



**RIO+20**  
United Nations Conference  
on Sustainable Development

# CARICOM's Sustainable Energy Agenda for Rio+20

**Context For Rio+20:** On 20-22 June 2012, the **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD)** referred to as the Rio+20 will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This Conference is being held 20 years after the 1992 landmark United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED or the Earth Summit) where the international community recognized the importance of preserving the earth's resources and the benefits to be derived by humanity in the optimal use those resources. That Conference produced **Agenda 21** and the **1992 Rio Declaration** as blueprints to guide global, regional and national actions. These documents highlighted the significance of three pillars, namely, the *economic, social and environment* components which were to be integrated in the decision-making and implementation processes.

The 1992 Rio outcomes acknowledged the special circumstances of small vulnerable developing states (like those of CARICOM) in the global setting and the need for actions to address those conditions. These special circumstances have worsened over time due to a host of interrelated factors while the international commitments to address them seemed to have waned and are being challenged. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) must therefore seek to achieve outcomes at the Rio +20 Conference which refocus their Agenda and garner fresh commitments for support from the International Community.

**Green Economy:** One of the themes identified by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for Rio+20 Conference is "a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication". Although the definition of the term 'green economy' appears to be still evolving, it is clear

that the role of the energy sector is a critical dimension. (See *Interview with Mr. Garfield Barnwell on page 4*).

**CARICOM Prepares for Rio +20:** The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Conference of Heads of Government at their Twenty-Third Inter-Sessional Meeting held in Suriname on 8-9 March 2012 mandated that a Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) on the Environment be held to prepare the Community for the Rio+20 Conference.

Also, as part of the preparatory process, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) multi-country office for Barbados and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), under the banner of the United Nations' International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, will coordinate a High Level Conference of the **SIDS on Achieving Sustainable Energy For All in Barbados from 7-9 May 2012** to prepare a sustainable energy agenda for SIDS. The CARICOM Secretariat through its Energy Programme and sustainable development programme is collaborating with the UNDP Barbados Office on this Conference and CARICOM SIDS are expected to actively participate and make contributions. (See *brief overview of the Conference objectives on page 6*).



**Ms. H. Elizabeth Thompson**  
UN Assistant Secretary General and  
Executive Coordinator Rio+20  
Conference

Ms. H. Elizabeth Thompson, a former Minister of Energy and the Environment of Barbados who was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General as the Executive Coordinator for the UNCSD Rio+20 Conference in December 2010, will also participate and address the Conference.

### Explore this issue:

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# Viewpoints *by: Programme Manager, Energy*

Over the second and third quarters of 2012, two sustainable energy fora will be held which will require significant input from Member States and will influence sustainable energy actions in the Community. These are:

- The Third staging of the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Conference (CSEF III) to be held on 5-6 September 2012 in St. Kitts and Nevis; and
- The High Level Conference of the Small Island Developing States on

## **Third Staging of the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Forum (CSEF III)**

The Caribbean Sustainable Energy Forum (CSEF) is a biennial renewable energy and energy efficiency Forum which has been held in the Region since 2008. The Forum had in previous years been sponsored and coordinated by the Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme (CREDP-GIZ) in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat, and was always held in



*Mr. Joseph Williams,  
Programme Manager, Energy,  
CARICOM Secretariat*



Achieving Sustainable Energy for All being held under the banner of the *International Year of Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL)* scheduled for 7-8 May 2012. As noted in lead article, the latter has a significant objective to consolidate the SIDS' energy agenda (including CARICOM SIDS) for the Rio+20 Conference in Brazil in June 2012.

in conjunction with the Caribbean Environmental Forum coordinated by the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI). The CSEF typically focuses on sustainable energy development and targets CARICOM policy makers, government officials, international and regional energy experts, academia and persons with interest in energy and the environment.

It has been agreed among partners that the CARICOM Secretariat should take

the lead role in organizing this event from this Third Forum (CSEF III) going forward, to provide a platform for articulating Regional energy sector issues to a wide and diverse audience, as well as, to facilitate the sharing of specific technical information on sustainable energy development.

The CSEF III will be staged under the theme ***Advancing Energy Integration and Energy Access through Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency*** with key focus being placed on geothermal development. The focus on geothermal development is in line with the tenor of a mandate from the Thirty-Fifth Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) on Energy held in Guyana from 22-24 March 2011, that the Secretariat should coordinate supportive actions through targeted functional cooperation strategies to expedite cross border trading in electricity towards increased energy supply, economic integration and competitiveness. **The CARICOM Secretariat welcomes the commitment of the Government of Finland to be the key sponsor of the CSEF III.**

# Sustainable Energy NEWS

## Workshop on RE Financing and RETScreen Training



A Regional Renewable Energy Project Financing Workshop and RETScreen Training on Financing for RE Projects and RE Project analysis (using the RETScreen software) was held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, Kingston on 13-14 March 2012. This is one of the activities under the EU-funded CRECS Project being executed by CARICOM Secretariat.

The Workshop was designed to achieve the following objectives:

- To identify existing financing mechanisms (including the carbon market) and requirements for utilizing International Risk Guarantee Mechanisms;
- To train existing and potential project developers, sponsors and

analysts in the preparation of RE projects in keeping with the stipulated requirements of these targeted financing mechanisms and to examine specific case studies in light of optimum project preparation; and

- To develop the skills of RE projects developers, analysts, financiers, etc, in project analysis and assessment using the RETScreen software.

Forty five persons drawn from Development Banks, private RE firms, and other agencies attended the workshop. Participants were selected based on nominations



**Section of the Audience at RE Project Financing Workshop & RETScreen Training held in Jamaica, March 2012**

submitted in response to an announcement of the course offering which was advertised across the Community. Participants generally expressed satisfaction with the content, delivery and relevance of the Workshop to their work and also expressed the need for a follow-up workshop in the near future.

## *'Bon Voyage' and Thank You to Maxine Nestor*



Ms. Maxine Nestor  
Regional Energy Policy Advisor

Ms. Maxine Nestor's term as Regional Energy Policy Advisor at the CARICOM Energy Programme will conclude at the end of April 2012. Ms. Nestor has been seconded to the Energy Programme from the CREDP/GIZ Project since 2008 as part of an institutional strengthening support arrangement. She has provided significant support to various aspects of the Energy Work Programme, including critical support to Member States in the development of their energy sector policy and plans. *The CARICOM Secretariat and especially the Energy Unit extend thanks to Ms. Nestor for her sterling contributions and look forward to her continued contribution to the Region...*

# Interview with Garfield Barnwell

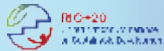
Director Sustainable Development – CARICOM Secretariat



Mr. Garfield Barnwell, Director Sustainable Development, CARICOM Secretariat

**EEnergy** : Why is the upcoming Rio+20 Conference in Brazil, June 2012, important for CARICOM?

**Garfield Barnwell (GB):** The 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development popularly referred to as Rio +20, is being held 20 years after the 1992 landmark UN Conference (or Earth Summit) where the International Community recognized the importance of preserving the earth's resources and the benefits to be derived by humanity in the optimal use of those resources.



One of the key outcomes of the Earth Summit was an acknowledgement of the special circumstances of our small vulnerable developing states in the global setting and the need for action to address those conditions. Since 1992, these special circumstances (linked to climate change, rising sea levels, increased disaster risks, food, water and energy insecurity, etc) have changed significantly for the worse, while at the same time many of the earlier development cooperation arrangements which were deemed beneficial to the Caribbean are being challenged, if not withdrawn by some of our partners.

As a result, CARICOM countries' development prospects are facing challenges arising from the growing inequality and imbalances in the international economic relations and general lack of access to concessional

assistance for their sustainable development programmes. This is further compounded by the slowing down of the region's socio-economic performances and its inability to generate the requisite resources to implement its development programmes. Against this background, it is extremely important that the Region is represented at the Rio +20 Conference at the highest level of policy making to ensure that the Region's strategic interests are fully acknowledged and reflected in the outcomes of the Conference.

**EEnergy** :What are the key global level issues/Issue and what should be CARICOM's posture on same?

**GB:** The UN Member States in outlining the modalities for the Rio+20, underscored the need for the International Community to focus on the Green Economy in the context of poverty eradication and called for a review of the International Framework for Sustainable Development including consideration on strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programmes.

In the context of these elements and the on-going deliberations, it is important that CARICOM Member States reaffirm the special development circumstance already endorsed by the International Community in the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action and the 2002 Mauritius Strategy of Implementation.

CARICOM Member States should also reaffirm the significance and the need for full implementation of the Rio Conventions. In addition, CARICOM should call on the International Community to assist the Region in support of finalisation and operationalisation of the vulnerability indices and national initiatives, as well as the operationalisation of an enhanced trade and sustainable development aid assistance package as these are crucial for the implementation of a new partnership agreement for sustainable development of small and vulnerable developing states.

**EEnergy** .You mentioned that the Green Economy is a focus of Rio+20, can you elaborate a bit in terms of what is involved and any steps being taken CARICOM Member States towards establishing Green development?

**GB:** The key message emerging from official documents of the UN development agencies is that **green development** is a pattern of development that decouples growth from the heavy dependence on resource use, carbon emissions and environmental damage, and promotes growth through the creation of new green product markets, technologies investments, and changes in consumption and conservation behavior. However, to move in this direction, there is need for improved governance, strengthening of the enabling environment, and the provision of finance, technology and capacity building. **A core element in all models of resource efficiency at the global, regional and national levels which is of great significance to the countries of the Caribbean relates to both energy efficiency and sustainable energy.**

Based on the public policy information available for CARICOM, most of the countries in the Region with declared green economy policies /strategies underway

## **EEnergy** NEWSLETTER

The Quarterly Newsletter of the CARICOM Energy Programme aims to highlight Regional level energy sector developments and issues relevant to Member States, with significant emphasis on sustainable energy development.

focus on the central theme of resource-efficiency. **In addition, the sustainable development efforts in Caribbean Member States have been augmented by a number of Regional interventions, including,** the Regional Climate Change Strategic Plan, Implementation of the Caribbean Comprehensive Disaster Management Plan, the Integrating Watershed and Coastal area Management in Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean (IWCAM), the Eastern Caribbean Waste Management Project, and the Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme among others. **However, in advancing the sustainable development agenda, the Region needs to develop, institutionalize and implement effective monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure effective results.**

# First Meeting of the C-SERMS Platform Held via Video Conference – 22 March 2012.



The First Meeting of the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Roadmap and Strategy Platform (C-SERMS-P) was held via video conference on 22 March 2012, under the Chairmanship of Mr. William Hinds, Senior Technical Officer within the Division of Energy and Telecommunications of the Prime Minister's Office, Barbados. Among those in attendance at the Meeting were CARICOM Energy Programme Focal Points and Senior Energy Officials from Ministries responsible for Energy in Member States. The Meeting discussed and agreed on a number of important issues relevant to the full establishment and operationalisation of the Platform, and in relation to implementation of the C-SERMS, based on mandates from the Thirty-fifth Special Meeting of the COTED on Energy. These included the composition and number of

members of C-SERMS-P, approval of the C-SERMS-P Framework Document, definition of the role of partners, selection of a Logo for the C-SERMS and endorsement of the workplan. The Draft Report of the Meeting will be dispatched to Member States shortly. The Meeting was also provided with an update on two key consultancies under the C-SERMS Project, namely, the Consultancy to Conduct Capacity Building for Research, Development and Science and Technology related to Sustainable Energy scheduled to commence during May 2012 and the main Consultancy to Develop the First Draft of the Roadmap which is scheduled to commence in July 2012 with deliverables due by December 2012.



## Update on CRECS Project

The Caribbean Renewable Energy Capacity Support (CRECS) Project is being executed by the Energy Programme of the CARICOM Secretariat. The Project has been extended to 31 December 2012.

### The following are some important delivered outputs under Result-1 of the CRECS Project:

- Model Energy Awareness Programme has been developed. Validation is being done by Member States; Regional Energy Awareness Strategy has been developed;
- Workshop on the use of the Model Energy Awareness Programme was held but will be re-staged in collaboration with the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Program (CSEP) being implemented by the Organisation of American States;
- Master of Science Programme in Renewable Energy Management and Renewable Energy respectively have been developed and are in the process of being implemented at UWI;
- Regional Workshop on Research, Development and Capacity Building to Support RE Development was held – network being established to facilitate strengthening of function.

### The following are being pursued:

- Development of Model Regional Electricity and Energy Supply Legislation - Consultant being engaged;
- Technical Assistance to Member States in the reform of legislation to support RE development;
- Energy Sector Mission to the Dominican Republic to further explore areas of cooperation in energy services, as well as collaboration on capacity building – scheduled for June 2012; Cognizance is taken of the wider CARICOM-DR cooperation.

### The following are some important outputs and activities under Result-2:

- Study on Potential for Solar Water Heating in CARICOM has been completed and is being validated;

- RE Financing Workshop was held to enhance capacity in the Region;
- Regional Workshop on solar water heating potential was held in December 2011.

## Launch of IDEAS Contest



IDEAS 2012, the Caribbean Energy Innovation Contest was launched in February 2012 with launching ceremonies held in Haiti, Saint Lucia, Guyana and Suriname. The CARICOM Secretariat participated in the launch of the Initiative by providing Remarks which conveyed the Secretariat's general support of the objectives of the contest. The CARICOM Energy Programme also assisted in the dissemination of information about the Contest and encouraged participation from persons and businesses in CARICOM. The closing date for the submission of applications is 30 April 2012. Under this initiative:

- Awards of up to US\$200,000 are offered for projects and enterprises which promote energy efficiency and access to renewable energy in the Caribbean region.
- Applications are eligible from all CARICOM Member States and the Dominica Republic.

The IDEAS contest is sponsored by UKAid from the Department of International Development (DFID), the Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP) International, the Government of South Korea and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).



## Opportunities for Caribbean Researchers under EUCARINET

The 2012 EUCARINET Travel Grant Scheme call is open from the 2nd of April 2012 to the 20th of July 2012 with different intermediate deadlines according to the themes of the events selected by the applicants. **ENERGY is one of the themes.** The aim of the Travel Grant Scheme is to promote exchange between Caribbean and European researchers, as well as to encourage contacts between research institutions so that they may explore possibilities for joint participation in the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme for Research and

Technological Development (FP7). Researchers in area of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in CARICOM are invited to take advantage of the call. For more details visit: <http://cordis.europa.eu/>.

The CARICOM Secretariat is one of the partners in the EUCARINET Project whose key objective is to promote international cooperation in research, innovation and technology development between the Caribbean and Europe.

## SIDS Energy Conference in Barbados, 7-9 May 2012: Small Island Developing States to meet to shape their future with cleaner & modern energy services



Mr. Stein Hanson, Deputy Resident Representative UNDP - Barbados

From 7-9 May 2012 in Bridgetown, Barbados, as many as forty Small Island Developing States (SIDS) from Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean, top UN officials, development experts, private sector and civil society will meet to discuss policies and actions needed to advance SIDS sustainable development through sustainable energy access.

Given the importance of sustainable energy to reducing poverty and achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations General Assembly has declared 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. This High Level Conference in Barbados will also feature a SIDS rollout of the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All 2012, a Knowledge Fair and the launch of Feasibility Studies on Renewable Energy for the Caribbean and its replicability for SIDS commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme for Barbados and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States.

The Conference will conclude with the adoption by consensus of a "Barbados Declaration" articulating agreed goals and priorities of SIDS ahead of the Rio +20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012.

For more information on the upcoming conference, feel free to contact Mr. Stein Hansen, Deputy Resident Representative at or Ms. Janine, Chase, Programme Communications Consultant at [janine.chase@undp.org](mailto:janine.chase@undp.org)

## CARICOM Energy Programme's Webpage

The CARICOM Energy Webpage will be launched in May 2012. This website will enhance the communication among the CARICOM Energy Programme, Member States and partners. The development of the Webpage was sponsored by the CREDP/GIZ Project. Inter alia, monthly

discussion forums will be hosted to allow for continuous discussions on key issues between representatives from Member States and other partners. The Webpage can be accessed at: <http://cc-energyprogramme.org>.

# Petroleum and Gas Brief

## Trinidad makes major oil discovery – “*God is a Trini*”



Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessa  
Prime Minister of Trinidad  
and Tobago

News of oil find in Trinidad and Tobago cannot be considered a new phenomenon, given the country's successful experience in the business of oil exploration for more than a century. Then, what could have been responsible for the recent jubilation over recent oil discovery estimated at 48 million barrels of crude which caused the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar to remark jokingly that “*indeed God is a Trini*”.

The reasons lie in the fact that the country's oil production has been rapidly declining over the recent years from an average of 121,754 barrels per day in 2007 to an average 91,919 barrels per day in 2011 - a trend which the Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs had in the past referred to as worrying. This trend has had industry

experts and analysts urging the Government to start exploring unconventional oil which Trinidad and Tobago has a sizeable reserve of, but for which extraction and processing are considered to be more harmful to the environment;

This recent discovery has been deemed the biggest find in 10 years and was made in very shallow waters of about 60 feet just off the coast of Point Fortin making recovery less expensive. In addition, the

discovery was made by the State owned oil company, Petrotrin Limited. This therefore implies that decision making is simplified, and that the company's profit margins will increase since the Government does not have to share revenues realised with other investors. Further, Petrotrin which sells refined products but does not sell raw crude has in the past been forced to import approximately 100,000 barrels per day of crude oil to suffice its refining capacity of 150,000 barrels per day with local production being only 50,000 barrels per day.



Oil equipment at the Petrotrin refinery in Trinidad

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **Second Bi-Monthly Coordination Meeting of Partners Involved in Sustainable Energy Development in CARICOM (web-based Meeting), 30 April 2012**
2. **First CARICOM Energy Week 2012 Planning Meeting (web-based Meeting), 30 April 2012**
3. **High Level Conference of the SIDS on Achieving Sustainable Energy for All & Rio +20 Informal Ministerial Meeting, Barbados, 7-9 May 2012**
4. **Caribbean Solar Energy Society SATIS 2012 Workshop sponsored by Government of Spain through the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), Barbados, 9-11 May 2012**
5. **6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Caribbean Environmental Forum (CEF) & Exhibition, St Kitts and Nevis, 21-25 May 2012**
6. **GEOLAC 2012, Costa Rica, 10-11 July 2012**  
GEOLAC is a new regional conference which reflects the emergence of geothermal as a long-term and sustainable source of baseload power for Latin America and the Caribbean.
7. **CARILEC Conferences**
  - **CEOs Symposium, Grenada, 28-30 May 2012**
  - **Engineers Conference, Dominican Republic, 22-25 July 2012**
  - **Renewable Energy Forum, Bermuda, 18-19 September 2012**
8. **Third Caribbean Sustainable Energy Forum (CSEF III), St Kitts and Nevis, 5-6 September 2012**

## Disclaimer

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