



Energy and Climate Change Mitigation

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MINISTERS OF ENERGY OF THE AMERICAS TO MEET IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS THE REGION'S ENERGY AND CLIMATE AGENDA

The milestone event will advance common objectives under the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas with concrete programs that benefit the people of the region

In June 2009, high national authorities and experts on energy of Latin America and the Caribbean met at the Americas Energy and Climate Symposium held in Lima, Peru, to identify collaborative actions addressing the energy and climate challenges affecting the region. On that occasion, the U.S. Secretary of Energy called upon the ministers of energy to meet in Washington to take stock of progress made at the Symposium and at the Summit of the Americas held in Trinidad and Tobago.

At the Symposium, U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu said that "the nations of the Western Hemisphere have diverse capabilities and needs." "President Obama and I believe that, by sharing ideas, technical resources, and best practices, we can help solve some of our energy problems. Collaboration and cooperation are the keys to our shared success," Chu added.

The Energy and Climate Ministerial of the Americas will be held in Washington, DC, at the Inter-American

Development Bank on April 15, 2010, and at the Organization of American States the following day. US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will address the gathering.

The first day will enable meetings among representatives from government, civil society, industry, academia, and international financial institutions. On the second day, energy ministers will meet in private, closed-door sessions. Both days will serve to explore possible initiatives in energy efficiency, renewable energy, cleaner fossil fuels, energy infrastructure and energy poverty.

The countries of the Americas have been recurrently addressing the importance of energy and climate change. At the OAS General Assembly held in Panama in 2007, the countries issued the Declaration of



V Summit of the Americas, Trinidad and Tobago, April 2009

Panama on Energy for Sustainable Development. Said Declaration called for a Regional Energy Experts Meeting, which was held at the OAS headquarters in Washington in March 2008. Subsequently, a series of sub-regional meetings were held, which included the Lima Symposium. At the Summit of the Americas held in April 2009, the heads of state and government signed the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, which highlights the importance of promoting adequate and sustainable access to energy. The Energy Ministerial will provide the opportunity to move forward a clean energy agenda for the Americas.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP OF THE AMERICAS ANNOUNCES ENVOYS PROGRAM

The program will contribute to develop and expand efforts to foster clean energy in the region

ECPA announced the creation of the Envoys Program in support of capacity building efforts in the fields of renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean fossil fuels, and energy transmission in the Americas. The Envoys Program promotes the sharing of best practices and

expertise in research and development, and the design and implementation of clean energy programs.

Each of the countries participating in the Envoys Program will be asked to sponsor one or more clean energy technical experts from the academic, non-profit or private sector to be made available on a periodic basis as consultants in their area of expertise to other countries of the Americas. Governments that offer envoys will cover expenses for each one of

them for up to a certain number of technical assistance trips per year. The areas of expertise of the envoys will include renewable energy, energy efficiency, cleaner fossil fuels, energy poverty, and energy infrastructure. The envoys will provide advice on their areas of expertise to the governments, utilities, and other institutions upon mutual agreement by the participating countries. The Envoys Program encourages leadership in support of energy and climate cooperation.



ENERGY AND CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP OF THE AMERICAS WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The new Website provides information on multi-country initiatives that promote clean energy, advance energy security, fight energy poverty, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the Americas



Home page of ECPA's website at www.ecpamericas.org

At the Summit of the Americas held in Trinidad and Tobago in April 2009, the heads of state and government of the Americas stressed the importance of energy and climate change. To strengthen collaboration on these issues, U.S. President Obama invited the countries of the region to join in an Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA). President Obama said that "an Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas will help

us learn from one another, share technologies, leverage investment, and maximize our comparative advantage."

ECPA is a flexible mechanism through which the governments may lead multi-country initiatives to promote clean energy, advance energy security, fight energy poverty, and

reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Initiatives can be undertaken by any government on a voluntary basis, with countries having the ability to opt-in to those initiatives in which they have an interest. ECPA initiatives can include expertise from the private sector, civil society and academia, as well as the regional multilateral institutions.

Ultimately, ECPA seeks to foster partnerships across the Americas among government, industry,

and civil society to achieve low carbon economic growth and development.

Many governments have taken on a leading role in implementing ECPA by deepening existing partnerships and creating new initiatives. To date, this includes Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States. All governments are encouraged to join these efforts or propose new ECPA initiatives.

ECPA Clearinghouse

The Department of Sustainable Development (DSD), in its role as ECPA Clearinghouse, concentrates and disseminates the knowledge, experiences and best practices facilitated by the countries. To facilitate access to information on ECPA initiatives, the DSD launched a website. The Website is available at www.ecpamericas.org.

ENERGY STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION HELD IN ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

Consultation is a step forward towards the implementation of a sustainable national energy policy



Wind Turbines being erected at the Maddens Wind Farm in Nevis

St. Kitts and Nevis has been making great strides to improve the sustainability of its energy sector. For several years, the OAS has been accompanying this process by providing technical support to the promotion and deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

In March 2010, the OAS offered its assistance in the drafting of a

national energy policy for the twin-island nation. The Honorable Dr. Earl Asim Martin, Minister of Public Works, Utilities, Energy and Housing, welcomed this offer. The OAS met with key stakeholders including federal government officials, NGOs and private sector developers to gather their views on the prospective energy policy. The new energy policy is comprised of two sections. The first section is the national energy policy, which aims at increasing the sustainability of the sector. The core tenets of the policy include the increased use of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and systems. The second section is the energy action plan, which establishes quantifiable, mid to long-term targets.

St. Kitts and Nevis is rich in renewable energy resources. The nation

is negotiating a power purchase agreement for a 5.4MW wind farm to be erected on the island of St. Kitts. On the island of Nevis a 1.1MW wind farm is being erected and could be commissioned as early as June 2011. Additionally, the construction of a 10MW geothermal plant is planned for the third quarter of 2010. The Junior Minister for Natural Resources and the Environment of the Nevis Island Administration, Honorable Carlisle Powell, recently said that Nevis would play host to a number of persons and companies interested in deploying wind and geothermal projects. "I want to suggest that these projects are being viewed seriously by the rest of the Caribbean and that is one of the reasons why we continue to attract such attention," he said.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON PROSPECTIVE ENERGY POLICY HELD IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Policy will advance long-term energy sustainability, strengthen the nation's energy security

The office of the Prime Minister and the National Energy



Task Force, with the support from the OAS Department of Sustainable Development, held a multi-sector energy stakeholder consultation in St. John's on March 18, 2010. The consultation engaged public, private and civil society energy stakeholders in a public debate around the new energy policy that the government seeks to put in place. The energy policy will advance the sector's long-term sustainability while strengthening the nation's energy security. "The policy will give impetus to our efforts to further the use of alternatives energy sources", said the Honorable Winston Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda. "It will also cover national energy issues and provide green jobs in the renewable energy sector in Antigua and Barbuda" added Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer.

The National Energy Task Force was recently established for this purpose. Its primary role is to develop the National Energy Policy and facilitate its adoption by the Ministerial Cabinet. The Department of Sustainable Development is assisting the Energy Task Force in formulating the policy and conceiving a plan of action that brings its principles into fruition.

For more information about our activities or the events announced in this newsletter, visit our website at: www.sepa-americas.net This publication was prepared by the Division of Energy and Climate Change Mitigation of the Department of Sustainable Development of the Organization of American States www.oas.org/dsd