



Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas

Alianza de Energía y Clima de las Américas
Parceria em Energia e Clima das Américas
Partenariat des Amériques sur l'énergie et le climat

newsletter Clearinghouse

Volume 2, Issue 6

October 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

US and Colombia Host Leaders of the Americas to Pursue Universal Access to Electricity

Exchange Mission Mexico-El Salvador

IRENA-CARILEC Renewable Energy Forum 2012 in Bermuda

Geothermal Congress for Latin America and the Caribbean 2012

Energy Efficiency and Innovation Seminar in Costa Rica

Trees, Water & People Inaugurates Renewable Energy Center in Honduras

ECPA Energy Efficiency Pillar Roundtable

Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum 2012, Puerto Rico

US and Colombia Host Leaders of the Americas to Pursue Universal Access to Electricity

On September 27, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the Minister of Foreign Relations of Colombia María Angela Holguin co-hosted a meeting with various Foreign Ministers of the Western Hemisphere focused on the newest ECPA initiative, Connecting the Americas 2022 (Connect 2022). The leaders discussed the vision of the initiative to increase energy access to citizens across the hemisphere, and five Foreign Ministers highlighted ongoing work on electrical interconnection in their countries. Under Connect 2022, launched by the Colombian Government at the Sixth Summit of the Americas, governments, international development institutions and the private sector are working together to increase transnational electricity interconnections which can lower the costs of power for consumers, extend the delivery of services to more individuals, and expand markets for renewable energy. "Connecting the Americas 2022 has a clear and urgent objective that cannot be postponed: To realize that people from the Americas can have access to efficient, low-cost electricity within one decade" (NTN 24, September 27, 2012), commented Minister Holguin during this meeting, which took place on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York .



Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Minister of Foreign Relations of Colombia Maria Holguen

Exchange Mission Mexico-El Salvador



Salvadorian government officials

A technical exchange Mission between Mexico and El Salvador under the auspices of the ECPA Energy Efficiency Working Group activity took place on September 24 -26. Six Salvadorian government officials from the National

Energy Council (CNE) travelled to Mexico City, where they were trained on efficient driving techniques and practices by members of the National Commission for the Efficient Use of Energy (CONUEE). The objective of this exchange was to provide capacity building on energy use reduction and efficiency by sharing the Mexican experience with all qualified driving personnel from Salvadorian public entities. This exchange also responded to an executive national mandate of reducing public expenditure by enhancing energy efficiency ratified by the Salvadorian Government.

IRENA-CARILEC Renewable Energy Forum 2012 in Bermuda

During this event, Kevin de Cuba, ECPA Caribbean Initiative Manager, spoke about financing opportunities and assistance for Renewable Energy Technology deployment in the Caribbean and represented this important initiative in deliberations with IRENA and other partners operating in



the energy sector regarding collective assistance to the Caribbean. This forum, celebrated September 17-19, had objective to provide a space for countries, utilities, and product suppliers to exchange ideas and assess suitable instruments to accelerate sustainable energy development in the Caribbean. A key observation from this forum is that most Caribbean utilities are much more attuned to addressing renewable energy technology integration in the existing national electrical grids and are keen on exploring energy storage technologies to address frequency fluctuations, load shedding, and other intermittency challenges of some renewable energy technologies where clear and attainable standards and codes are increasingly becoming important.



Geolac 2012 Director, Mark Perks; Minister René Castro; OPIC Director, Michael Ratlif; U.S. Ambassador, Anne Andrew; ICE Director, Teófilo de la Torre and Maricela Muñoz

Geothermal Congress for Latin America and the Caribbean 2012

On September 17-18, 2012, the Costa Rican Ministry of Environment, Energy and Telecommunications (MINEAT) hosted the first-ever Geothermal Congress for Latin America and the Caribbean (GEOLAC 2012) with support from the Organization of American States (OAS), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Latin American Development Bank (CAF), Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) and ECPA among others. Mark Lambrides, Chief of the Energy and Climate Change Mitigation Division of the Department of Sustainable Development of the OAS attended this important event which brought together multiple regional stakeholders to debate, analyze and explore the future of geothermal development in the region. Delegates to the GEOLAC conference noted that, while geothermal power development in the Americas offers

many success stories, it is currently underutilized. This is particularly true in South America and the Caribbean. There exist tremendous opportunities to share experiences from North and Central America with other regions of the hemisphere in all aspects of geothermal development, including policy and planning, resources assessments, technology and developer selection, and project financing.

Energy Efficiency and Innovation Seminar in Costa Rica

Technical experts met in Costa Rica to celebrate the Seminar on Science, Technology and Innovations for an Energy Efficient Development of Central America. This ECPA Energy Efficiency Working Group activity was co-hosted by the United States Embassy in San José. One of the most positive sessions was the roundtable on current and future innovation opportunities for energy efficiency development in the region, where several national government representatives participated. The Secretariat of Energy (SENER) of Mexico, the Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica (TEC), The International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Italy and the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica (UNA), joined efforts with the ECPA Clearinghouse to organize this event, held at the Regional Headquarters of Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica in Liberia, Guanacaste on September 10, 2012. An acclaimed presentation was "Scientific and Technological Innovation Partnerships for Clean Energy Development" given by Senior ECPA Fellow, Dr. Suresh Garimella from Purdue University, who shared best practices such as the greening of Denmark and introduced Purdue's Discovery Park, a hub for interdisciplinary and translational research.



Technical experts from Central America



Senior ECPA Fellow Suresh visits Instituto Costarricense de Electricidad

ECPA Energy Efficiency Pillar Roundtable

The Ministry of Energy and Mines of Peru and the ECPA Clearinghouse will host the II Regional Symposium on Energy Efficiency on November 14 in Lima, Peru. On November 15, the ECPA will hold an Energy Efficiency Pillar Roundtable, where working-level government officials from South America will gather to discuss regulatory needs, assess technical priorities and exchange best practices for enhancing energy efficiency in the region. Participants at the event will collaborate to define a work plan for strengthening current and future regional cooperation on energy efficiency.

Trees, Water & People Launched Renewable Energy Center in Honduras

On August 17th, Trees, Water & People (TWP), Asociación Hondureña para el Desarrollo (AHDESA) and the U.S. Department of State inaugurated the Honduras Renewable Energy Training and Demonstration Center in Tegucigalpa. The center is equipped and powered by a 2kW solar PV system and wind energy, and its purpose is to train individuals, community leaders and organizations in the use of locally accessible renewable energy and energy efficient equipment devices, such as clean cook stoves and solar lighting. TWP and AHDESA have worked together in Honduras since 1998, and since November 2011, TWP and AHDESA have worked in Central America as implementing ECPA partners to promote clean energy, low carbon development, and climate-resilient growth in Central America.



Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum 2012

The annual Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum (CREF) will be held from the 15-17 of October, 2012 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Senior government officials, local and international developers, multilateral representatives, commercial and investment bankers, and technology providers will attend this year's conference, which theme is Where Caribbean Renewables Meet World-Class Technology, Expertise & Capital. On October 15th, the OAS Department of Sustainable Development will host two meetings prior to the start of the conference. The first is a meeting of the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Program (CSEP), which will provide a review the program's progress in the Eastern Caribbean and The Bahamas with key government and regional partners. The afternoon event is a ministerial meeting co-hosted by the U.S. Department of State on the emerging and future energy trends in the Caribbean and the long term potential for electricity interconnection between islands. The full CREF Conference kicks off on the morning of October 16 and will offer the opportunity for participants to learn of the latest technology advances, policy reforms, and project opportunities emerging throughout the Caribbean.