

# PRESS RELEASE



## CCREEE and Partners Tackle Absence of Energy Data; Hosts Energy Statistics Conference for CARICOM Member States

**21 March, 2022 | Bridgetown, Barbados** – The Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and the CARICOM Development Fund (CDF) brought together some thirty representatives of Caribbean governments and regional institutions today to tackle challenges relating to the absence of data, statistics and information within the energy sector.



*ESIC Participants*

As Caribbean governments pursue energy security in the face of rising oil and gas prices, a critical issue plaguing effective implementation of the CARICOM Energy Policy is the need to improve the quality and quantity of analytics and information required to enhance energy planning and decision making. Though some Member States are making good progress, it is necessary to ensure that decisions and planning are evidence-based. With this in mind, the three-day Caribbean Energy Statistics and Information Conference was conceived.

The Conference, which targets technical offers within energy, climate change and statistics ministries, also featured the launch of two data enhancement tools intended to assist the region in meeting its



energy goals and targets: the CARICOM Energy Knowledge Hub's (CEKH) new data portal with a renewable energy and energy efficiency donor activity application and the CARICOM Energy Information System (sieCARICOM), developed by the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE).



*Mr. Soomer (L), Mr. Zellner (R)*

During the opening session and concurrent launch of the sieCARICOM, OLADE's Executive Secretary, Numar Alfonso Blanco-Bonilla remarked that, "we have a very important commitment to the region to improve the quality and quantity of information on the energy sector; that is important information we need for the region to achieve our environmental and development goals." Likewise, as a key Conference and programmatic partner, the Technical Assistance Programme for Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean's (TAPSEC) Simon Zellner shared that information is the foundation of the Caribbean region's drive to create a future where all its citizens have access to clean, modern and affordable energy services. He said, "Before there can be strong policies and regulations guiding the regional transformation, there has to be high-quality energy data, statistics and information...it will inform the decisions being made in boardrooms and by governments across Member States. And it will ultimately inform the region's path towards sustainability."



*Dr. Jam (L), Dr. Jackson (R)*

Also in attendance, representing CARICOM institutions, was Mr Rodinald Soomer of the CDF and Dr Gary Jackson of the CCREEE. Both organisation Heads highlighted the importance of partnership, which is at the core of regional integration. Dr Jackson noted that partnership and participation is required today and beyond today, in order to leave no one behind, aligning with Mr Soomer’s positing that the region’s goals cannot be achieved by any one corporation; citing CDF’s ongoing partnership with the CCREEE. During the keynote address, Dr Justin Ram also made mention of the need for regional integration. He advocated for connecting the region as a single economic space.

The Conference received financial support from the Kingdom of Spain and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) implemented Technical Assistance Programme for Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean, which is funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

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#### About The CCREEE

The [Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency](#) (CCREEE) is a specialized institution of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Established within the framework of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC), the CCREEE is the implementation hub for sustainable energy activities and projects within the CARICOM region.

#### About the CARICOM Development Fund

The [CARICOM Development Fund](#) (CDF), established in 2008, is a key developmental mechanism in the architecture of the CSME and is committed to achieving its vision to lead in providing effective, efficient and sustainable solutions that address the challenges faced by disadvantaged countries, regions and sectors participating in the CSME. In so doing its mission is to assist its Member States (namely Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago) to maximize the benefits arising from participation in the CSME, by reducing intra-regional disparities through effective partnerships and the provision of financial and technical assistance.

### About CARICOM Energy

[CARICOM Energy](#) was commissioned in 2008 under the Directorate of Trade and Economic Integration to coordinate the finalization of the regional energy policy and provide strategic management for a programmatic approach to the region's energy issues.

The Caribbean Sustainable Energy Roadmap and Strategy (C-SERMS) was designed by CARICOM Energy to build on existing efforts in the Region and to provide CARICOM Member States with a coherent strategy for transitioning to sustainable energy. CARICOM Energy is managed by the CARICOM Secretariat, with implementation coordinated by the CCREEE.

### About the Technical Assistance Programme for Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean (TAPSEC)

The Technical Assistance Programme for Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean (TAPSEC) supports the region's transition to a low-carbon, sustainable and climate-resilient future. In collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat and the Ministry of Energy and Mines in the Dominican Republic, TAPSEC leads the implementation of an 80+ project portfolio of multi-prong policy, capacity development and finance interventions.

Implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, TAPSEC aims to create a future in which all CARIFORUM citizens have access to modern, clean and reliable energy supplies at affordable and stable prices.

### About Olade - Latin American Energy Organization

The Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) is an intergovernmental public body of cooperation, coordination and technical advisory, established on November 2, 1973 by signing the Lima Agreement, ratified by 27 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the fundamental objective of promoting the integration, conservation, rational use, commercialization and defense of the region's energy resources.

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