



Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas

ECPA



newsletter clearinghouse

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STRONG POLICY AND TOUGH DECISIONS NEEDED

In order for renewable energy to be sustainable in the Caribbean, governments throughout the region have to show their commitment through strong energy policies.

This is the word of Ambassador Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States. Speaking at the Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum in Barbados on October 13, 2011, Ramdin made it clear that governments will have a tough choice to make where renewable energy is concerned, but reminded that it is for the long-term good.

“For the Caribbean, renewable energy has the potential to be a workable, meaningful solution, but it requires strong policy, meaningful support, and above all, it requires political will. Realising the potential of renewable energy in the Caribbean means being prepared to make difficult choices, sometimes choosing between political expediency

and immediacy and the long-term good. It requires sacrifice, and the putting aside of political or personal conveniences,” Ramdin stated.

He further noted that the small business operator in Barbados could take the step of implementing the use of solar panels to produce power. For the Government, he said it may come down to choosing to do business with and providing incentives to those who use renewable energy.

Ramdin went on to say that while renewable energy may not be the most cost-effective option at this point, it is an investment in a sustainable future that must begin now. He added that the Caribbean is in fact well positioned to become a world leader as a region heading the renewable

energy initiative.

“The Caribbean as a whole is uniquely positioned to meet its own energy demands and has the potential to become an example to the rest of the world, spearheading the renewable energy initiative as a regional grouping. Alternatives to the traditional diesel and fuel are all around us. Some of our islands are perfectly positioned to develop wind, geothermal and solar potential,” Ramdin added.



OAS Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin

Written by Amanda Nieves, of The Barbados Advocate

CLEARINGHOUSE CONVENES CLEAN PRODUCTION MEETING IN QUITO

The event was part of the ECPA Closed Looped Cycle Production in the Americas initiative.

the Cradle-to-Cradle (C2C) design philosophy as a business mechanism that improves energy efficiency and environmental performance in the industrial sector while increasing productivity, competitiveness and sustainability of small and medium sized-enterprises. This initiative is consistent with Ecuador’s national development plan “Plan Nacional para el Buen Vivir” and the “Agenda para la transformacion Productiva”. The Clearinghouse met with representatives of several chambers of commerce, universities, development agencies, to receive their inputs and identify ways to effectively implement this clean production mechanism.

From November 28 to December 2, 2011 the ECPA Clearinghouse held a meeting with government officials and private sector stakeholders. The objective of the event held in Quito, Ecuador, was to discuss ways to successfully implement the Closed Looped Cycle Production in the Americas ECPA initiative in that country. The initiative seeks to replicate



CLEARINGHOUSE HOSTS TRAINING COURSE ON GEOTHERMAL ENERGY IN EL SALVADOR

Government officials from Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Chile and El Salvador attended the six-day training session.

From November 7 through 12, 2011, the Clearinghouse convened a training course in El Salvador aimed at providing the tools to understand geothermal energy in the Andean context, where its development is at a primary stage.

The course was developed by a group of renowned international experts in the field of geothermal energy from the Geothermal Training Program of the United Nations University, in Iceland. During six days of intensive training, participants were able to learn about global and regional geothermal energy, geothermal project planning, exploration and exploitation, geothermal en-



Opening ceremony of the course at LaGeo facilities.

ergy uses, thermo-economics, environmental impacts and analysis of different policies to develop geothermal energy. The sessions allowed for discussions among participants and trainers. The legal and regulatory frameworks of the six participating countries were also analyzed.

**ECPA CARIBBEAN REGION CLIMATE ADAPTATION PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE TO BE ESTABLISHED
The prospective partnership will strengthen the capacity of the Caribbean region in climate adaptation.**

Higher Education for Development (HED), in cooperation with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Office of Economic Policy and Summit Coordination at the U.S. Department of State, issued a request for applications geared at establishing the ECPA Caribbean Region Climate Adaptation (CRCA) Partnership Initiative. HED expects to make one award of up to \$770,500 for three years

for a higher education partnership between one U.S. institution and the University of the West Indies/Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (UWI/CERMES). This partnership will build additional permanent, local capacity in climate adaptation at UWI/CERMES. The partnership will focus on research and policy and will result in tangible prod-



ucts such as expanded research, outreach to policy makers, short-course development for academic, public and private sector audiences and strategic planning to secure long-term funding. During the next three years UWI/CERMES will be internationally recognized as a Caribbean center of excellence in climate adaptation research and data collection. This partnership

will help UWI/CERMES down that path. Through its academic offerings, expanded research, and graduate level degree programs and continuing education offerings for professionals, UWI/CERMES will lead the way for the region in utilizing the latest data collection and analysis techniques to inform policy and address the many climate adaptation challenges facing the Caribbean region.

**LAUNCH OF THE U.S.-CHILE ENERGY BUSINESS COUNCIL
In March 2011, Presidents Obama and Piñera announced they would work to improve cooperation and share information in an effort to develop clean energy and identify business opportunities related to energy infrastructure and technology.**



Left to right: Amcham President Javier Irarrázabal, Minister of Energy Rodrigo Alvarez, and U.S. Ambassador to Chile Alejandro Wolff, at the launching of the U.S.-Chile EBC.

The U.S. Ambassador to Chile, Alejandro Wolff; the Minister of Energy, Rodrigo Alvarez; and the President of the American Chamber of Commerce, Javier Irarrázaval inau-

gurated the U.S.-Chile Energy Business Council (EBC) on Thursday October 6, 2011. The council was established as a response to a joint invitation made by Presidents Piñera and Obama during President Obama's visit in March 2011. Its mission is to promote opportunities in the private sector in clean energy and support its sustained development in both countries. Headed by Javier Irarrázaval, the council is made up of businesses and professional associations in the energy sector that will study different aspects of the sector to capitalize on opportunities. During his comments, Ambassador Wolff stated that "Through this council, government agen-

cies can work with the expertise of the private sector to facilitate energy security, sustainable economic growth, and protection of the environment". More than 15 companies and associations have signed-on the newly created EBC. In 2012, the Council will work through five working groups —Regulatory Framework, Technology, Training, Financing, and Infrastructure— to develop clean energy and energy efficiency business opportunities, bring experts to share technical experience with Council members, and support an energy trade fair in 2012. Contact Pablo Valdez at the U.S. Embassy in Santiago, Chile, for more information.

SURINAME WORKSHOP IN SUPPORT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE CARIBBEAN

On 19-20 October 2011, the Clearinghouse held a regional renewable energy workshop in Paramaribo, Suriname, in collaboration with the CARICOM Energy Programme. At the event, policy and decision makers, development agencies and academicians discussed the elements of a sustainable energy strategy for the Caribbean, and the role played by universities and research institutes in its implementation. Participants agreed that research and development, as well as capacity building, are the building blocks of a robust energy sector.

**SAINT KITTS & NEVIS AND PUERTO RICO ANALYZE ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION POTENTIAL
Electricity generation and interconnection opportunities in the Caribbean are analyzed in a regional ECPC project on sustainable energy for the Caribbean basin.**



Geothermal site on Nevis Island.

Saint Kitts and Nevis boasts abundant geothermal power generation potential. The small island nation could generate power beyond its current and future needs. According to a World Bank report, a 400MW interconnection between the island of Nevis and Puerto Rico would be financially viable if geothermal electric power

generated in Nevis replaced fossil fuel generation in Puerto Rico.

The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis requested the support of the Clearinghouse to implement an electricity interconnection pre-feasibility study between Saint Kitts and Nevis and Puerto Rico. The study will be performed by KEMA, a leading firm in energy consulting services. The study warrants a comprehensive and collaborative effort between the islands to assess sustainable energy supply alternatives.

**CLEARINGHOUSE HOLDS THIRD ROUNDTABLE OF THE CARIBBEAN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DIALOGUE IN BARBADOS
The event took place on the fringes of the Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum - CREF 2011**

On October 12, 2011, the Clearinghouse hosted an event of Caribbean ECPC partners in Bridgetown to advance discussions on how to improve coordination and development of the energy sector in the Caribbean, thereby improving its sustainability. Representatives from the public sector, multilateral development organizations, bilateral donors and other key energy players actively shared their impressions and opinions with regard to potential solutions. Multiple aspects of the challenges and opportunities for clean energy de-

velopment were reviewed, including regulations and policies; potential donors programmatic activities; viable technologies; capabilities of countries to absorb renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies; and access to financing and project development resources. The high cost and dependence on fossil fuels and the need to transition toward renewable resources were at the front and center of the debates.

