



Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas

**ECPA**



# newsletter clearinghouse

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## GOVERNMENTS OF COLOMBIA AND THE UNITED STATES LAUNCH CONNECTING THE AMERICAS 2022

**This new ECPA initiative will foster the exchange of best practices on energy efficiency between the two nations**

At the Sixth Summit of the Americas in Cartagena, Colombia, leaders from the United States, Colombia, and throughout the Western Hemisphere pledged to seek universal access to electricity over the next decade through enhanced electrical interconnection. This initiative developed by Colombia and called "Connecting the Americas 2022," will provide access to reliable, clean, and affordable electricity for 31 million people in the region. During the preparatory meetings, both governments agreed interconnected power systems allow for greater integration of renewable energy resources and power exchanges among countries with varying climates. Additionally, intercon-

nection also expands power markets— creating economies of scale which can attract private investment, lower capital costs and reduce electricity costs for consumers.

At the third high-level dialogue the Santos Administration and U.S. Department of State officials reaffirmed their bilateral cooperation to benefit citizens of both countries and strengthened the region as a whole. Deputy Secretary of State, William J. Burns highlighted Colombia's remarkable progress and applauded Colombia's support for ECPA's newest initiative.

The U.S. and Colombia are working with the Organization of American States (OAS), the



U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton in the "Connect 2022" event organized in Cartagena de Indias.

Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank to support this initiative. Working through ECPA and other mechanisms, Connecting the Americas 2022 will tap the expertise, technology, and capital of countries, regulator, utilities, the private sector, and multilateral organizations.

## CLEARINGHOUSE CONVENES DIALOGUE ON REGIONAL ACTIVITIES UNDER ECPA AT THE OAS This event was part of the Senior ECPA Fellows initiative

part, the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the hemispheric organization, Ambassador Andrés González Díaz, recalled that the issue of energy resources was one of the pillars of the Sixth Summit of the Americas held in Cartagena de Indias last April. Matthew Rooney, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Western Hemisphere Affairs in the U.S. State Department, said energy security and climate change "are urgent global challenges that impact us all." At the panel discussion, regional specialists reviewed new projects implemented for sustainable development and wise energy use. The session also included networking and a Clearinghouse presentation on new communication tools to promote ECPA initiatives.

## CLEARINGHOUSE HOSTS TECHNICAL EXCHANGE ON THERMAL RETROFITTING IN CHILE'S BIO BIO REGION This event was part of the Energy Efficiency Group Initiative

The Ministry of Energy of Chile and Mexico's National Commission for the Efficient Use of Energy, with support from the Department of Sustainable Development at the OAS, joined efforts to share experiences in thermal retrofitting of dwellings.

The Energy Efficiency Agency of Ministry of Energy of Chile and other Chilean entities shared experiences in thermal conditioning and energy efficiency in housing and the implementation of the ISO 50001 standard on energy management systems. The exchange included analyzing the overall energy landscape of the Bio Bio region (with emphasis on residential buildings) and on-site presentations and a side visit. As a result, the Working



The Norske Skog team takes a photo during the visit to the Skog paper mill in the Bio Bio Region. May 7-8, 2012

group will send government officials from El Salvador to Mexico for a technical exchange mission on efficient conduction. Additionally, Mexico's INFONAVIT will provide technical support to Chile, Panama, Peru in the field of green mortgages.



Opening remarks at the Regional Dialogue

On July 13, 2012, the Clearinghouse, the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs at the Department of State, and Partners of the Americas hosted a regional dialogue. OAS Executive Secretary for Integral Development, Jorge Saggiante, highlighted the work done by the hemispheric organization in support of its Member Countries to "develop in a way that is sustainable and sound" for the environment. For his

**ECPA CLEARINGHOUSE TRAINING COURSE ON CLOSED LOOPED CYCLE PRODUCTION HELD IN ECUADOR**  
**This event was part of the ECPA Closed Looped Cycle Production in the Americas initiative**

From July 11-13, 2012, the Clearinghouse convened a three-day training course in Quito, Ecuador targeting public and private sector participants, academia, and other stakeholders interested in learning the application of the closed looped cycle production philosophy. Remarks were given by Mr. Milan Ludena, Advisor to the Minister of Coordination of Production, Employment and Competitiveness (MCPEC), and Mr. Kevin de Cuba, Initiative

Manager at the OAS Department of Sustainable Development (OAS/DSD). The training course, offered by the Environmental Engineering and Technology for Sustainable Development Research Group of the University CEU San Pablo based in Madrid, Spain offered a great opportunity to work together with experts in Cradle-to-Cradle (C2C) on translating C2C philosophy into practice by integrating different views and disciplines as

the use of Life cycle Analysis. This training is one of multiple activities of the National Closed Looped Cycle Production Work Plan supported by the consortium comprising the OAS/DSD, the National Cleaner Production Center of Colombia, the Cradle to Cradle Expo Lab of the Netherlands, and the U.S. based McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry (MBDC), with funding from the U.S. State Department.



Participants to the Closed Looped Cycle Production intensive training course

**SENIOR ECPA FELLOWS SPEAK AT RIO+20 CONFERENCE SIDE EVENT AT THE U.S CENTER**

**On June 8, 2012, The US Department of State and Partners of the Americas, with the collaboration of ECPA Clearinghouse, hosted a side event featuring ongoing multi-sector cooperation under ECPA**

**CLEARINGHOUSE INAUGURATES THE 22KWP SOLAR PV PROJECT IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

On March 26, 2012, the ECPA Caribbean Initiative hosted an event for the inauguration of the solar photovoltaic systems installed on the rooftop of the national Energy Commission (CNE) of the Dominican Republic. This is one of several demonstration projects under the ECPA Caribbean Initiative. Opening remarks were offered by Enrique Ramirez, President of CNE, and Raúl Izaguirre, U.S. Ambassador to the Dominican Republic.



Left to right: Senior ECPA Fellows, Mathias Vuille, Jeffrey Soule, Maria-Paz Gutierrez, Daniel Kammen, and Energy Officer, Amanda Kizer from U.S Department of State.

ments collaborating on ECPA initiatives. The panelists discussed best practices in adaptation, urban planning, and clean energy while also addressing the intertwined challenges of energy security and climate change.

The overall message was the ECPA success stories can be applied in other regions, and new partners can become involved in existing ECPA Projects. The U.S. State Department transmitted this event live from the U.S Center and the ECPA Clearinghouse transmitted the latest developments live using digital media. The Senior ECPA Fellows initiative sends preselected

U.S. technical experts from the academic, non-profit or private sectors to serve as consultants and speakers to countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its mission is to promote best practices and expertise in clean energy, sustainable urban development, climate change

adaptation and reducing emissions from deforestation. The Senior ECPA Fellows Program is funded by the U.S. Department of State and fellowships are coordinated in collaboration with U.S. Embassies throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.



**CLEARINGHOUSE CONVENES WORKSHOP IN SUPPORT OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE AMERICAS IN MEXICO CITY**



The group poses for a photo in front of ANCE Mexico City. March 21-22, 2012

OAS, the U.S. State Department, and the Mexican offices of the Energy Secretary (SENER), and National Commission for the Efficient Use of Energy (CONUEE). At the workshop Mexico shared its energy efficiency experience and sought collaboration and partnerships with other Latin American governments. Participants exchanged lessons learned in adoption and implementation of energy efficiency policies. The workshop provided the Working Group with the feedback it needed to plan for future activities.

On 21-22 march 2012, ECPA Clearinghouse held energy efficiency workshops in Mexico city with support from the

**CLEARINGHOUSE UPDATES**

**New team members, website updates and outreach materials**

ECPA Clearinghouse Team is duplicating its outreach efforts and recently hired Alejandra Henao and Rosangela Arbieta to help provide update information from the initiatives.

Updates to the Website include a blog, and interactive map for the initiative landing page and a refreshed, more dynamic homepage.



New promotional materials include: an improved brochures, ECPA postcards, and business cards. The team is currently working on a media kit to facilitate outreach and promote ECPA initiatives.

