

MISSION REPORT

ing. Kevin de Cuba, MSc.

E: kdecuba@oas.org

Program: ECPA Caribbean Initiative

Sponsorship: US Department of State

Destination: Paramaribo, Suriname

Dates of Mission: October 19 – 20, 2011

1. OBJECTIVE OF MISSION

The ECPA Caribbean Initiative as one of the co-financers and co-organizers of the work shop entitled “REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL TO SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN” has secured the attendance by Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Ramdin to provide opening remarks during the inaugural session, highlighting the importance of the Energy for Sustainable Development Agenda for the Caribbean region and showcasing the high-level political support the GS/OAS continues to provide to regional efforts towards a Sustainable Energy Future.

Furthermore this event is attended in order to **(1)** provide a presentation regarding the ECPA Caribbean Initiative – Caribbean Virtual University Partnership component, and leverage interest by other Universities to join the partnership, and **(2)** gathering first-hand information and data from participants to prepare a workshop report that will highlight the collective competences of universities and technical colleges located in the Caribbean to address capacity building needs for the increased deployment of renewable energy technologies.

2. MISSION RELEVANT EVENTS

The work shop was opened by a series of formal remarks by senior representatives of the hosting entity, Anton de Kom University of Suriname, CARICOM, EU, GIZ and the OAS, represented by his Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Albert Ramdin.

The workshop was a first in its kind, since it brought together a group of Universities, Technical Colleges and Research Entities’ representatives to specifically address the capacity building competence and needs for increased renewable energy research, development and deployment in the Caribbean.

The workshop was divided in two main sessions, Session 1 – *Setting the Context* and Session 2 – *Mapping and Inventory*. Session 2 was of particular importance to assess and map out the current and planned Research and Capacity Building Efforts being provided in the Caribbean. Each entity had to provide a presentation addressing the following issues:



1. General background and description of the entity
2. Current work / Initiatives / Efforts / Programs linked to Renewable Energy (RE)
3. Planned work / Initiatives / Efforts / Programs linked to RE
4. Any existing partners / partnership relevant to RE research / capacity building
5. Contact info for further information

See here the list of entities that presented:

1. Anton de Kom University - Suriname
2. University of The West Indies
 - Cave Hill - Barbados
 - Mona - Jamaica
 - St. Augustine – Trinidad and Tobago
3. University of Belize, - Belize
4. University of Guyana - Guyana
5. University of Haiti - Haiti
6. Northern Caribbean University - Jamaica
7. University of Technology - Jamaica
8. University of the Southern Caribbean - Trinidad and Tobago
9. College of the Bahamas - The Bahamas
10. Barbados Community College - Barbados
11. T.A. Marryshow Comm. College - Grenada
12. Heart Trust/ NTA - Jamaica
13. Antigua State College - Antigua
14. Dominica State College – Dominica
15. National Training Agency – Trinidad and Tobago
16. Institute of Applied Science and Technology - Guyana
17. Climate Compatible Development - Suriname
18. Scientific Research Council (SRC) - Jamaica
19. Caribbean Association of National Training Agencies – Trinidad and Tobago
20. Association of Caribbean Tertiary Institutions – Barbados
21. University of Brasilia - Brazil
22. Caribbean Green Technology Center – US Virgin Island
23. TVET Council - Barbados

Furthermore regional/international organizations and donor entities operating in the Caribbean that attended the workshop provided their views on how they could contribute to addressing the R&D and Capacity Building needs and gaps. These entities included:



1. OLADE – Ecuador -> Virtual Energy Training Program ([CAPEV system](#))
2. European Union -> European Union Energy Initiative – Partnership Dialogue Facility ([EUEI-PDF](#)) and via the [EUCARINET](#).
3. GIZ/ CREDP-GIZ -> [Capacity Building, Information and Public Awareness activities](#)
4. UNDP -> via their offices in Guyana and Barbados ([Bio-Energy](#))
5. OAS – [ECPA Caribbean Initiative](#) -> US - Caribbean Virtual University Partnership initiative
6. CARICOM - EU Funded CRECS Project -> [Caribbean Renewable Energy Capacity Support](#)

Please see for more detailed information about the outcomes of the work shop (including agenda, background documentation, participant list, and more):

<http://ecpamericas.org/initiatives/default.aspx?id=25>

To download a copy of all provided presentations, please follow this link:

<http://www.caricomonline.org/rwkresenergy>

And use the following access information:

Username: **serergy**

Password: **Z9p*Eiq6d**

3. MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE WORK SHOP

Main outcomes of the work shop include:

- A proposal by Anton de Kom University to organize an annual multi-university students contest regarding renewable energy development in the Caribbean;
- Expression of Interest by Anton de Kom University to join the OAS-ECPA Caribbean Initiative – Caribbean Virtual University Partnership under development (a hard copy of the work plan was shared with the President of the University, Dr. Sidin);
- First-hand information and data from participants is collected to prepare a workshop report regarding capacity building needs for the increased deployment of renewable energy technologies. This report will be shared with the OAS Department of Education as background document for the upcoming Education Ministerial in Paramaribo, Suriname (planned for early 2012).

4. STEPS FORWARD/ACTIONS

- Will enter negotiations with Anton de Kom University to discuss conditions of the Caribbean Virtual University Partnership and seek for establishing a formal Memorandum of Understanding between OAS Department of Education and AdKUS University;
- Finalize and disseminate the Report “Capacity building needs for the increased deployment of renewable energy technologies in the Caribbean”.

