



CARICOM Energy Ministerial

Set for First Quarter 2013 in *Trinidad and Tobago*

The Forty-First Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) on Energy will be held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago from **27 February to 1 March 2013**. The Ministerial Session will be held on 1 March following the Preparatory Meeting of Officials on 27 February 2013.



first phase of the C-SERMS. This is to be discussed by Member States and will underpin short, medium and long term targets, and initial regional sustainable energy strategies to be established.

Two key items on the Agenda are finalisation of the Regional Energy Policy and Agreement by Member States on Targets and Strategies for Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) under the first phase of the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Roadmap and Strategy (C-SERMS).

The C-SERMS is the framework for establishing sustainable energy targets and strategies in the context of the CARICOM Energy Policy. Its implementation will encourage a more strategic approach for increased contribution from RE and EE. A few Member States have already established targets and these are included in the elaboration of the C-SERMS.

The previous CARICOM Energy Ministerial (Thirty-Fifth Special COTED on Energy) was held in March 2011 in Georgetown, Guyana. The matter of the Regional Energy Policy, which was drafted in 2007, has been on the Regional agenda for some time during which it has benefitted from several iterations of reviews and updates.

The result of a Study to elaborate the Baseline Roadmap and Strategy, especially related to targets and the identification of strategies for achieving same, being conducted by the Worldwatch Institute will form the basis for the

CDM Alive and Well!

See Special Feature on the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in this Issue on page 4 (which also provides clarification on the uncertainty of the future of the CDM, based on a report of the outcome of CDM Workshop held in Jamaica and published in Issue 12).

Correction: *CC-Energy regrets the inadvertent omission of the Latin American Energy Organisation (OLADE) as one of the co-sponsors of the Regional Workshop of Capacity Building and Lessons Learned of Development of the CDM Programme of Activities (POAs) and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) Workshop held in Kingston, Jamaica from 25-27 September 2012.*

This Workshop was hosted by the Government of Jamaica and organized by the UNEP Risoe Centre and OLADE (not OAS) as part of a CDM Capacity Development Project for African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, funded by European Commission. The CARICOM Secretariat collaborated and sponsored the participation of Regional attendees.

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We are once again at the end of another year and the beginning of a new one. Although the challenges remain and transition towards the energy sector's transformation has been slow, 2012 was somewhat of an eventful year for sustainable energy development both globally and regionally. Notwithstanding the slow progress, important ground work continues in Member States, and regionally we remain confident that the positive results will be increasingly manifested over the short term.

Internationally: 2012 was celebrated as the UN International Year of Sustainable Energy for All (IYSE4ALL). This initiative gathered significant momentum globally, resulting in the declaration in December 2012 by the UN General Assembly of *2014-2024 as the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All*.

Also, this year, the much anticipated UN Conference on Sustainable Development or Rio +20 was held in Brazil. Many analysts however considered the outcomes somewhat modest.

The 2012 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 18) ended with arguably the most significant outcome being the extension of the commitment period for the CDM which is a positive move for sustainable energy development.

International oil prices remained generally high with the two leading indices, Western Texas Intermediate (WTI) and Brent ending the year at average \$91.82 per barrel and \$111.00 per barrel respectively.

Hemispherically: At the Sixth Summit of Americas held in

Colombia in April 2012, a major energy integration initiative, Connecting the Americas 2022 (Connect 2022) was launched.

Regionally: On the conventional energy front, expectations remained high during 2012 that Guyana would soon strike oil.

Trinidad and Tobago again announced in the last quarter of 2012, new oil and gas finds in addition to two significant finds earlier in year. The Natural Gas pipeline between Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados appears to be much closer to realisation with new private sector and experienced international investors on Board.

On the sustainable energy side, the advancements around geothermal development in Dominica have evolved to be a basis of much excitement with the announcement of plant construction possibly commencing in early 2013.

In 2012, the Region also saw the hosting of the High Level Conference of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Barbados which produced the Barbados Declaration. Also, the SIDS DOCK headquarters was established in Belize.

The staging of the Third Caribbean Sustainable Energy Forum (CSEF III) spearheaded by the CARICOM Secretariat and the second staging of CARICOM Energy Week were also important developments. The European Union (EU) funded Caribbean Renewable Energy Capacity Support (CRECS) Project executed by the CARICOM Secretariat concludes with some key results, while the Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme (CREDP/GIZ) has been



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

extended to end of 2013.

Going forward in 2013: The outcomes of the fiscal cliff debate in the USA and the sovereign debt crisis in Europe will be key determinants of the health of the global economy, and by extension, the price of oil on the international market. Any prospect for lower oil prices seem to lie only on the prospect of a downturn in the world economy. However, this in itself would spell further economic disasters for both the service and merchandise export sectors, therefore, CARICOM countries (with the exception of Trinidad and Tobago) which are price takers, must continue in 2013 to press to change their energy fortunes, through diversified energy supplies.

At the Regional level, the Forty-First Special COTED on Energy scheduled for 27 February – 1 March 2013 in Trinidad and Tobago will seek to finalise the CARICOM Energy Policy and reach agreement on regional targets and strategies on RE and EE. Further, it is anticipated that implementation of the CARICOM-GIZ Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Technical Assistance (REETA) Project will advance capacity strengthening for RE in the Region.



CARICOM Energy Week 2012

CARICOM Energy Week 2012 (CEW 2012) was celebrated from 11-17 November 2012 under the theme **“Sustainable Energy Powering a Green Economy”**. Member States marked the occasion with varying levels of activities, including national rallies, energy symposia, SE exhibitions, SE science fairs, airing of SE documentaries, radio quizzes and publication of energy saving tips, among others. Much effort was also made to target students who are considered important agents for energy sector transformation. A few photos submitted by Members States are shown below.



CARICOM Secretariat staged a Panel Discussion on Sustainable Energy which was aired live on television across CARICOM States during CEW 2012 by the Caribbean Media Corporation: (1) Panel at left (L-R) Mr. J. Williams, CCS; Dr. G. Jackson CEO, CARILEC, Mr. M. Gyles-McDonnough, Res. Rep, UNDP Barbados & OECS; Dr. H. Sealy, Energy Advisor to Minister, Grenada; (2) Panel at right (3rd from left): Dr. T. Byer, Energy Consultant.



Students participate in Saint Lucia's Energy Week 2012



Awards Ceremony for Saint Lucia's Energy Week Jingle Competition for students



Advisor to the Minister on RE, Mr. Ramadar Singh addressing students in Trinidad and Tobago



Guyana Energy Agency stages Energy Week activity in schools



National Energy Symposium Grenada: i) Section of Audience ii) Head table: (L-R) Joseph Williams (Programme Manager, Energy, CCS; Hon. Nazim Burke, Minister of Finance, Planning, Economy, Energy & Cooperatives, Hon. George Prime, Minister of Environment, Mr. John Auguste, Senior Energy Officer (Hidden Permanent Secretary in the Ministry responsible for Energy, Mr. Timothy Antoine)

SPECIAL FEATURE: CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM (CDM)

Interview with Dr. John Kilani

Director of the Sustainable Development Mechanisms (SDM) Programme,
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Bonn,
Germany – conducted by David Abbass, UNFCCC Office for 

DA: Under the Kyoto Protocol's clean development mechanism (CDM), sustainable development projects that reduce greenhouse gases can earn a saleable credit for each ton of greenhouse gas they reduce or avoid. To date there are more than 5,500 CDM projects registered in 83 developing countries and more than 1.1 billion certified emission reductions (CERs) have been issued. So far there are 14 registered projects in five Caribbean countries, and about an equal number of projects in the pipeline. What is the status of the CDM coming out of the UN Climate Change Conference held at the end of November 2012 in Doha?

JK: Countries succeeded in Doha to agree on a second five-year commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol, so the continuation of the CDM is assured. The countries also agreed to review the CDM modalities and procedures and adopt possible changes when they meet at the end of 2013. So, the CDM is running, and is still evolving and improving.

DA: A lot has been said about new market mechanisms and nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs). Shouldn't countries focus on these instead of the CDM?

JK: No, that would be a mistake. New market mechanisms and NAMAs are not replacements for

the CDM. They are additional tools that countries want to create, to help combat climate change. The CDM is up and running now, registering projects, issuing CERs and contributing to sustainable development. Given the scale of the climate change challenge, it is smart for countries to look for additional mechanisms, tools and approaches, but these should not be a reason for delay, or a reason to forego the benefits of the CDM.

DA: There has been a lot of debate about the usefulness of the CDM. Does the CDM provide relevant opportunities for the Caribbean?

JK: The CDM is definitely worth a serious look by every Caribbean country. In fact, plans are well along for establishment of a CDM regional collaboration center for the Caribbean, along the lines of the one launched in partnership with the UNFCCC in late 2012 in Togo, West Africa. Such a center could help identify opportunities and remove capacity barriers. As for the usefulness of the CDM, research is showing that the CDM is spurring technology transfer and sustainable development, not to mention emission reductions. The CDM is contributing to a low carbon transformation in developing countries by providing a channel for investment in cost-effective renewables. For example, CDM projects account for more than



Dr. John Kilani
Director, SDM Programme, UNFCCC

110,000MW of renewable electricity capacity. That's about equivalent to the total power generation capacity of Africa.

DA: The Caribbean has little by way of emissions. Does it make sense to pursue the small-scale CDM project that might be found here?

JK: Countries under the Kyoto Protocol have focused a lot of



From the IEA's World Outlook Report, it's clear the world is on track for disaster! If SIDS need 1.5 °C to stay alive, then 3°C means we are doubly wiped-out...

attention on improving the regional distribution of CDM projects. Much of the work has focused on making small projects

see page 5

USA's Missing Barrels of Oil Demand: Energy Efficiency Lesson for the Caribbean?

Almost 4 million *barrels per day* (mbpd) or 20% have disappeared from the US oil demand since 2005 such that consumption has fallen from 22 mbpd to about 18 mbpd, with the current rate being a decrease of 4.5% per annum, according to Energy Information Administration (EIA). This is considered a phenomenal occurrence, especially against the backdrop that for almost half a century it was assumed that US oil demand would continue to rise. This trend has been attributed to changed consumption patterns arising from improved fuel efficiency standards as well as the impact of sustained high oil prices.

This decreased energy demand coupled with the increase in production has underpinned the new drive towards energy independence in the USA, which some analysts (including the IEA) estimate could become a reality by 2020.



Maybe there are some lessons that Caribbean countries could learn from this experience, especially given on the one hand, the Region's

over dependence on oil imports and the dislocating impact of high cost of energy, and on the other the significant potential for increased energy efficiency.

from page 4

viable. Important success was achieved with the creation of the programme of activities (PoA) approach. Simply put, through PoA, an unlimited number of projects over a wide area, including across borders, or islands in the case of the Caribbean, can be administered under the umbrella of a single programme. This reduces the administrative burden and makes very small project activities viable, even at the scale of the household. These are the kinds of things that I think are worth exploring in the Caribbean.

DA: The CDM is a market-based mechanism. Currently the units produced by CDM projects are fetching a very low price, in large part because the biggest market for the units, the European Union

Emissions Trading System, is oversupplied and restricting the use of CDM units. Isn't that the biggest challenge facing the CDM?

JK: Like any market, prices go up and prices go down as a function of supply and demand. I see the current weak prices as a demand problem – countries need to take on ambitious commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions so the world can avoid the worst effects of climate change. I think that climate change, the effects of which we are sadly already seeing, will require that countries do a great deal more than they are doing now. When they do, demand will increase and those who have engaged with the CDM will be in a better position to make use of the CDM than those that decided to wait for the rules of some future mechanism or approach to be developed and agreed. And, it's probably safe to assume that

whatever will be developed and agreed in future will have the same or similar building blocks as the CDM, such as standards, measuring, reporting and verification.

After saying all of that, I recognize the challenge of a low CER price. In the CDM's favor, each project must contribute to sustainable development. So, a proponent of a project with good sustainable development benefits has something enticing with which to attract interest from a buyer, or donor agency or fund. I think this could provide an important source of demand to carry the CDM over this period of low prices.

The CDM is not solely a tool to reduce emissions. It is a tool that countries, agencies and funds can use to achieve sustainable development goals.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS

Ask the expert!

No-Cost Clean Energy Policy Advice available Free of Charge from The Clean Energy Solutions Centre <http://cleanenergysolutions.org>



The CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTION CENTRE reports that *clean energy policy* support is available from the organization to assist representatives of all government agencies and any technical institutes assisting governments with many aspects of policy development. Experts will provide personalized policy assistance via phone and e-mail consultations; Questions are simply submitted online.

The Solutions Center is a collaborative effort of several international organizations that strives to provide support and timely information to policymakers worldwide. These organizations include: *UN Energy; United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA); Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL); Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP); International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD); International Energy Agency (IEA); Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF); Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE, India); Climate Policy Initiative (CPI); Meister Consultants Group (MCG), among others.*

Ground breaking for Dominica's Geothermal Power Plant could be as early as first quarter 2013

Dominica's Energy Minister, the Hon. Rayburn Blackmoore is optimistic that Dominica could see the commencement of a small 15MW geothermal power plant in first quarter of 2013. Speaking at Press Conference in November, Minister Blackmoore stated, "We are confident that by the first quarter of next year we will see some movement in so far as the commencement of a small geothermal power plant is concerned". This reflects a much more aggressive schedule than that indicated in July 2012, when the Prime Minister of Dominica, the Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit announced that his Government had commenced the negotiation process for building a 10 to 15 MW geothermal plant within two to three years.



IRENA moves to establish Global Renewable Energy Islands Network

Arising from recommendations of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Renewables and Islands Global Summit held in Malta in September 2012, IRENA is moving to establish a **Global Renewable Energy Islands Network (GREIN)** as a platform for pooling knowledge, sharing best practices, and seeking innovative solutions for the accelerated uptake of clean and cost-effective renewable energy technologies on islands. Such a network may also help to achieve the aspirations expressed in the Barbados Declaration on Achieving Sustainable Energy for All in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) 2012, Outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference 2012, etc.

Bon Voyage



Dr. R. Alston Stoddard's tenure with the CARICOM Secretariat comes to an end on 31 December 2012.

Dr. Stoddard has managed the CRECS Project in the Energy Unit over the past two years. Prior to this appointment, he served for one year in the capacity of Industrial Specialist in the Directorate Trade and Economic Integration.

The Energy Unit thanks Dr. Stoddard for his contribution in the successful execution of many project activities despite the challenges, and extends best wishes in his future endeavours.

GREIN

A special meeting will be convened in the margins of the third session of the IRENA General Assembly in Abu Dhabi in January 2013 to advance the development of GREIN. **E Energy** proposes that a special effort should be extended to ensure that the objectives of GREIN are complementary to the SIDS DOCK which has been established

and is currently making significant advancement for supporting sustainable energy development in SIDS. **Three CARICOM Member States (viz, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines) are full members of**

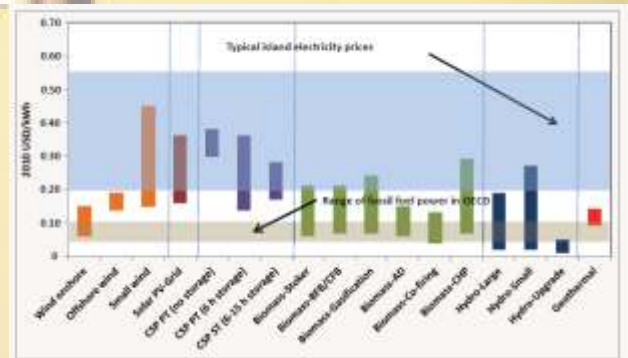
IRENA and Barbados, Belize, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Lucia have made application. The CARICOM Secretariat has been invited to participate in the discussion on GREIN.

IRENA says “Today's renewable power generation technologies are increasingly cost-competitive”

(See Figure below) **Renewable power generation technologies now account for around half of all new power generation capacity additions worldwide** (IRENA).

The Figure below shows the cost-effectiveness of today's renewable technologies. However, the cost ranges are wide and very site-specific. As a result, there is no single “best” renewable power generation technology. It is also important to note that distributed renewable technologies, such as rooftop solar PV and

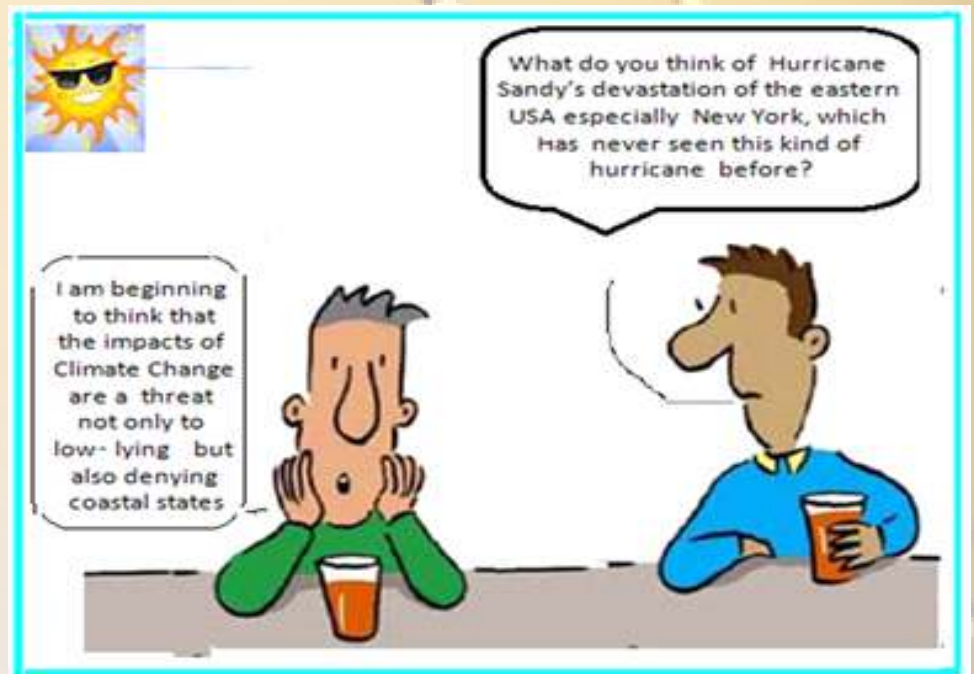
small wind, can provide new capacity without the need for additional transmission and distribution investment and therefore cannot be directly compared with large utility-scale renewable solutions. See Report titled “Renewable Generation Costs” at www.irena.org.



IRENA Report: Renewable Generation Costs

UN ECLAC launches one year small technical assistance Project to support sustainable energy framework in three Caribbean countries

The Project with the specific objective to revise and reformulate national fiscal policies, strategies and regulations in coherence with a vision for sustainable energy has been improved in selected countries of the Caribbean region. The expected outputs include: i) revised fiscal and regulatory systems for National Governments in the promotion of EE and RE incorporation of measures to strengthen these instruments and/or to provide alternative systems; ii) increased capacity at strategic, regulatory and instrumental levels, of selected personnel (from government and other entities) for the revision and reformulation of energy-related reform measures. The efforts will build on existing work being done in the Region.



Project Update



The Consultancy to Develop Capacity Building for Research and Development, and Science and Technology related to Sustainable Energy will be concluded on 31 March 2013. Under this Consultancy, a recommended framework for focusing Sustainable Energy Research, Development and Innovation was developed.

The Second Training Workshop in Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) to Support Sustainable Energy was held in Guyana on 12 November 2012. There were 28 persons in attendance including representatives from the local public and private sectors, the University of Guyana and staff members from the Energy Unit, CCS. This workshop was conducted in partnership with EU funded EUCARINET Project.

The Worldwatch Institute which was awarded a contract to map existing studies and to develop a Sustainable Energy Road Map

commenced work on 17 September 2012 and is expected to submit a first estimation of Regional Energy Targets for 2017, 2022 and 2027. These targets will be presented for

discussion at the 41st Special Meeting of the COTED on Energy scheduled for 27 February to 01 March 2013 in Trinidad and Tobago.



Section of participants at 2nd C-SERMS RDI Workshop

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EU CARINET PROJECT UPDATE:



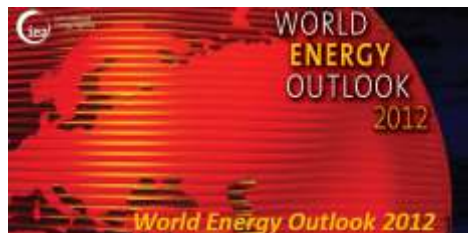
The EU-funded EUCARINET Project which aims to strengthen bi-regional sustainable policy dialogue on science and technology between Europe and the Caribbean collaborated with the IDB funded Caribbean Sustainable Energy Roadmap and Strategy (C-SERMS) Project to host a One Day Regional Workshop on Capacity Building in Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) related to Sustainable Energy in November 2012 in Guyana. Participants included researchers and energy project developers who examined mechanisms for overcoming barriers to implementing energy RDI projects.

In April 2013, the Annual Meeting and Thematic Priority Setting on Renewable Energies will be held in the Caribbean. The venue is being finalized.

The Energy Unit proposes to commence a brief bi-monthly newsletter (at the end of January 2013), for the recently established network of RE Researches and Capacity Building experts in the Caribbean, to enhance information sharing among the group.

WORLD ENERGY OUTLOOK REPORT 2012: SOME EXCERPTS

The International Energy Agency (IEA) published in November 2012, the 2012 edition of the World Energy Outlook, which shows projections for global energy to the year 2035, based on various scenarios of policy interventions.



According to the Report, based on projections to the year 2035, “Taking all new developments and policies into account, the world is still failing to put the global energy system onto a more sustainable path”. The IEA's New Policies Scenario, (which is a central scenario, developed in the analyses) shows that “several fundamental trends persist: energy demand and CO² emissions rise ever higher; energy market dynamics are increasingly determined by emerging economies; fossil fuels remain the dominant energy sources; and providing universal energy access to the world's poor continues to be an elusive goal”.

“Energy demand and CO² emissions rise ever higher in the New Policies Scenario. Global energy demand increases by over one third in the period to 2035. Energy related CO² emissions rise from an estimated 31.2 Gt in 2011 to 37.0 Gt in 2035, pointing to a long term average temperature increase of 3.6 °C”.

“In the Efficient World Scenario, energy related CO² emissions peak before 2020 and decline to 30.5 Gt in 2035, pointing to a long term average temperature increase of 3°C. The rapid deployment of energy efficient technologies can delay the complete “lock-in” of CO² emissions permitted for a 2 °C trajectory, which is set to happen in 2017 in the New Policies Scenario until 2022, buying five extra years to reach a global climate agreement. In addition to energy efficiency, however, low-carbon technologies will be needed to achieve the 2°C goal. In the Efficient World Scenario, emissions of local pollutants are also cut sharply, bringing environmental and health benefits to China and India in particular.”

REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR FINANCIERS: FINANCING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY IN THE CARIBBEAN

The Organization of American States (OAS), the Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme (CREDP-GIZ) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Secretariat in collaboration with the Caribbean Confederation of Credit Unions (CCCU) co-hosted a consultation and workshop for financiers under the theme *Financing Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean* from 26-27 November 2012 at the Blue Hotel in Rodney Bay, Saint Lucia. The Workshop was hosted under the umbrella of the EU-funded Caribbean Sustainable Energy Program (CSEP) and Eastern Caribbean Energy Labeling (ECEL) Projects.

The one and a half days workshop

was led by Mr. Sean Flannery and Mrs. Christina Becker-Birck from IFOK and Meister Consultants Group (MCG) and was attended by Chief Executive Officers, General Managers and senior financiers from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Martinique, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Inter alia, the financing landscape and barriers in the Caribbean, the available options for financial institutions to further



Participants at the Workshop

support energy development and lending capabilities in sustainable energy, were discussed. The Consultants also presented sustainable energy financing cases studies and facilitated working sessions for financiers to sustainable energy loan products for their institution.

CREDP-GIZ PROJECT-

makes strides in implementing RE infrastructure projects in Caribbean



The second phase of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) funded Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme (CREDP-GIZ), based in



22 kWp PV Installation on CNE Building

Saint Lucia, is the remaining component of the original programme which commenced in 2004. Its United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) financed component which was executed by the CARICOM Secretariat concluded in 2009.

The CREDP-GIZ is being executed in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat under a respective Framework Agreement. This second phase, originally scheduled to run from April 2008 to March 2012, was extended until the end of 2013, thanks to injections of resources in amount of €0.75 Million from Government of Germany and €0.7 Million from Austrian Government (ADA) and the European Union (EU) financed Eastern Caribbean Energy Efficiency Project (ECELP Website: www.ECELP.org).

Over the years, CREDP-GIZ has been engaged in various technical assistance activities towards overcoming barriers for renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) implementation through adequate policy framework, capacity and awareness building, and institutional strengthening. The applied model of execution foresees that Member States' requests are routed through the CARICOM Secretariat.

Hydropower development is one of the

key RE resources in CARICOM given its ability to provide base-load power and in some cases even peak power. This is foremost relevant to Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Amongst others, CREDP-GIZ has been supporting the rehabilitation of two existing hydropower plants and another 1 MW plant in St. Vincent and the Grenadines; development of the 220 kW Newtown hydropower plant in



Mr. Sven Homscheid
Hydropower Expert

Dominica; and the identification and development of the 330 kW hydropower plant and irrigation scheme in K a t o , Guyana.



Mr. Thomas Scheutzlich
Principal Advisor, CREDP/GIZ

Under CREDP-GIZ, services have been available to governments and other entities for the identification, study and implementation, including backstopping support for independent appraisals and project review of hydropower projects through its long-term international hydropower expert and technical advisor, Sven Homscheid. Requests for support can be made through the CARICOM Secretariat.

Based on requests from Member States for visible installations and demonstrations, a number have been implemented through CREDP/GIZ in the recent past. Some of these are:

- A grid connected 8.5 kWp PV system at the Guyana Energy Agency's Headquarters in Guyana, financed under ADA;
- A grid connected 25 kWp solar photovoltaic demonstration project at the Ministry of Education and Tourism in Antigua and Barbuda, financed by ADA. This was also pursued as part of the implementation of the UNDP funded I-SEAPS Project executed by the CARICOM Secretariat;
- Co-financing of a commercial scale solar hot water system for the rebuilt St. Jude Hospital in Saint Lucia, financed under ADA and with CREDP/GIZ's own funds.

Additionally, CREDP-GIZ provided support to technical colleges in St. Vincent and Grenada which have commenced courses to train photovoltaic installers and have received laboratory equipment and teaching materials financed by ADA through CREDP/GIZ.



South River Hydro Project,
St. Vincent & the Grenadines



8.6 kWp Solar PV Installation at Guyana Energy Agency, Guyana

For more information on the CREDP-GIZ Project, visit: www.credp-giz.org

PETROLEUM and GAS BRIEFS

New Gas Finds in Trinidad and Tobago: The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has welcomed an announcement by BP Trinidad and Tobago (BPTT) that it has made an estimated one trillion cubic feet natural gas discovery off the island's southeast coast. Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar said it is BP's largest discovery in Trinidad in seven years and the largest discovery of natural gas since 2007. It is the third major discovery of oil and gas in Trinidad in 2012. BPTT is the largest producer of natural gas in Trinidad. It is estimated that one trillion cubic feet of gas produces enough energy to power approximately one million homes for 15 years (CMC).

The Bahamas: Bahamas does not produce oil or gas but has had a long history of oil exploration, with the drilling of five deep exploration wells onshore or in Bahamian waters over the past 60 years, the last being in 1986. Although commercial production did not follow, some had oil shows and experts believe that there are large quantities of petroleum deposits under the seabed.

In 2006, the Bahamas Petroleum Company (BPC) was awarded new exploration licenses and had been conducting geophysical research in the following years. However, following the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill in 2010, the Government declared a moratorium on exploration and suspended all further licences and renewals. BPC's proposal to drill an exploratory well in the first quarter of 2013 will have to await the outcome of a proposed oil referendum and the establishment of a regulatory regime for the industry set for first half of 2013.

Barbados: The Barbados National Oil Company (BNOC) undertook a development drilling programme which started in October 2011 and ended in March 2012, where seven development wells were sunken. Petroleum output for Barbados remains at 850-900 bpd and should approach 1,000 bpd when existing wells that had to be taken off production to facilitate the programme are returned (Energy Caribbean YB12/13).

Belize: Oil production slipped from 5,000 bpd in 2009 to around 4,000 bpd at present, despite recent discoveries. This is expected to return to the previous output level based on an aggressive programme line up. In the interim, proposed offshore drilling has been put on hold pending a promised referendum on the matter by the Government, in the wake of opposition to offshore drilling by environmental groups.

Grenada: Grenada does not produce oil or gas, but the Government has signaled its intent to explore for hydrocarbons. The Governments of Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago in September signed a framework agreement for cooperation in energy sector development. This agreement which specifically mentions the possibility of "cross border reservoirs, also speaks to implementing joint development plans or unitizing hydrocarbon reservoirs existing in the respective continental shelves of Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada. (Energy Caribbean, No.64)

Guyana: Guyana resumed offshore exploratory drilling in 2012 for the first time after twelve years. The previous efforts were interrupted by a maritime boundary dispute between Guyana and Suriname which was settled in 2007. The two areas being explored are the Corentyne acreage and the Georgetown block which, based on geophysical research and projections, have led to heightened expectations that hydrocarbons in commercial quantities will be identified soon.

Jamaica: Jamaica continues its offshore oil and gas exploration programme but the contracts of two of the three companies and a joint venture partnership, have been revoked for various reasons. Against the backdrop of the Government of Jamaica's keen interest in seeing exploratory wells being drilled, the Minister with responsibility for energy has noted that "we are not going to allow any company to hold on to any of these licences anymore without drilling.... we have to send a strong signal to the marketplace that we mean business" (Energy Caribbean No 64).

Suriname: Staatsolie, Suriname's national oil company is pursuing a constant drilling programme with the sinking of fifty on-shore exploration wells in 2012. Offshore drilling in blocks which have been assigned is not expected to begin before 2014. The country now produces approximately 16,000 bpd and has an existing inventory of about 80 million barrels of proven reserves.

Some Upcoming SE Events

1. Forty-First Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) on Energy, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 27 February – 1 March 2013
2. Third Session of the IRENA General Assembly, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 13-14 January 2013
3. World Future Energy Summit 2013, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 15-17 January 2013
4. Abu Dhabi International Renewable Energy Conference (ADIREC), Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 15-17 January 2013
5. Platts 13th Annual Caribbean Energy Conference, Nassau, Bahamas, 24-25 January 2013
6. Trinidad and Tobago Energy Conference 2013, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 28-30 January 2013
7. Second C-SERMS Platform Meeting (via videoconference), 1 February 2013
8. SIDS DOCKS Coordinators Meeting, Saint Lucia, 4-7 March 2013
9. 12th World Wind Energy Conference and Renewable Energy Exhibition, Havana, Cuba, 3-5 June 2013

Disclaimer

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