

Introduction: *The readers of the CC-Energy Newsletter would have noticed the absence of the Issue 15 (period April-June 2013). This Issue is therefore designated Issues 15 and 16 covering the period April-September 2013.*

VIEWPOINT

CONNECTING THE DOTS

As we reflect on the last two quarters, it is fair to say that some key topical issues (not necessarily in order of importance) which have appropriately engaged CARICOM policy makers have been: *(i) the urgent need for stimulating economic growth; (ii) the matter of the impact of graduation on the availability of development assistance (ii) high external debt burden, and, (iv) post 2015 development agenda.* Brief comments on the link between energy and the aforementioned issues, and how transitioning the energy sector can positively impact same are provided.



Programme Manager, Energy
Joseph Williams

The focus of the CARICOM Energy Policy is primarily about the needed energy transition in the Region. It seeks to promote transformation of the energy sector to a driver for increased economic competitiveness and improved quality of life for all CARICOM citizenry. It therefore is a relevant part of the armoury for confronting the said issues.

On the issue of **energy and economic growth**, the link is obvious, as energy forms a key input to all economic activities. According to the world Bank (Report: Mitigating vulnerability to . . . oil prices) the negative macroeconomic effect from higher oil prices in Caribbean is 4 times greater than countries in south America, and 30% worse than Central American countries. Further, every US\$10 increase in the price of oil costs 3.5 US cents per KWh (In Jamaica for example, an additional 1 US cent per KWh translates to billions of J\$ per annum cost to that economy). The lesson is that even a 10% shift in the energy supply or consumption through fuel substitution or energy efficiency improvement can yield huge savings to the national economies and result in significant contribution towards growth.

On **the matter of the impact of graduation on development assistance finance** for CARICOM countries, it is considered that the availability of climate financing which can benefit energy sector transition, is less likely linked to issue of graduation. While the region continues its advocacy for more equitable approaches, it appears that that there may be an opportunity to reposition many of our development challenges in the context of climate resilience, to take advantage of funding available under the Climate Finance umbrella for energy sector transformation objectives.

The external debt for most CARICOM countries is increasingly an energy debt, in this regard, comments made earlier in relation to the potential for a small shift towards substitutions (on the supply side) and improved efficiency (on the demand side) yielding big impact are relevant here.

On the **matter of the post 2015 development Agenda**, it is considered that there may be an opportunity for an incorporation of SIDS' energy transition objectives as part of the climate resilience and poverty reduction objectives, given that the energy situation in SIDS linked to their common characteristics, has been long been identified as a binding constraint.

It is therefore considered that efforts towards energy sector transformation in CARICOM are germane to overcoming the current challenges.



CARICOM Energy Week 2013 is here!!

Once again it is time for the staging of another CARICOM Energy Week (CEW). CEW 2013 will be celebrated from 10-16 November 2013, under the theme is **“A Secure and Sustainable Energy Future Begins Now!”** The official launch will take place in Trinidad and Tobago on 11 October 2013.

CEW was established in 2011 as an annual Community event, aimed at sensitising and building awareness about the importance of energy to sustainable development. It also seeks to highlight the important role of the citizenry in contributing to greater efficiency of use, inter alia, through exercising options for clean, renewable and low carbon forms of energy.

During CEW 2013, CARICOM Member States will simultaneously stage National Energy Weeks under themes linked to the general theme. Energy Week activities in Member States are being supported by CARICOM Secretariat under the CARICOM-GIZ Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (REETA) Project. At the regional level, the CARICOM Secretariat will stage a Live Panel Discussion on topical energy issues which will be simulcast via the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) in all Member States. CEW 2013 Coordinator at the CARICOM Secretariat, Ms Ingrid Sarabo, can be contacted for details on the support being made available for National Energy Week activities at isarabo@caricom.org.

CARICOM Secretariat welcomes Dr. Andreas Taeuber, Project Leader for the CARICOM GIZ Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Technical Assistance (REETA) Project

Dr. Andreas Taeuber was appointed in August 2013 and is based at the Energy Unit at the CARICOM Secretariat in Georgetown, Guyana.

Prior to this appointment, Dr. Taeuber served as the Deputy Head of Division “Sustainability and Climate Protection” in Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Germany. He has in excess of fifteen years working experience in the area of sustainable energy and specialises in Climate Policy, Energy Efficiency, and Renewable Energy Economy.



Dr Andreas Taeuber

As Project Leader, Dr. Taeuber will work jointly with the Programme Manager, Energy at the CARICOM Secretariat, to implement the REETA Project. The four-year REETA Project has a budget of €4.5 Million and will focus on: *Capacity-Building, Private Sector Cooperation and Regional Institutional Support*. Project activities have commenced based on an endorsement of its areas of focus by Forty-First Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) on Energy held in Trinidad and Tobago in March 2013. However, a detailed programme of activities will be developed and finalised with CARICOM Member States at the **Launch and Operations and Planning Meeting scheduled for 4-5 December 2013 in Georgetown, Guyana.**

Geothermal Partner's Forum Held in DOMINICA in September 2013: Declared Big Success



**Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister,
Commonwealth of Dominica, addressing the Forum**

In September 2013, the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica staged a two-day Geothermal Partners Forum with aim of building awareness about its geothermal development, and sharing critical information with development Partners and potential investors, as well as, among citizenry. ***The key note address at the Forum was delivered by the Hon. Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister, Commonwealth of Dominica.*** The Minister with responsibility for Energy of Dominica, the Hon. Rayburn Blackmoore also addressed the gathering. He underscored the importance of geothermal energy to the economy of Dominica. He noted that 70% of the energy used in the country was fossil fuel and 30% was hydro. He noted that geothermal energy could achieve a reduction in

consumers' electricity bills of approximately 30%. He expressed gratitude to all those who had contributed to the geothermal development in Dominica to date.

In his address, the Prime Minister pointed out that seemingly insurmountable barriers to development could be overcome when countries and multilateral partners come together rather than act in their own mutual interest. He cited the highly positive results of a project that brought together the European Union, the Agence Francaise de Developpement and the Government of Dominica.

A number of development partners such as, the European Union and Iceland made contributions and lauded the Government for the progress made, and also for the approach taken in the development.



The CARICOM Secretariat represented by its Programme Manager, Energy also participated in the Forum and delivered Remarks on behalf of the Secretary-General who was unavoidably absent. He highlighted the importance of the development as a lighthouse project for the sub-region and noted that the targets for RE in CARICOM assume successful implementation over the short to medium term. The Secretariat also provided limited support for the Forum. The CARICOM Secretariat congratulated the Government of Dominica and all the Partners supporting the development on the progress made.

Commissioning of the Solar Photovoltaic Plant at the Government Complex in Antigua



2nd L-R: Dr. Dunja Hoffman (GIZ); Hon. Baldwin Spencer (Prime Minister), Amb. Brian Challenger and Mr. Girvan Pigott

In August 2013, a 25kW Solar PV demonstration plant was commissioned at the Government Headquarters Complex at the Ministry of Tourism in Antigua and Barbuda. This Project is part of the Strategy to **Increase Sustainable Energy Awareness in the Public Sector (ISEAPS)** through the installation of demonstration plants in high visibility public sector buildings. An energy audit of the complex was conducted by the CARICOM Secretariat and the subsequent installation of the PV equipment supported by CREDP-GIZ with resources provided by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

The Hon. Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda commissioned the plant. Officials of the Government and GIZ, and members of the media and the public were on hand to witness the commissioning. Remarks from the CARICOM Secretariat which, inter alia, congratulated the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, were read by Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ms. Paula Frederick-Hunte, as it was not feasible for Secretariat to be represented at the event. The CARICOM Secretariat thanks the Governments of Germany and Austria for the funding provided and also extends thanks and congratulations to Amb. Brian Challenger and Mr. Girvan Pigott who played an instrumental role in coordinating the installation despite the very tight schedule.

OCTOBER 2013 is 40th Anniversary of the Beginning of World's First Oil Crisis

and the beginning of the energy security challenge for most CARICOM countries. In the wake of the oil embargo declared by members of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries or the OAPEC (consisting of the Arab members of OPEC, Egypt, Syria and Tunisia) in October 1973. Caribbean countries responded by seeking to promote energy conservation and alternative energy. It has been argued that forty years on, little or no progress has been made in transitioning the heavily oil import dependent territories to being less dependent on imports. During the last 5 years, however, there have been significant efforts to change the status quo. Further, at a regional level, the C-SERMS framework as part of the Regional Energy Policy framework has been designed to ensure that a more strategic, consistent approach is taken toward achieving the changed landscape.

CARICOM Officials Participate in Study Tour to Germany from 22-28 September 2013

A group of nine energy and environment representatives of the Caribbean Community participated in a one week - 21/22 Sept to 28/29 Sept - visit to Germany, compliments of the German Federal Foreign Office Visitors Programme.



The participants engaged in a series of discussions with Officials from the German Federal Office, the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, the German Emissions Trading Authority and the Federal association

of Solar Industry which provided insight into the evolution of energy, climate and environmental policies of Germany and the tremendous progress made towards a Green Economy through the implementation of those policies.

In addition, the group visited – a small village completely powered by a combination of renewable energy sources - wind, solar and biomass, a research and development site that focuses on developing energy storage systems and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research with a focus on global climate change and its ecological, economic and social consequences.

The Study Tour was expertly planned and managed on behalf of the Federal Foreign Office by the Goethe Institut, a non-profit German cultural association that promotes education and cultural exchange. The representatives of the Goethe Institut ensured that the participants benefited from the most informative exchanges that established important contacts and set the stage for significant partnerships in the near future.

CARICOM Secretariat and Caribbean Energy Information System (CEIS) Discuss Closer Collaboration on Energy Information Support in the Implementation of CARICOM Energy Policy

Based on a mandate from the 41st Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) on Energy held in Trinidad and Tobago, March 2013, the CARICOM Secretariat has engaged the Caribbean Energy Information System (CEIS) towards collaboration in arriving at an improved approach to the sharing of energy information by the latter in support of the implementation of the Regional Energy Policy and C-SERMS. In April 2013, officials of the CARICOM Secretariat and CEIS engaged in a teleconference meeting and a workable approach was agreed on. To this end, the Energy Unit has since developed and submitted a proposal, for consideration by CEIS.

Participants: Front row L-R: Mr. B. Brown (OECS Secretariat); Dr. U. Trotz (CCCCC); Mr. W. Hinds (Energy Ministry – Barbados); 2nd row from front L-R: Mr. R. Oliver (Energy Ministry – Trinidad and Tobago; Dr. Alwin Hales (Ministry of Water et al - Jamaica); 3rd row from front L-R: Dr. Peter Ruddock (PCJ – Jamaica); Dr. Ruth Potopsingh (UTECH – Jamaica); Back row L-R: Ms. Ingrid Sarabo (CARICOM Secretariat); Mr. Roger Chang (JSEA – Jamaica)



C-SERMS Framework Hailed as International Best Practice by the IDB

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) representative, speaking at the Third Forum on Donor Coordination and Aid Effectiveness hosted by the CARICOM Secretariat in Georgetown, Guyana on 31 July 2013, hailed the establishment of the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Roadmap and Strategy (C-SERMS) framework by the CARICOM Secretariat as an international best practice.

The C-SERMS seeks to provide a planning, management and implementation framework for the renewable energy and energy efficiency dimensions of the Regional Energy Policy utilising an evidenced based approach, while also seeking to ensure that a more sustained regional focus is taken towards the development of RE and EE in CARICOM. RE and EE development are key dimensions for countries seeking to transition their energy systems to being more secure and sustainable. This applies to all countries of the Community and can in the long run address issues such as, affordable and stable energy costs, over dependence on imported fuels, sustainability of supplies, and increased energy access.

CREDP-GIZ Project Appraisal Workshop Held in Saint Lucia on 4 - 5 September 2013

The Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme (CREDP/GIZ) Project, based in Saint Lucia, is the remaining component of original programme (the other being UNDP) which commenced in 2004. This second phase (CREDP/GIZ Phase II) which has been in progress since April 2008 has been extended until December 2013.

The Project which is being implemented in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat under an Implementation Agreement between the CARICOM Secretariat and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), seeks to overcome the barriers to Renewable Energy Policy, Capacity, Awareness and Finance. It is being executed under the auspices of the CARICOM Energy Unit. The modality of execution of the CREDP-GIZ Project has provided a flexible approach for technical assistance support to participating Member States.



Mr. Thomas Scheutzlich of CREDP/GIZ and Dr. Dunja Hoffmann of GIZ during the Evaluation Mission

In September 2013, a GIZ Mission conducted a Project Appraisal exercise which concluded with a two-day workshop in Saint Lucia. Participants of the Workshop included representatives from the CARICOM and OECS Secretariats, CARILEC, CDB, as well as, Government officials. The initial findings, inter alia, based on the Project's performance indicators show that Project has made significant impact in overcoming the barriers to the use of renewable energy in the Caribbean in the target areas.

Proposed extension for CREDP/GIZ Phase II: Arising from discussions between the CREDP/GIZ Appraisal Mission and the CARICOM Secretariat, a proposal for a further extension to the CREDP/GIZ Project beyond December 2013 is being contemplated. This proposal will be discussed by Member States.

C-SERMS Resource Mobilization Forum was held in July 2013 in Barbados

as a final activity under the C-SERMS Phase I Project funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The keynote address was delivered by Minister with responsibility for Energy in Barbados, Senator the Hon. Darcy Boyce. Other speakers at the event included, H.E. Mr. Stefan Schlüter, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Port of Spain and Mr. Christiaan Gischler, Senior Energy Specialist, IDB.



Sen. the Hon. Darcy Boyce, Minister with responsibility for Energy, Barbados delivering the key note address

In his keynote address, Sen. the Hon. Darcy Boyce stated that the targeted 29% renewable energy contribution to total electricity generation by 2029, as recommended by the fairly recent Sustainable Energy Framework for Barbados will be achieved much sooner, perhaps as early as 2017.

He also stated that international oil prices over the last few years and projections for the medium term have indicated that the days of cheap oil are over. He posited that the region's interest in this initiative will now be sustained, as evidenced by your presence and enthusiasm shown thus far in the pursuit of this initiative.

The IDB Representative commended the CARICOM Energy Programme for the efficient execution of the project within its timeframe and budget. He acknowledged the C-SERMS framework as a best practice and expressed the willingness of the Bank to seek to provide additional funding in collaboration with other Partners to support the second phase of the C-SERMS which targets implementation. Other Partners and organizations represented at the Forum included: Agencia de la GIZ Caribe Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Carbon War Room (CWR), Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme (CREDP/GIZ), Department for International Development (DFID Caribbean), Government of New Zealand, Government of Spain, United States Department of Energy (US DOE), Embassy of Spain, Embassy of the United States of America, Latin American Energy Organisation (OLADE), OAS Secretariat, OECS Secretariat, Inter-American Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme, and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Regional Collaboration Centre (UNFCCC RCC) and the University of the West Indies (UWI).

At the Forum, a range of project profiles were presented for funding. The Forum also received a presentation from Worldwatch Institute which was commended by the Programme Manager, Energy on the quality of work produced under the Project and for the methodology utilised for establishing RE targets for the Region. It was noted that CARICOM is the second region to have established regional energy targets, the first being the European Union.

The C-SERMS Phase I Project has concluded. The CARICOM Secretariat thanks the IDB for the grant funding provided and also the Project Manager, Sandra Britton, for her successful management of the Project towards achievement of its objectives.

Caribbean Leadership Participants Analyse CARICOM Energy Policy and Sustainable Development Issues



The Caribbean Leadership Project (CLP), funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD), Canada, aims to strengthen strategically the next generation of Caribbean men and women leaders to contribute more effectively to regional integration and economic growth.

As part of the programme participants consisting of senior government officials are challenged to tackle “**wicked problems**” defined as those which are difficult to grasp and change as you try to solve them; involve multiple stakeholders with different interests; include a tangled web of causes; and have no precedent for dealing with them and no apparent right answer.

Energy, in particular, sustainable energy and energy security were determined by the principals of the CLP as a priority ‘wicked problem’ affecting the Caribbean, and was assigned to two teams.

After months of exploring the issues, the participants were required to make presentation of their findings inclusive of their observations and recommendations, to panels of experts at a Forum held on July 24th, 2013 at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston, Jamaica. The teams assigned the energy problem were tasked with exploring the issues of energy sustainability and security in the Region including an analysis of the Regional Energy Policy. The expert energy panels included Mr. Joseph Williams Programme Manager, Energy, CARICOM Secretariat; Mr. Leonard Deane, Project Coordinator for the Sustainable Energy Technical Assistance (SETA) Project; Senator the Hon. Dr. James Fletcher, Minister with responsibility for Energy, Saint Lucia. Mr. Williams considered that the team, which had no previous experience or specific training in energy, had a good grasp of the issues and had done an excellent job of analysing the CARICOM Energy Policy. He, however, pointed out some of the specific challenges faced by countries making the transition towards a more sustainable energy pathway. He further challenged the participants to become advocates for sustainable energy in their territories.

Successful EUCARINET Policy Dialogue Workshop held in Georgetown Guyana

The First Bi-Regional Dialogue (Caribbean–EU) Workshop under the EUCARINET Project was hosted by the CARICOM Secretariat in conjunction with the consortium of Project Partners from Europe and Caribbean, in April 2013 at the CARICOM Secretariat Headquarters in Georgetown, Guyana.



The Bi-Regional dialogue focused on addressing long-term strategies to strengthen existing cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) between Europe and the Caribbean, starting with the knowledge base of the EUCARINET Project. The Workshop also considered the recommendations of a Strategy Paper on Science Technology and Innovation in the Caribbean, developed under the Project. More specifically, it sought to identify the best means of integrating the outputs of the EU-CARINET Project into policy and strategic frameworks for STI, in order to establish sustainability of the long term benefits of STI development in the Caribbean.

Participants in Workshop called for increased investments in Science Technology and Innovation (STI) in the Region and recommended, inter alia, that a focal point for STI be established at the CARICOM Secretariat to coordinate STI related efforts in the Region.

The EUCARINET Project covers Science Technology and Innovation within the thematic areas of Bio-economy and Food Security, ICT, Energy and Health.

Quarterly Regional Sustainable Energy Partners (RSEP) Coordination (virtual) Meeting held 30 September 2013

The Fifth Quarterly Regional Sustainable Energy Meeting was held on 30 September using a virtual platform. The RSEP seeks to encourage dialogue among all development Partners and organizations involved in regional level sustainable energy initiatives/Projects in CARICOM.

The Meetings are chaired by the CARICOM Secretariat which leads the way in indicating the key objectives, activities and calendar of events for the upcoming quarter followed by each partner providing such information updates on initiatives in which they are involved. The Meeting also seeks to rationalize objectives and dates.

At the Meeting held 30 September, two new participants were welcomed, viz, representatives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Regional Collaboration Centre (UNFCCC RCC) based in Grenada and Clean Energy Solutions.

CAPRI hosts Renewable Energy Forum in Jamaica



The Caribbean Policy Research Institute is executing a renewable energy (RE) Project aimed at supporting renewable energy policy frameworks as well as investments for renewable energy in Region. Much progress has been made, and in July 2013, CAPRI hosted a RE Forum at the UWI Mona Campus which attracted the

participation of wide cross section of persons. It was concluded that through the Project and beyond, CAPRI has an important role to play in support of RE development in the region.



Mr. Joseph Williams, Programme Manager – Energy, CARICOM Secretariat delivering remarks.

At the forum, Hilary Alexander, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining, Jamaica, pointed out that collaboration in the context of the research serves to further facilitate the exchange of information between stakeholders, adding that “much of what we do and what we've accomplished has been due to partnership”. According to Dr. Suzanne Shaw, CaPRI's Renewable Energy Programme Manager, what they are trying to do “is on one hand influence policies in Caribbean countries to create an enabling environment to allow renewable energy to emerge and occupy the place that it can occupy as an economic alternative to conventional energy sources”. CARICOM Energy Programme Manager, Mr. Joseph Williams highlighted the critical role of the outputs of the project as part of regional strategy.



The OAS Executed CSEP Project Successfully Concludes

The Department of Sustainable Development of the Organisation of American States (OAS/DSD), and the Delegation of the European Union to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean hosted a Closing Meeting of the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Program (CSEP) in Barbados in September 2013. The objective of the meeting was to present the results achieved by the CSEP during its 54 months of implementation. At the meeting, participating regional agencies, multilateral development organizations and bilateral donors discussed emerging energy trends and challenges in the region, and explored networking and partnership opportunities.

The Report, Agenda, presentations and list of delegates of the meeting can be accessed at <http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/Energy/CSEPconference6.asp>.

CARILEC/World Bank Regulatory Forum - Regulators, Consumer Advocates and CEO's of Electric Utilities



CARILEC's Executive Director, Ms. Allison Jean delivering her Remarks

Some Ministers of Energy, regulators, consumer advocates and CEO's of Electric Utilities met in Barbados on Monday, 16 September 2013 to discuss issues relating to the regulatory regime in the region. The Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation (CARILEC) Regulatory Forum was declared open by Senator the Hon. Darcy Boyce, Minister with responsibility for Energy in the Office of the Prime Minister of Barbados, and included presentations from regional and international experts, as well as, panel discussions on issues relating to the current and future regulatory environment.

Immediately following the Regulatory Forum, CARILEC hosted a Renewable Energy Conference on 17-18 September 2013 at the same venue, which sought to explore deeper insights on alternative sources of power generation and grid integration.

Executive Director of CARILEC, Allison Jean, observed that it was heartening that several countries in the region had already commenced implementation of various renewable energy sources, such as geothermal, solar photovoltaic, wind energy and hydropower. Jean noted that, "The potential of the Caribbean in renewal energy is strong but we must be cognizant of the economic security and reliability".

CARILEC recognizes the benefits of changes in the power sector, in particular, changes in regulatory frameworks, introduction of Independent Power Producers, new technologies, introduction of regulatory entities and increased penetration of renewable energy technologies.



Participants at the forum

CARICOM AND IRENA ADVANCE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



The CARICOM Secretariat based on a mandate from the Forty-First Special Meeting of the COTED (Energy) held in March 2013 has pursued the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) for increased cooperation and support.

The Draft MoU has been reviewed by both parties and is expected to be finalised and signed shortly. IRENA has signalled its willingness to consider support for the staging of the biennial Regional sustainable energy Forum hosted by CARICOM Secretariat, the Fourth Caribbean Sustainable Energy Forum (CSEF IV) slated for March 2014.

Discussions Towards Reviving Regional Bioenergy Strategy Commence

The establishment a Regional Bio-energy Strategy is one of the key strategies identified for the development and execution of the C-SERMS Framework. The idea of a Regional Bio-energy strategy has been discussed in CARICOM since 2006, when it was kick-started by a regional study supported by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and promoted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Organisation of American States (OAS). It is envisaged that Guyana, Belize and Suriname would play key roles in this initiative.



Although there has been limited progress on this initiative, the critical importance of the Bioenergy resource towards the sustainable energy transition in CARICOM remains. To this end, Bio-energy, in particular bio-fuels, has been identified as playing a key role in fuel substitution for the transportation sector.

Against this background, in July 2013, the CARICOM Secretariat engaged key actors in the bioenergy sector in Guyana, viz, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Guyana Energy Agency, the National Agricultural, Research and Extension Institute and the Ministry of Natural Resources on Bioenergy development in Guyana and the restarted efforts for a regional approach. In general, it was concluded that Guyana continues to make progress in the area of Bio-energy with developments led by a National Bio-energy Committee, and remains open to playing a key role in the development of a regional strategy.

Establishment of Regional Renewable Energy Research Centre advanced in Trinidad and Tobago



The Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago greets U.S. Vice President Joe Biden

A Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate cooperation on scientific, technical and policy aspects of energy efficiency and clean energy technologies through the exchange of ideas and information was signed between Trinidad and Tobago and the United States Department of Energy.

According to Prime Minister of the Twin Island Republic, the Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar, “Energy security interdependence is a critical issue for Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member States. These issues are of particular importance given the high cost of fossil fuels and the deleterious impact on the national budgets of many of our countries, who, over the past five years are struggling to cope with the effects of the international, financial and economic crises.”

The MOU falls within the framework of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) and seeks to foster green initiatives within Trinidad and Tobago and the CARICOM region.

BAHAMIAN EDUCATORS LEARN EFFECTIVE METHODS TO TEACH SUSTAINABLE ENERGY LESSONS



Teachers attended a two-day workshop entitled 'Sustainable Energy for Caribbean Education in The Bahamas' and constructed models of wind turbines. In the photo a Mr. Keith Etheridge, Kidwind Workshop Facilitator (Back row, centre); Mrs. Barbara Dorsett, Education Officer for Primary Science (Back row, fourth from right) and Ms. Louise Barry, Education Officer for High School Science (Back row, first from right) with teachers from various schools.

secondary schools from Abaco, Andros, Inagua and the New Providence areas.

During the workshop, educators reviewed the science behind renewable energy, energy conservation and increased their capacity to effectively prepare student-centred lessons on these topics in the national science curriculum. Teachers who attended the workshop learnt about current technologies and advances in science from experts in the field, and were also provided with lessons, ideas and materials to use during hands-on instruction in the classroom.

The workshop was partially funded by the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) Caribbean Initiative and implemented through the OAS's pilot program, the Caribbean Energy Education and Awareness Programme (CEEAP) under the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Program (CSEP) in close collaboration with the KidWind Project. The CARICOM Secretariat is a Partner in the CSEP Project executed by the OAS.

Master of Science in Renewable Energy Technology Commences at UWI St Augustine commences September 2013:

The University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus through its Physics Department in September 2013 commenced offering a MSc in RE Technology. This is the third such offering at the MSc Level in renewable energy at the UWI which has been established through support from the CARICOM Secretariat under the Caribbean Renewable Energy Capacity Support Project funded by the European Union. This is a welcomed development and the CARICOM Secretariat congratulates the UWI for its leadership and vision in this area.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum, Aruba, 9-11 October 2013**
2. **Conference on Energy Transition for the Caribbean, Martinique, 22-23 October 2013**
3. **Regional Meeting on Cleaner Fuels and More Efficient Vehicles: Reducing Emissions in the Caribbean, Jamaica, 4-5 November 2013**
4. **11th Annual OOCUR Conference, Belize, 6-8 November 2013**
5. **CARICOM Energy Week 2013, 10-16 November 2013**
6. **Forum and Training Workshop on Regional Energy Information, Jamaica, 19-22 November 2013**
7. **REETA Project Launch and Operational Planning Meeting, Georgetown, Guyana, 4-5 December 2013**
8. **Fourth Caribbean Sustainable Energy Forum (CSEF IV), March 2014**