

Central America Renewable Energy Forum: II March 1, 2011 – 8:45am to 1:00pm

The Central America Renewable Energy Forum (CAREF) is designed to encourage dialogue among senior Central American and Dominican Republic energy officials, current and potential private sector investors and regional stakeholders. The objective of the dialogue is to identify and discuss how to address obstacles to increased use of renewable energy in Central America. CAREF was initiated by the Department of State in November 2010, consistent with the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA), and the first roundtable was held in Atlanta in November of 2010. Participants included the Ministers of Energy from Nicaragua and Panama, Vice Ministers from El Salvador and Costa Rica, and senior officials from Guatemala, along with NGOs, and private investors from the U.S. and the region.

CAREF II will highlight financial programs regional partner countries and investors can take advantage of to encourage U.S. exports of renewable energy technologies as well as efforts in the region to unify the electric grid and broaden renewable energy development. Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Arturo Valenzuela will open the event, hosted by Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy and Business Affairs Jose W. Fernandez. The half-day session at the State Department in Washington, DC will be kicked off by senior representatives of the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM), the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the private sector, through the Council of the Americas and the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE) and its Latin American and Caribbean Council on Renewable Energy.

The **CAREF** program seeks to support a multi-party dialogue between the private sector, civil society and Central American governments. Invitations have been accepted by delegates from Guatemala, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica. IDB, World Bank, and OAS staff will also attend. In addition, representatives from Mexico and Brazil are confirmed, underscoring a broad hemispheric interest in promoting clean energy in the Central American region. Overarching goals are to encourage growth in renewable energy and to deepen regional business partnerships.

Confirmed delegates to CAREF II:

Brazil: Ernesto Arujo, Minister Counselor of Economics, Trade & Energy, Embassy of Brazil

Costa Rica: James Denis Ryan, ASI Power and Telemetry

Dominican Republic: Enríque Giovanni Ramírez Rodríguez, President, Comisión Nacional de Energía (National Energy Commission);

Dominican Republic: Luciano Guido, Grupo de Empresas Dominicanas de Energía Renovable, GEDER (Group of Dominican Renewable Energy Companies)

El Salvador: Mario Antonio Cerna Torres, Vice Minister, Ministry of Economy

El Salvador: Manuel Antonio Cerrato Robredo, National Energy Council

El Salvador: Miguel Bolinaga, Vice President of Corporate Relations, AES

Guatemala: Aida Zucelly Lorenzo Rodas de Juarez, Director, Renewable Energy Generators Association of Guatemala

Guatemala: Jose Francisco Pedroza Cambara, Engineering & Operations Coordinator, Ministry of Energy & Mines

Guatemala: Rodolfo Alegria Toruno, President, Asociación Nacional de Generadores de energia electrica

Guatemala: Oscar Roberto Grotewold de Leon, Executive Director, Asociación Nacional de Generadores de energia electrica

Honduras: Manuel de Jesus Manzanares Diaz, Director General of Energy, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Mexico: Rolando Fuentes, International Director, SENER (Ministry of Energy)

Nicaragua: Raul Ivan Cortez Sanchez, Director General for Electricity and Renewable Resources, Ministry of Energy

Nicaragua: Alejandro Arguello, La Asociación Nicaragüense para las Energías Renovables y el Ambiente

U.S. Participants:

Arturo Valenzuela, Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Jose W. Fernandez, Assistant Secretary for Economic, Energy and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Leocadia I. Zak, Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency

Craig O'Connor, Director, Export-Import Bank of the United States

Denise Kutsch, Senior Investment Officer for Renewable Energy, Overseas Private Investment Corporation

Leandro Alves, Head of Energy Division, Inter-American Development Bank

Margarita Riva-Geoghegan, U.S. Representative to the Organization of American States

Eric Farnsworth, Council of the Americas

Scott Sklar, American Council On Renewable Energy & Latin American Council for Renewable Energy

Pablo Reyes, American Council On Renewable Energy & Latin American Council for Renewable Energy

William Holmberg, American Council On Renewable Energy & Latin American Council for Renewable Energy

Taylor Marshall, American Council on Renewable Energy & Latin American Council for Renewable Energy

International Participants:

Organization of American States: Francisco Burgos, Office of Sustainable Development

World Bank: Juan Miguel Cayo, Senior Energy Analyst, Latin America and Caribbean Region

Private Sector Participants:

Marie Royce, Senior Director of International Affairs, Alcatel-Lucent

Mark Madden Vice President, Smart Grid, Alcatel-Lucent

Jon Gallinger, Director, Government Affairs, Alstom

Mario Maza, Business Development Director, Central America & Caribbean, GE Corporate and GE Wind

Andrew Eilts, International Trade Specialist, GE

Daniel Raffo, Project Manager, Bunge Emissions Group

Miranda A. A. Ballentine, Director of Sustainability, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Brian Spak, Associate, Green Strategies

Anton Edmunds, President & CEO, The Edmunds Group International, LLC

Cathy Snyder, Vice President, Energy & Environment Programs, Lockheed Martin Corp.