



Regional Workshop on Research, Development and Capacity Building at the University Level to Support Renewable Energy Development in the Caribbean

“TOWARDS INCREASED ENERGY SECURITY AND SUSTAINABILITY”

**Royal Ballroom, Torarica Hotel
Paramaribo, Suriname
19-20 October 2011**

BACKGROUND

Outline of the Workshop

The imperative for significantly increasing the contribution of renewable energy (RE) to the regional energy matrix is well established on the bases of the need for increased energy security for most Member States of CARICOM and the desire by all countries to establish a more sustainable energy development pathway in the context of improved environmental stewardship and the climate change challenge.

This Regional Workshop organised by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat in collaboration with the Anton de Kom University of Suriname, with the support of the European Union, the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme (CREDP-GIZ) and the Fostering European Union – Caribbean Research and Innovation Networks (EUCARINET) Project, seeks to establish a dialogue and to share information among Caribbean tertiary educational institutions that are engaged in (or plan to engage in) research, development (R&D) and capacity building in the RE field. This is being staged as part of the implementation of the Caribbean Renewable Energy Capacity Support (CRECS) Project. The Workshop is also being convened as a part of an effort to establish a strategic approach within the context of the mandate from the CARICOM Heads of Government to develop the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Roadmap and Strategy (C-SERMS) which seeks to establish RE targets and strategies towards expedited transformation of Regional energy sector.

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The main focus of the Workshop is on CARICOM Universities, Colleges and Research Institutions that already have RE programme offering(s) or have the potential to develop RE programme offerings or are engaged in R&D related to RE. It is recognized, however, that there are opportunities for advancing the overall objectives for strategic partnerships and for sharing of experiences among the wider Caribbean, regional energy organizations and with industry. To this end, a wide cross-section of participants have been invited.

The key objectives of the Workshop are to:

- identify all existing and planned renewable energy research and development efforts (*scope and focus*), and programmes offered in the various Universities in the Region;
- facilitate a dialogue towards a rationalized, strategic and coordinated approach to advancing research, development and capacity building to support RE development;
- establish a network among universities in CARICOM, as well as the wider Caribbean and beyond involved in RE research, development and training;
- identify currently available technical and financial assistance opportunities and support at the hemispheric level and global level to support initiatives; and
- identify mechanisms for establishing dynamic links between research and development efforts in university and industry for mutual benefits.

The first day (Day-1) of the Workshop will be devoted to mapping existing RE training, research, development and capacity building efforts.

The second day (Day-2) of the workshop will be devoted to developing a better understanding of the existing and potential capacity building and R&D needs towards identifying approaches to bolster existing responses, as well as, to begin the process of a strategic regional approach. Also, existing partnerships will be identified and options for expanding same and developing new ones to support the objectives explored.