

Joint CARILEC-IRENA Workshop

Accelerating Renewable Energy Developments within the Caribbean

Date & Time: 17 September 2012, 9am to 5pm

Place: Poinciana Ballroom, Fairmount Southampton, 101 South Shore Road, Southampton, Bermuda, SN02 (at the side event of the Carilec's Renewable Energy Forum, Bermuda)

Target Audience: Participants of CARILEC's RE conference, IRENA member countries, and invitees

Background

With increasing demand for energy, Caribbean islands expend a significant amount of their financial resources for the purchase of imported fossil fuels for their energy needs, while the Debt to GDP ratio continues rise beyond best practise norm of 60%. Imported petroleum products account for more than 90 percent of the energy mix within most of the Caribbean islands. In addition, the small island states of the Caribbean are also vulnerable to the increasing effects of climate change. The susceptibility of the region to increasing and volatile oil prices, climate change and environmental impacts associated with the burning of fossil fuels have signified the urgent need for a paradigm shift within the electricity sector. This paradigm shift will have to include greater focus on the increased use of renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) improvements.

Over the years, the region has benefitted from support aimed at promoting RE and EE developments from various multilaterals and development partners operating within the region. While this support has helped to stimulate the electricity sector to improve the enabling policy and regulatory environment, building capacity and supporting the implementation of projects, the overall share of RE is still low accounting for approximately 5 % of the total generation, in spite of the significant potential for RE deployment on most of the islands. The Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation (CARILEC) in support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has been promoting the RE and EE projects in the Caribbean region over the past three years to enhance and strengthen the capacity of electric utility sector to implement a series of activities aimed at deployment of RE and EE.

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has a strong mandate to promote renewable energy deployment and provide countries the means for an accelerated renewable energy technology uptake tailored to their specific needs, considering national conditions in resource endowment as well as social and economic factors. The *IRENA Renewable Energy Islands Initiative (iREii)* was established to assist islands in transitioning to an increased share of renewable energy and learn from their unique experiences. In this context, IRENA and CARILEC are jointly organising the workshop on **Accelerating Renewable energy developments within the Caribbean** to discuss the specific challenges and opportunities Caribbean islands face and identify gaps. The partners have realized that a sustained, collaborative approach will be required in order to successfully make a transition to deploy more RE within the Caribbean electricity sector.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop are to:

1. Identify specific challenges and opportunities for renewable energy deployment in the Caribbean islands, focusing on technology solutions and financial requirements.
2. Draft a work programme on priority areas for action that are necessary to accelerate RE deployment in the Caribbean islands where IRENA can best contribute for the region.

The Partners

IRENA

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is an intergovernmental organisation dedicated to renewable energy. In accordance with its Statute, IRENA's objective is to "promote the widespread and increased adoption and the sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy". This concerns all forms of energy produced from renewable sources in a sustainable manner and includes bioenergy, geothermal energy, hydropower, ocean, solar and wind energy. As of September 2012, the membership of IRENA comprised 158 States and the European Union (EU), out of which 100 States and the EU have ratified the Statute.

CARILEC

Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation (CARILEC), the regional association of electric utilities, suppliers and manufacturers and other stakeholders operating within the electricity industry within the Caribbean, is committed to enhancing the effectiveness of its members and supporting the development of sustainable electricity sector initiatives regionally. Through the workshop, CARILEC intends to draw on the assistance of the development partners and stakeholders in order to significantly advance the transformation of the electricity sector.

In keeping with its mandate, CARILEC will drive the coordination of this form on an annual/biennial basis in order to track the progress that is being made within the electricity sector and also to ensure that the sector receives the maximum benefit from the technical, financial, capacity building support that is provided by the development partners.

Agenda

17 September 2012		
8:30 - 9:00	Registration	
Opening		
9:00 - 9:05	Opening remarks	Gary Jackson, CARILEC
9:05 - 9:10	Welcome remarks	Roland Roesch, Senior Analyst RE Markets and Technology Dialogue, IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre (IITC)
9:10 - 9:25	CARILEC’s activities for the RE/EE development in the Caribbean	Gary Jackson, CARILEC
9:25 - 9:40	IRENA Renewable Energy Islands Initiative (iREii)	Roland Roesch , IITC
9:40 - 9:45	Workshop introduction	IRENA
9:45 - 9:55	Questions and Discussions	All
9:55 - 10:05	Coffee Break	
Session 1 Current status, challenges and opportunities of RE deployment in the Caribbean islands		
This session discuss various approaches for RE deployment in the region by various organisations		
	Facilitator:	Adam Warren, Deployment & Market Transformation, NREL
10:05 - 10:20	RE deployment in the Caribbean islands: CARICOM approach	Robert Stoddard, Specialist, CRECS Project, CARICOM
10:20 - 10:35	RE deployment in the Caribbean islands: CREDP approach	Thomas Scheutzlich, Principal Advisor, The Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme (CREDP)/GIZ
10:35 - 10:55	RE deployment in the Caribbean islands: OLADE approach	Fernando Caldas, Coordinator of Sustainable Energy Development and Energy Efficiency, OLADE

10:55 - 11:05	RE deployment in the Caribbean islands: NREL approach	Adam Warren, Deployment & Market Transformation, NREL
11:05 - 11:20	Questions and Discussions	All
Session 2 Case studies and technology solutions for RE deployment in the Caribbean: Panel Discussion		
This roundtable discussion aims to discuss technology solutions and lessons learned from various case studies of RE deployment in different islands and identify remaining needs/gaps in the region.		
11:20 - 12:45	Facilitator:	Gary Jackson, CARILEC
	Panellists:	Frankie Lowe, Dominica Electricity Services Ltd., (DOMLEC)
		Jason Timothy, Project Coordinator, Geothermal Project Management Unit, Ministry of Energy, Ports & Public Works, Commonwealth of Dominica
		Thornley O. A. O. Myers, St. Vincent Electricity Services Limited (VINLEC)
		Trevor Louisy, St Lucia Electricity Services. Ltd. (LUCELEC)
		Marlon A.F. (Francis) Ras, WEB Aruba
		Michelle Chin Lenn, Project Manager Wigton Windfarm Limited, Jamaica
12:45 - 13:45	Lunch	
Session 3 Financing opportunities for RE deployment in the Caribbean: Panel Discussion		
This roundtable discussion aims to discuss possible financing opportunities and assistance as well as the development of bankable projects for RE deployment in the region.		
13:45 - 14:45	Facilitator:	Thomas Scheutzlich, GIZ
	Panellists:	Alvaro Atilano, Principal Executive, Renewable Energy and Innovation, Energy Vice Presidency, CAF
		Yves Ferreira, Head of the Regional Representation in the Caribbean, European Investment Bank (participation via video)

		Kevin De Cuba, ECPA Caribbean Initiative Manager, Division of Energy and Climate Change Mitigation Department of Sustainable Development, Organization of American States
		Andres Londono, Operations Officer, Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP), The World Bank

Session 4 Developing an IRENA work programme for the Caribbean 2013 for accelerating RE deployment for the region: Group Discussion

This discussion will facilitate the drafting of work plan(s)/identification of focus areas and critical next steps that are necessary to accelerate RE deployment in the region for the various stakeholders in particular IRENA.

	Facilitator:	IRENA
14:45 - 15:45	Group Discussion: *Note: Participants will be split into 3 tables to discuss prepared topics for the development of the work programme.	All
15:45 - 16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00 - 16:45	Summary of the discussion: Each group presents the key points raised in the discussions to the whole group	All
Summary and Closing		
16:45 - 16:55	Summary and way forward	CARILEC
16:55 - 17:00	Closure of the day	IRENA