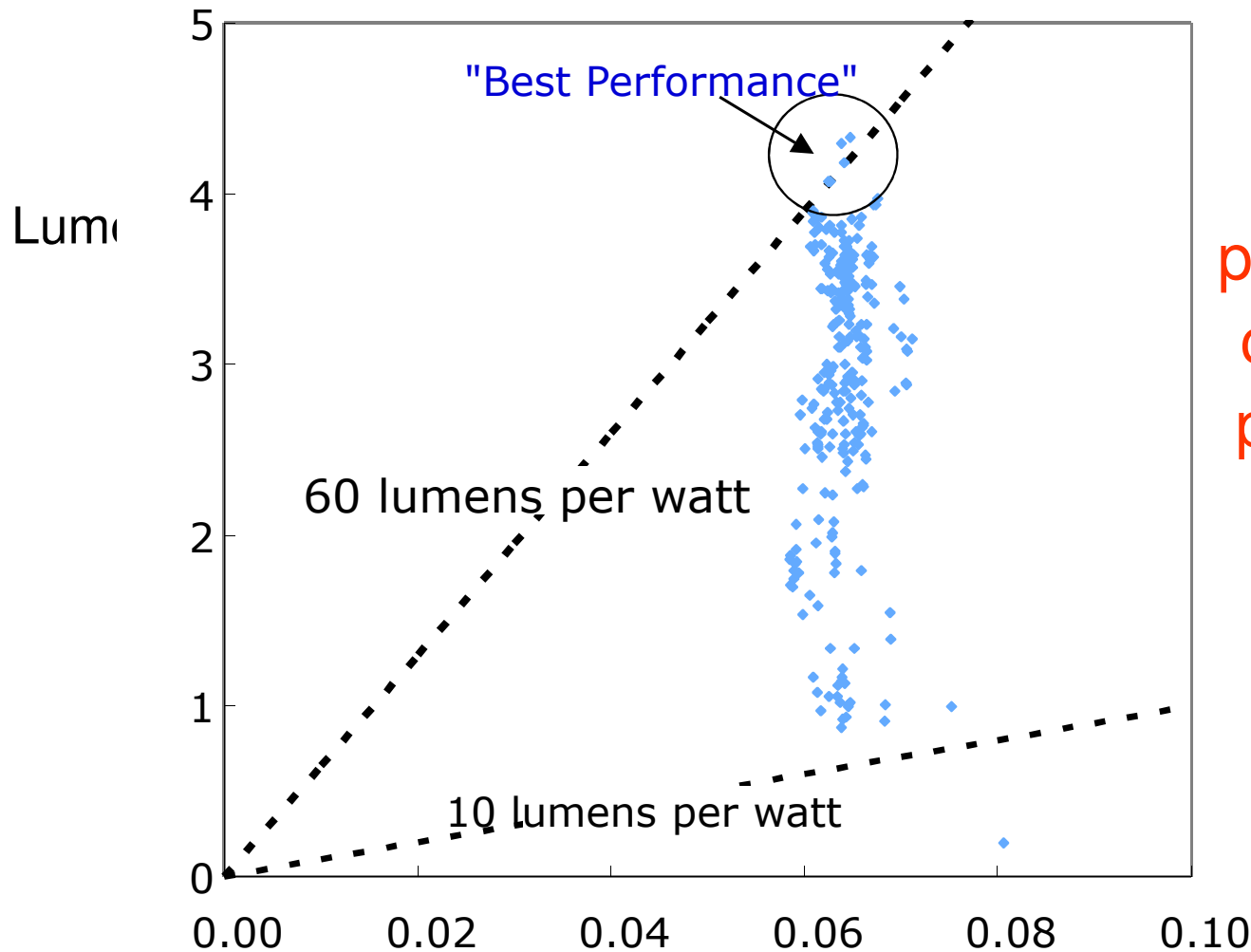
# More than 1.6 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>e annual abatement potential in 2030 from improved efficiency standards and labeling



The Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program provides an online clearinghouse for energy efficiency policies

[www.clasponline.org](http://www.clasponline.org)

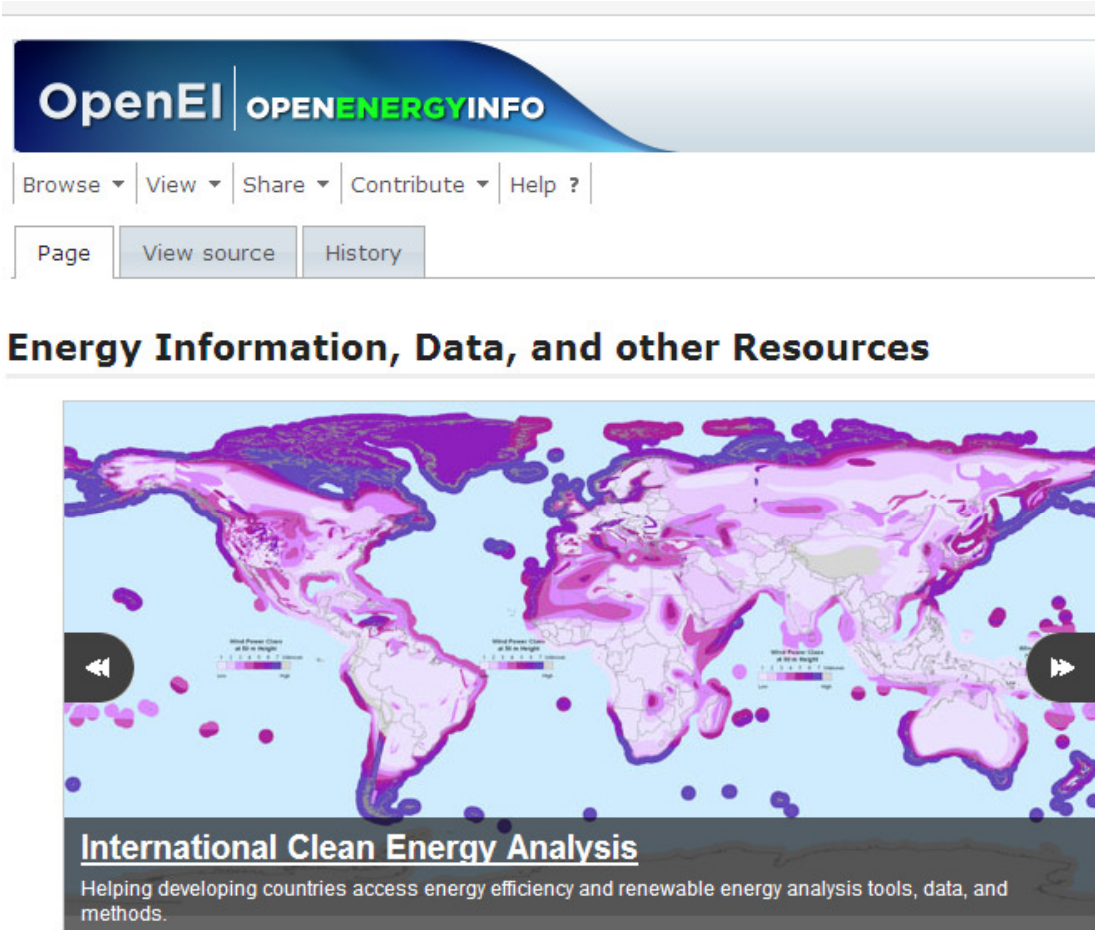
## Importance of standards: The quality of LEDs in off-grid lighting products varies widely



Quality  
assurance  
programs protect  
consumers and  
prevent “market  
spoiling”



# The Open Energy Information project



[www.openei.org](http://www.openei.org)

A new platform to  
connect the world's  
energy data

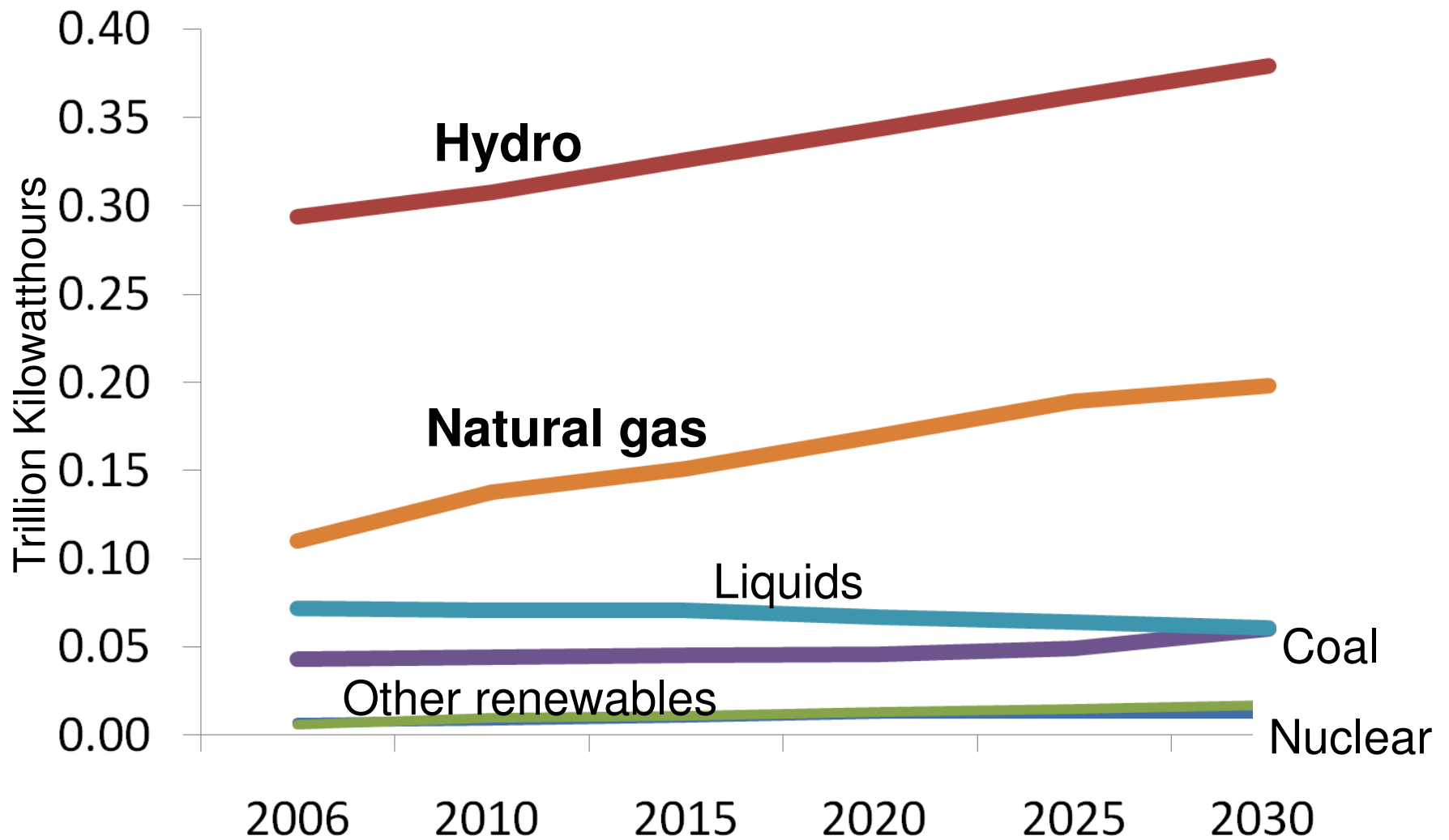
U.S. OpenLabs provides  
access to the resources  
of our National  
Laboratories

We're working with our partners in Chile to launch  
a **Spanish-language** version

Through this Partnership,  
we will:

- Learn from each other and share best practices
- Cooperate on technology research, development, and deployment

Latin America's electricity growth is projected to be met largely by hydropower and natural gas



## Melting glaciers will affect hydropower

Since 1970, glaciers in the Andes have lost 20 percent of their volume, according to Peru's National Meteorology and Hydrology Service



Bolivia's Chacaltaya Glacier in 1940... and 2005

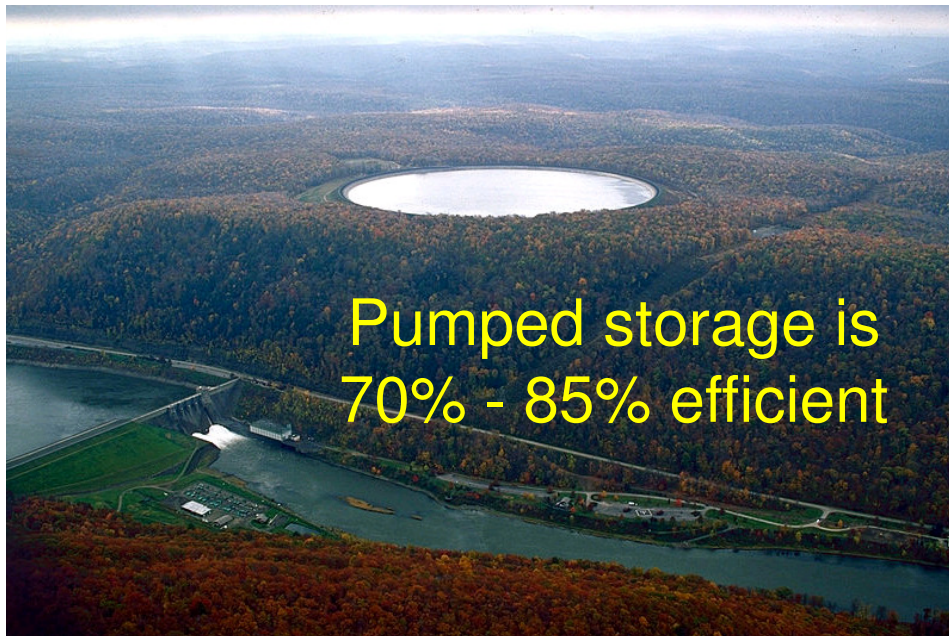
“During the next 15 years, inter-tropical glaciers are very likely to **disappear**, affecting water availability and hydropower generation.” -- IPCC 2007



# Upgrading existing hydro facilities

## *Modernizing older facilities:*

- Output increases as high as 30% are possible
- Relatively low cost



## *Pumped Storage can provide:*

- Rapid response to offset intermittent renewable energy
- Extra capacity during times of peak electricity use

# Renewable energy sources can diversify energy supplies and address energy poverty

Solar, wind, bioenergy, geothermal and small hydropower hold great potential in the region



The Department of Energy is providing technical assistance for Regional Clean Energy Centers throughout the hemisphere

# High impact does not require high technology



## Efficient cook stoves

60 – 70% more efficient, less wood-gathering, less deforestation, fewer emissions, improved public health

## White roofed buildings:

Sunlight energy is reflected back into space rather than heating up buildings and homes in the summer.



Rio de Janeiro

## Through this Partnership, we will:

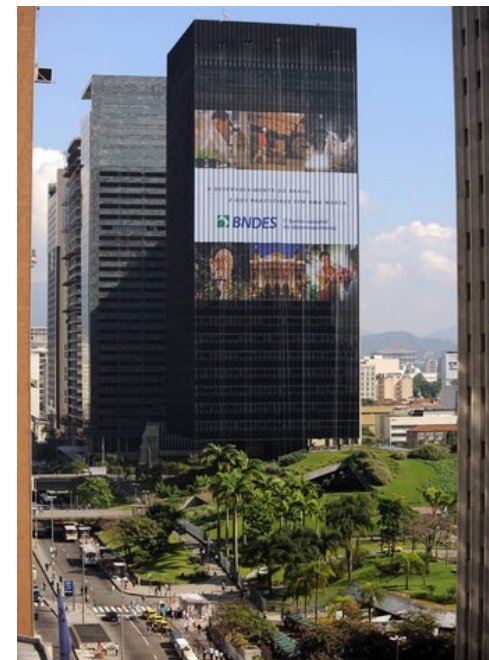
- Learn from each other and share best practices
- Cooperate on technology research, development, and deployment
- Encourage investment



## New financing mechanisms are accelerating clean energy deployment in the region

- Guaranteed renewable energy payments
- Revolving loan funds
- Public benefit funds
- Loan guarantees

Brazil has been a leader through the PROINFA feed-in tariff incentive and BNDES financing for renewable energy projects



# Today, we're announcing the creation of an **Energy Innovation Center at the IDB**

To channel investment toward clean energy



Helping IDB expand its clean energy investments and support projects of all sizes

The Department of Energy will provide expert staffing



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

# Connecting the Caribbean

Much of electricity generation relies on imported fossil fuels

Renewable energy could displace fossil fuels if market sizes were increased and economies of scale achieved



*We have the technology to connect the Caribbean region, make clean energy profitable, and make island economies more energy secure*

# Haiti relief effort

The Department of Energy immediately began working to restore and improve the Haitian energy system



The United States has announced \$1.15 billion for reconstruction of Haiti, and part will help Haiti create a clean, efficient energy sector.

We are working to improve output of existing hydro and to introduce new technologies – solar, micro-hydro, and micro-grids

A long-term solution under consideration is long distance transmission lines between Haiti and the Dominican Republic

# Energy systems are vulnerable to earthquakes

Our Hemisphere has recently had major earthquakes in Haiti, Chile, and Baja California, Mexico



Today, we are proposing a new task force to:

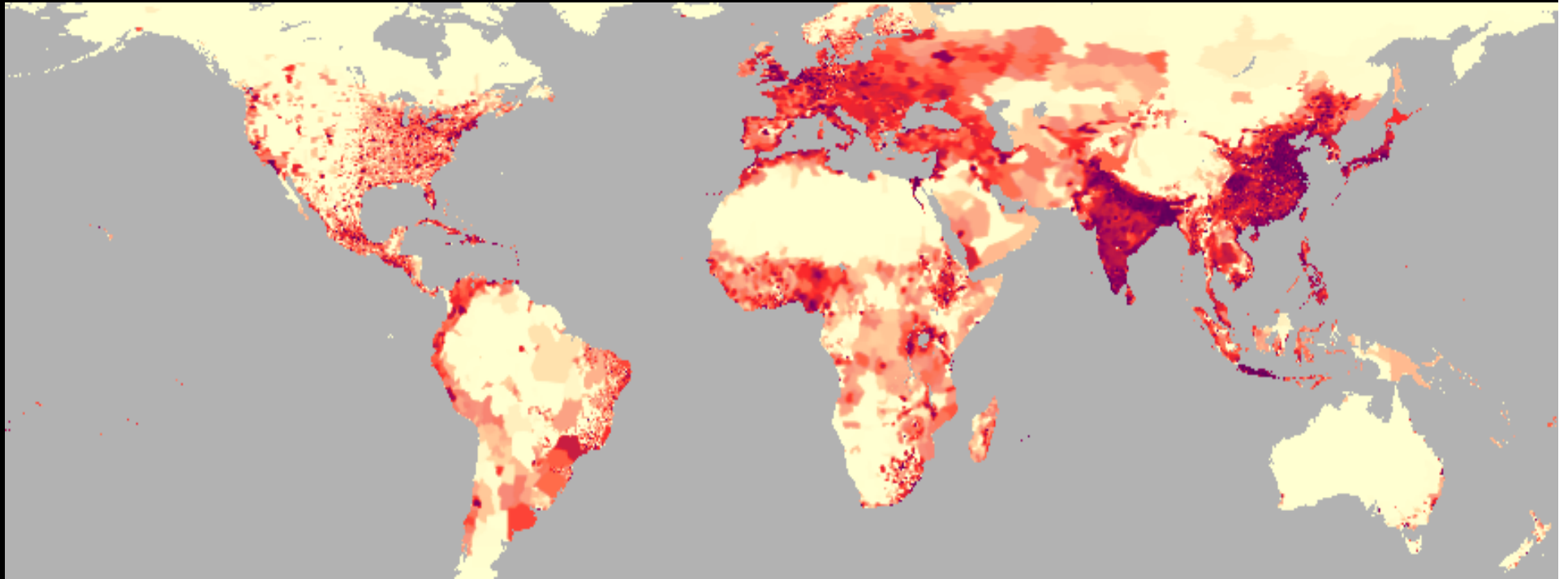
- Promote seismic design standards that will minimize losses to energy infrastructure
- Use computer simulation of disasters to estimate earthquake motions and structural response



Where the world uses the most electricity...



Where the most people live.



We can help turn on the lights where people live...



...*and* solve the climate challenge at the same time.