



Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas

ECPA



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GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA HOSTS MEETING OF THE ENERGY AND CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP OF THE AMERICAS
The meeting convened by the Secretariat of Energy of Panama and the Organization of American States, with support from the United States government, advances cooperation among countries to enhance sustainable energy and address critical challenges of climate change.

There is growing consensus among governments regarding the need to promote the uptake of renewable energy and advance energy efficiency and conservation policies. In early April 2011, representatives from over twenty countries of the Western Hemisphere met in Panama City to exchange views on key energy and climate issues confronting the region. The countries shared experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of national and multinational projects and programs. Representatives made suggestions for new initiatives to further advance these priorities in the region.

Panama's Secretary of Energy, Juan Manuel Urriola, noted "We must walk with the dynamic of the world. We cannot remain anchored. In this sense, we must walk with the pillars of ECPA, which many of our countries share." Secretary Urriola added that "ECPA shares ideas and policies with us, and helps us achieve them."

The Minister of Commerce and Industry of Panama, Roberto Henriquez, who spoke at the opening ceremony, highlighted that "The [ECPA] Partnership is

positioning energy and climate change among the most pressing issues by means of a multi-lateral coordination channel to achieve a future with clean energy resulting from the sharing of experiences, technologies and capital."



Panama's National Secretary of Energy, Juan Manuel Urriola, and OAS Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin at the ECPA meeting in Panama.

The Organization of American States (OAS) provides guidance in its capacity as ECPA's Clearinghouse, as countries of the Americas share best practices in the development and use of sustainable energy solutions, and toward addressing challenges of climate change. Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, Albert Ramdin, who addressed the event, observed

that the 21st century requires an energy revolution which "should be driven by the Americas to secure access to energy for economic growth with equity and social inclusion for our citizens." "A competitive and diversified energy portfolio is vital to the development of our domestic industries, for employment and sustainable economic growth," said Ramdin, who added that "renewable energy can contribute to poverty alleviation in particular during a time of high and unstable oil prices."

The energy and climate debate will be at the front and center of the presidential dialogue when Heads of State and Government meet in April 2012, in Cartagena de Indias, for the Sixth Summit of the Americas. The exchanges initiated under ECPA will provide support to these discussions.

At the conclusion of the event, Secretary Urriola noted "This event coincided with the approval of Panama's law of incentives for the promotion of wind energy and the restructuring of the National Energy Secretariat." The meeting proceedings are available at www.ecpamericas.org.

ECPA: BUILDING BRIDGES FOR A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE IN THE AMERICAS

The discourse on clean energy is becoming dominant worldwide as nations devise new ways to effectively respond to climate change and energy security challenges. In the Western Hemisphere, leaders and decision makers promote the adoption of policies that stimulate markets for low carbon technologies, businessmen and women eager for new ventures are deploying

plans to fill these newly created market niches, and successful stories featuring renewable energy abound in the media.

In Brazil, President Dilma Rousseff, who was Energy Minister in President Lula's administration, strongly supports the advancement of new alternative energy sources. In Peru, as part of the government's plan to tap alternative

sources of energy, three wind farms and three solar power plants will become operational in 2012, with a total capacity of 200 MW. In the United States, President Barack Obama says that clean energy "will lead the nation back to economic prosperity." ECPA was conceived to support these efforts.

ECPA fosters partnerships across the Americas to achieve

low carbon economic growth and development. It is a flexible mechanism through which governments, on a voluntary basis, may lead multi-country or bilateral initiatives focused on seven themes known as "pillars," which include energy efficiency, renewable energy, cleaner and more efficient use of fossil fuels, energy infrastructure, energy poverty, sustainable forests and (*Overleaf*)



Deep into the Amazon rainforest, São Pedro villagers rely on solar energy to power communications, the local telecenter, and a small community radio.

land use, and adaptation. The Organization of American States manages the Clearinghouse mechanism of ECPA.

Several governments are engaging in ECPA and promoting actions geared toward the advancement of low carbon economies. For example, Chile has established the Centro de Energías Renovables, which enables non-conventional, renewable energy projects by gathering and providing access

to energy data and best practices, offering technical assistance, and contributing to clean energy technologies research and development. In Peru, the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory is supporting the Ministry of Energy and Mines as it deploys an Energy Efficiency Center. The government of Costa Rica, partnering with the Natural Resources Defense Council, seeks to establish a similar center of its own. Under the auspices of ECPA, these centers scattered across the region will become regional resources available to all the countries in the Western Hemisphere.

In an effort to advance low carbon development across the Americas, the United States launched the Senior ECPA Fellows Program geared toward building the capacity of governments in clean energy, sustainable landscapes and climate change adaptation. The program consists of a cadre of technical experts from the academic, non-profit or private sector available as consultants or for speaking

engagements in their area of expertise to countries in the Western Hemisphere.

To enhance energy efficiency and conservation across the Americas, Mexico established the Energy Efficiency Working Group. Its purpose is to provide on-demand policy, regulatory, and technical advice and support in the advancement of energy efficiency and conservation frameworks, projects, and public information campaigns to the governments of the region.

In the Caribbean, ECPA is assisting governments in deploying renewable energy programs by providing legal and technical advice on clean energy projects. The small island nations of the Caribbean present a great potential for electricity interconnection. ECPA is fostering dialogue on sub-sea electrical interconnections that could significantly ameliorate energy security in small island states.

These are some examples of the work of ECPA across Latin America and the Caribbean region. Everyday, ECPA is

striving to find new ways to better serve the region's energy and climate challenges.



Wind is the fastest growing energy source in the world. In the mid 90s, the largest wind turbines were small compared to today's turbines generating 2 to 3 megawatts.

III CENTRAL AMERICA RENEWABLE ENERGY FORUM HELD IN NEW YORK CITY
Participants discussed models of successful energy policy and regulatory reforms to increase the deployment and integration of renewable energy in national and regional electricity markets.

Energy ministers and other senior officials from Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Nicaragua, the United States and the Central American Integration System (SICA) attended the event. Participants also included private companies investing in the region, as well as the OAS and World Bank, which provide policy, regulatory, and technical assistance to strengthen Central American energy sectors, promote clean energy, reduce energy poverty, and to advance electrical interconnection. Government officials commended the Central America's significant progress toward completing the interconnected transmission line among six Central American countries, Mexico and Guatemala. They noted that, while

Central America will soon be interconnected electrically, markets are not yet integrated and encouraged further progress in the power sector integration effort, including harmonizing national electricity regulations with those of the Central American regional power market.

CAREF brings together Central American energy ministers, representatives of Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and the United States, international organizations, development banks, and private companies to accelerate clean energy uptake in Central America. The first CAREF focused on innovation and occurred in Atlanta in November 2010. The second CAREF focused on finance and investment and occurred in Washington, D.C. in March 2011.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY IN THE CARIBBEAN: SIX TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS AWARDED

Announcement follows October 2010 meeting of the ECPA Caribbean Sustainable Energy Dialogue in The Bahamas.

Following through on her April 2010 invitation to Caribbean governments to join the ECPA Caribbean partnership administered by the OAS, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced that six Caribbean governments are to receive technical assistance grants to accelerate renewable energy development. The OAS received more than 20 proposals and selected the top six based on technical merit:

1. **Antigua and Barbuda:** Eco-Friendly Power Generation in the national parks to encourage the use of solar energy technologies.
2. **Dominica:** Solar Water Heating Awareness Initiative to encourage the use of solar water heaters in the residential, commercial and tourism sectors.
3. **Dominican Republic:** Pilot Solar PV System for Comisión

Nacional de la Energía (CNE) Headquarters, deployed in parallel with the utility grid to supply a portion of the CNE headquarter's electricity demand.

4. **Grenada:** Development of a Geothermal Resource Development Bill will provide legal assistance in drafting a Geothermal Resource Bill to advance preliminary assessments of constructing a small scale geothermal plant.
5. **Jamaica:** Wind Powered Irrigation Feasibility Assessment to evaluate the technical and financial feasibility of implementing wind power at pumping stations in the St. Elizabeth Parish.
6. **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:** Photovoltaic Project for the Administrative Building to fund a feasibility study of net-metering to promote the use of renewable energy.

