



Organization of American States

Press Release

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RENEWABLE ENERGY INITIATIVE NOW UNDER OAS UNIT

The Unit for Sustainable Development and Environment, an arm of the Organization of American States (OAS), is now responsible for coordinating the Renewable Energy in the Americas (REIA) Initiative.

Making the announcement, the Unit's Director Richard Meganck stressed the OAS' commitment to promoting energy generation and consumption "in a manner that minimizes the impact on the environment, while benefiting the economy and quality of life throughout the hemisphere."

REIA was launched in 1992 by a consortium of U.S., Latin American, and Caribbean interests to advance sustainable solutions - particularly renewable energy and energy efficiency - for meeting the growing energy needs of the Hemisphere. It operated for a while under the purview of the U.S. Export Council for Renewable Energy and is based on the proposition that renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies can play an integral role in a new energy vision for the Hemisphere.

The Renewable Energy Initiative involves key stakeholders in the decision making process, among them governments, industry, non-government organizations, utilities, and the end-users who will bear the cost and derive the benefits of these technologies. REIA seeks to advance the contributions that renewable energy and energy efficiency can make in large-scale, grid-connected and smaller-scale rural electrification applications.

The Initiative provides for long-term hemispheric cooperation in renewable energy and energy efficiency. Among its objectives are: to encourage, support and facilitate replicable projects in Latin America and the Caribbean; build partnerships to accelerate the adoption of these technologies; develop innovative strategies (political, financial, and institutional) for expanding the use of sustainable energy solutions; and promote the use of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies in the context of the Clean Development Mechanism.

For more information on the REIA Initiative, please contact:

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