



Vision 20/30: Partnership for Island Economies

Climate Institute News

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ARUBA ANNOUNCES ITS PLANS TO TRANSITION TO 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY

At the launch of:

VISION 20/30 - PARTNERSHIP FOR ISLAND ECONOMIES



At the historic Rio+20 Conference in Brazil, the Climate Institute and Carbon War Room co-hosted a high level side event where Sir Richard Branson, the founder of Carbon War Room, and the Aruban Prime Minister, Mr. Mike Eman, announced their partnership to transition the island to 100% renewable energy.

"My vision is to create a social and economic resilience for Aruba that will improve the health, happiness and well being of its citizens", said Mr. Eman.

Sir Richard Branson said that Carbon War Room's Smart Island Economies strategy could be replicated across other Caribbean and Pacific islands. "Aruba can set a wonderful example for other island nations to prove that they can get rid of fossil fuels, protect their wonderful natural resources and still grow their economy," he said.

Aruba in partnership with the Carbon War Room and New America Foundation will bring together the expertise and political will to create and to implement a fully integrated strategy for sustainable prosperity. A sustainable growth roadmap will be developed consistent with Aruba's consensus driven policy-making approach of "social dialogue".

This announcement was made at the platform of VISION 20/30 – Partnership for Island Economies, which is a collaborative initiative being organized by the Climate Institute in collaboration with the Carbon War Room, United Nations Foundation, UNIDO, OAS, IRENA, REEEP and others, and builds on the Institute's Global Sustainable Energy Islands Initiative, which was established as a UN CSD partnership at Rio+10 in Johannesburg, in 2002.

"VISION 20/30 is also a campaign to scale up international support for all Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and participating island economies, so they may achieve energy self sufficiency to the extent feasible. This initiative seeks to form mini-partnerships around pilot nations that may be fast tracked to achieve energy independence by 2020, which it is hoped would lead to the energy transformation of most of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) by 2030", said Jose Maria Figueres, the President of Carbon War Room.

Prime Minister of Grenada Mr. Tillman Thomas reminded the audience of the vulnerabilities faced by the small island nations. Prime Minister Thomas also presented Grenada's plans to develop its renewable energy resource potential.



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Christiana Figueres, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in her remarks challenged Sir Richard Branson to help not one but at least 10 island nations in their transition to renewable energy and announce such plans by the Third UN Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2014. Grenada's Ambassador to the UN and former Chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) spoke about the SIDS DOCK initiative, and the commitments made in Barbados by over two dozen SIDS to develop and implement sustainable energy programs.

A panel of implementation agencies and partners of VISION 20/30 initiative presented their programs to support sustainable energy in the island economies. This panel was moderated by Ms. Melinda Kimble of the United Nations Foundation, and included presentations by David Payton of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Elizabeth Press of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Martin Hiller, Director General of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), Pradeep Monga of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and Nasir Khattak, Chief Operating Officer of the Climate Institute.



Nasir Khattak urged the implementing agencies to coordinate their efforts at the platform of Sustainable Energy for All, and welcomed the role of Carbon War Room in mobilizing the private sector. "The conditions are right, and the time is right now", he said. Mr. Khattak urged the international community to raise 1 billion dollars by 2014 to help transform most of the island nations to renewable energy, so the up to 30% of foreign exchange spent on importing fossil fuel may be used for economic development. "This is the highest impact opportunity available before us at this time to change up to 40 nations and set in motion a global clean energy revolution", he said.

Prime Minister Eman of Aruba presented a Divi-divi tree to Sir Richard Branson on this occasion.

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For more information, contact: Nasir Khattak, at nkhattak@climate.org



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