



Organización de los Estados Americanos
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The Organization of American States and the Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining Co-hosted a Ceremony to Officially Launch Two Sustainable Biofuels Development Projects in Jamaica **Kingston, Jamaica, June 5, 2013**

The Organization of American States (OAS) and the Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining (MSTEM) convened a Ceremony to officially launch two sustainable biofuels development projects in Jamaica. These two initiatives are the result of the recommendations of the pre-feasibility study conducted with assistance from the United States State Department and the Government of Brazil under the umbrella of the US-Brazil MOU for the development of Biofuels in the Americas executed by the OAS Department of Sustainable Development.

The ceremony brought together high-level officials including Ambassador Antonio Da Costa E Silva from Brazil and Mr. Nathan Halat from the US Embassy in Jamaica, representatives from the government ministries, agencies and the private sector. In his remarks, Minister Phillip Paulwell from the Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining noted how pleased he is that Jamaica can take part in this initiative. The initiatives focus on energy security and diversification as a central goal to Jamaica's National Energy Policy and the importance of reducing its dependence on imported fossil fuels in the nation's future. He further mentioned how fortunate Jamaica is to have this opportunity as a developing nation in pursuit of economic growth, and to embrace improvements in climate change mitigation, rural development and energy security. The Minister added, "We can no longer depend on fossil fuels to meet our energy needs, not least because of the volatility in prices, geopolitical issues in oil rich nations, the contraction of the number of oil reserves, the seemingly ever-increasing cost and the impact on the environment".

Dr. Joan Neil, OAS Country Representative in Jamaica stated that the goal with these projects is to showcase the technical potential to produce biofuels in Jamaica in a sustainable sound environmental manner and without sacrificing profitability. She added "This present initiative is a phase II program that has been carefully custom-crafted over the past several months as a working collaboration among the OAS Department of Sustainable Development, the government of Jamaica through its Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining and two private sector partners at Everglades and Golden Grove to ensure an optimal fit that reflects the needs and realities of the Jamaican Energy Sector".

The Sustainable Life Cycle Analysis approach utilized by this project implies that everyone involved in the entire chain of a product's life cycle has a responsibility and a role to play, taking into account all the relevant impacts on the economy, the environment and society. An assessment of the state of the legal framework for biofuels development in Jamaica is needed in order to set a new legal agenda to resolve through the use of technical data, a proper and strong framework to guarantee sustainability of biofuels development and production in Jamaica.

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The Sustainable Biofuels Development in Jamaica projects are under the umbrella of the US/Brazil MOU initiative, led by the United States State Department and the Government of Brazil for the development of biofuels in the Americas, executed by the OAS Department of Sustainable Development. For additional information, please visit: <http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/>