



Organization of
American States

**Consultation and Workshop for Financiers:
Financing Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean**

Welcome Remarks

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I. GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

**Senator the Honorable Dr. James Fletcher, Minister for the Public Service,
Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology.
Participants,
Good morning to everyone.**

**On behalf of the OAS General Secretariat in Saint Lucia, I bid you a warm
welcome. This Workshop provides an opportunity to examine the critical issue of
increasing accessibility and affordability of renewable energy and energy efficient
projects in the Caribbean. It aims to facilitate increased investment in these sectors
by financiers in the region.**

**This workshop takes place in the context of efforts by the OAS to enhance capacity
building in its Member States. Thus, a component of the European Union funded
project, the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Program (CSEP) will present options
available to financial institutions to further support energy development in the
Eastern Caribbean, by expanding their portfolios and lending capabilities in
sustainable energy.**

**During the workshop, consultants Mr. Sean Flannery and Ms. Christina Becker will
present a Guide that can serve as a primer for Caribbean financial institutions
interested in providing capital for sustainable energy projects. This guide also
provides policymakers, and other key participants in the market, with an overview
of current market barriers to sustainable energy technologies in the Caribbean.**

**Once our consultants have presented the draft Financiers' Guide to Sustainable
Energy Lending in the Caribbean, the Workshop's participants will have the
opportunity to exchange views, and to discuss the proposed elements of the guide.**

II. THE OAS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

I should emphasize that the importance of sustainable development, and of clean and renewable energy, have long been recognized by the OAS. The Organization's Department of Sustainable Development has conducted sterling work in these fields for well over fifty years. This Workshop certainly builds on these efforts. The workshop is related to other OAS programmes and activities to strengthen capacity building, and awareness of critical energy issues. We continue to provide tools and resources, and to promote dialogue, networking and exchange of information.

III. CONCLUSION

In the important task at hand, the OAS collaborates closely with other stakeholders, hence I take a moment to express heartfelt appreciation to our partners. The Caribbean Confederation of Credit Unions, The Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme, the Eastern Caribbean Energy Labeling Project (ECELP), and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) are co-hosting this workshop.

Our appreciation also to the consulting company IFOK, which conducted extensive research to produce the material to be presented at the workshop.

Finally, we are especially appreciative of the keen interest of the participating countries. Without your participation and enthusiasm CSEP would make little progress. We trust that you will find the workshop full of information of practical application to support financing of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

I conclude by reiterating the firm commitment of the OAS to all issues relating to sustainable development, which is fundamental to small developing island states. I wish you a productive workshop.

Thank you.

**GS/OAS/St. Lucia
November 26, 2012**