



Organization of
American States

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Workshop on Energy Efficiency for Appliances and Labeling: Challenges and Opportunities for the Region

Costa Rican Institute of Electricity (ICE)
June 7-9, 2016

Background:

Beginning in 2013, the Department of Sustainable Development (CSD) of the Organization of American States (OAS) in partnership with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) of the United States began its "Renewable Energy and Climate Science: Challenges in Metrology and Technology of the Americas (RECS)" project. This initiative seeks to support the development of measurement capabilities and standards associated with climate science, energy efficiency and renewable energy, in order to contribute to the development of energy policies and low carbon growth in the Americas. During the dialogues and workshops held in the five sub-regions of the Americas, the importance of measurement standards to support sustainable energy development was confirmed and regional-specific priorities were identified. The Central American (CA) region identified opportunities to improve the quality of measurement infrastructure for energy efficiency. Several countries in the region expressed interest in receiving technical support to develop and adopt internationally recognized norms and standards, enabling these states to utilize both established and nascent labeling programs for appliances and equipment.

One of the main objectives of the "Sustainable Energy for All" initiative launched in September 2011 by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is to increase the rate of energy efficiency improvement by 2030. *The economic impact of increasing energy efficiency is very clear: according to the United Nations, global monetary savings of \$250-325 billion by 2030 are possible if desired efficiency gains are realized. Similarly, a global annual investment of \$170 billion in energy efficiency could generate a return on investment of about 17 % and produce annual energy savings of \$900 billion¹.* Central America is a region with great potential for improving energy efficiency; however there are political, institutional and technical challenges to overcome to achieve sustainable and efficient development of energy resources. Central America needs to move towards clearer policies, establishing mechanisms to facilitate the penetration of efficient technologies and incentives to encourage private investment in energy efficiency. The effective implementation of programs and policies on energy efficiency will require greater cooperation and coordination at the inter-institutional level. From a science and technology perspective, the region lacks many requisite technical measurement capabilities for conformity. They also lack knowledge on how to advance the implementation of energy efficiency standards and labeling programs for equipment and appliances.

¹ UNF EE Fact Sheet, SG's Sustainable Energy for All Statement 2011. http://www.se4all.org/our-vision_our-objectives_energy-efficiency.



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The opportunities listed above have an even greater potential for success if they are regional in scope; SICA (Central American Integration System) is leading the regional strategy for a Sustainable Central America to 2020, which aims to ensure energy supply, in quality, quantity and diversity of all sources. In this context, RECS project is consistent with the goals of the CA energy strategy and intends to support the efforts of SICA to promote the rational and efficient use of energy and regional energy integration in Central America.

Finally, this activity will strengthen the technical capabilities of Central America and Dominican Republic to respond to the commitments adopted in the new international climate agreement, signed during the conference of Paris (COP21). An integral part of this process is the *Indented Nationally Determined Contributions INDCs*, which is the primary means for governments to communicate internationally the steps they will take to address climate change in their own countries². Additionally, it will contribute to the fulfillment of the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Workshop Goals:

1. To promote increased cooperation and coordination among technical bodies, regulators, accreditors, standards developers and other stakeholders in Central America (CA) and the Dominican Republic (DR), to increase effectiveness of programs and policies on energy efficiency.
2. To explore opportunities for regional cooperation in measuring compliance to advance the implementation of energy efficiency standards and labeling programs for equipment and appliance.
3. To increase the technical capacities of the main actors responsible for designing and implementing energy efficiency measures in equipment (motors, engines) and appliances (air conditioning, refrigerators, lighting), in CA and DR.
4. To create political awareness of the opportunities for energy efficiency, especially in the context of sustainable energy programs for all (SE4ALL), where the region has an international commitment to double its rate of increase in energy efficiency. This objective contributes directly to the fulfillment of global sustainable development goals of UN 2030.
5. To identify opportunities in the measurement area, specifically on the role of metrology institutes in the region to support the development of energy efficiency ratings (indexes) in CA and DR.
6. To explore opportunities for collaboration and coordination with national, regional, international and multilateral organizations implementing energy efficiency programs in the region.

² World Resource Institute. <http://www.wri.org/indc-definition>