

GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ISLANDS INITIATIVE

2010 MARKS THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF GSEII

HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW MEETING OF THE 65TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAURITIUS STRATEGY FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES TOOK PLACE ON SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2010

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The Resolution adopted by the General Assembly notes with concern that SIDS “overall progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals has been uneven. Small island developing states (SIDS) have made less progress than most other groupings, or even regressed, in economic terms, especially in terms of poverty reduction and debt sustainability.”

It further reiterates that, “energy dependence is a major source of economic vulnerability for many small island developing states. While those States are particularly suited to renewable energy options and in spite of the fact that many are endowed with extensive renewable energy resources, these remain underdeveloped.”

At the UN Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico (COP-16) the Climate Institute seeks to raise international support for a ten year plan for SIDS to achieve independence from expensive fossil fuel imports by utilizing sustainable energy policies and technologies. This would not only lead to economic development in SIDS but also set in motion a global energy revolution that is needed to combat Climate Change.



SPEECH TO UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MSI+5 REVIEW SESSION

- BY NASIR KHATTAK, CLIMATE INSTITUTE

The Global Sustainable Energy Islands Initiative (GSEII) was launched in November 2000 by a consortium of international organizations, to assist the small islands states in their efforts to transform their energy base from fossil fuels to a system based on renewable and energy efficiency technologies.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen. I am honored to be here to give a brief NGOs perspective, and then would avail this opportunity to make a suggestion before the General Assembly on two related issues - energy and climate change.

NGOs and the civil society can and are playing a bridge building and catalytic role, forging partnerships, raising awareness and introducing new and innovative ideas and programs to help implement the Mauritius strategy. The activities of NGOs as well as regional organizations in the Caribbean and the Pacific have increased over the past five years. However, there is room for further improvement of the communication and coordination among them, and for finding synergies, to ensure the efficiency of implementation. In our experience, the financial support provided by the donor community has produced considerable results, but

this support has fallen short of the mounting challenges faced by the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). There is a need to link the available financial instruments to quantifiable targets for implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. More effective North-South, South-South and Public-Private partnerships are needed.

Mr. President, we have just come through the warmest six months, the warmest year, and the warmest decade on record. Climate change has increased the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, as we saw numerous disastrous events throughout this decade, such as hurricanes, droughts in different parts of the world, and the recent devastating floods in Pakistan. The small island developing States are most vulnerable to the natural disasters and impacts of climate change, even though their share of global emissions is tiny. Rather than lamenting their fate we have seen leadership taken by several SIDS, such as

SPEECH TO UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY *cont.*

the Maldives, that is working on a plan to become Carbon neutral in ten years. Tuvalu has announced similar plans, and programs are in motion in seven Caribbean island states under Global Sustainable Energy Islands Initiative (GSEII), which is another example of partnership between stakeholders including SIDS Governments, UN Foundation, NGOs, multi-laterals, such as the Organization of American States, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), local utilities and private sector companies. The thrust of GSEII is to facilitate the capacity of island states to show larger nations by their own successful examples that a low carbon energy transformation can benefit a nation's domestic economy as well as the global climate.

Mr. President, I would submit that SIDS may be holding the path to the solution of energy and climate problems. Transformation of SIDS energy base to renewables and greening of their economies is the best possible win-win opportunity that is there before us. Most SIDS are highly dependent on imported oil and other fossil fuels. Fortunately, many of the small island states have renewable energy resources, such as wind, solar, geothermal, and there is vast potential for energy efficiency. The international community must scale up the efforts to transform the energy

base of small island states to renewable. Let me take the liberty to suggest, that an ambitious master plan may be developed to achieve energy independence in the next ten years by all the members of the Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS). This is very much possible and achievable by strengthening the existing mechanisms and platforms, such as SIDS-Dock by AOSIS and the GSEII. We need political will, vision and leadership, and out of the box thinking. SIDS spend 25% of their foreign exchange on importing fossil fuels. Energy independence of SIDS by utilizing renewable resources is the shortest path to their economic development, which will in turn reduce the vulnerabilities of SIDS, enhance their capacity to adapt and develop resilience to face the multitude of other challenges they are confronting. In addition, SIDS can serve as models and examples for bigger nations and regions to follow, and help spur a global clean energy revolution, and help combat global climate change.

Let me further suggest that a concept and feasibility of such a master plan may be developed and presented for discussion at the Climate Change Conference in Mexico later this year. Considering the current state of technological development, carbon credits, with active private sector involvement, and utilizing the existing mechanisms and platforms,

such as SIDS Dock and the Global Sustainable Energy Islands Initiative, the cost to make such plan feasible will be very affordable as compared to some of the recent spending decisions that the world leaders have been making. It will be well worth the positive change that such plan would bring to about forty nations and the impact it would make on the rest of the world. The islands states are small but their issues are Big. The issues they face today are the same issues that everyone else may be facing soon. These call for Big and Grand solutions, ambitious and new ideas in an age where we are facing globalization of problems, as very well articulated by the Deputy Prime Minister of UK.

Mr. President, much has been said and written. Time has come for a paradigm shift and resetting of priorities when addressing global issues, such as climate change, poverty, hunger, disease, meeting the MDGs and implementing the MSI. We are connected in more ways than we know now. The good news is that there are enough resources in this world to achieve these goals and reach the targets even ahead of the time.

Mr. President, let us put on the highest priority the needs of the most vulnerable, and put our mind, heart and soul in our efforts when looking for solutions to these global problems.

Thank you.

CARIBBEAN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PROGRAM (CSEP) - UPDATE

The Organization of American States (OAS) is the key GSEII implementation agency in the Caribbean that is currently assisting in developing national energy policies and plans in seven SIDS in the region. Through the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Program (CSEP) considerable progress has been made in these participating GSEII countries, as summarized below:

Antigua and Barbuda

After the submission of the first draft National Energy Policy (NEP) on October 11, 2009, in the Spring of 2010, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda established the National Energy Task Force (NETF) in February 2010, which is responsible for the production of a comprehensive and strategic National Energy Policy. The OAS/CSEP facilitated the dialogue between and among key energy sector stakeholders, including government representatives, policy-makers, the energy utility, non-profit organiza-

tions, the private sector, academia, civil society and experts. This process has led to



the second draft NEP, developed by NETF with the support of CSEP/OAS. The final version of the NEP is under review by the NETF.

The Bahamas

The Government of The Bahamas is working on development of a new renewable energy act which sets general sector objectives, defines electricity supply activities (generation, transmission, system operation/dispatch, distribution and retail), among others; (ii) formulate policies for promoting energy efficiency and conservation, including building codes, energy audits, and community-based seminars on energy efficiency and conservation; (iii) develop a website to disseminate information on energy efficiency and conservation; and (iv) develop and distribute info on use/benefits of energy efficiency appliances/lighting.

CARIBBEAN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PROGRAM (CSEP) - UPDATE cont.**Dominica**

In June 2010, a presentation on the proposed National Energy Policy was made to Cabinet by Mark Lambrides (CSEP/OAS) and Elizabeth Thompson (Isada Consulting Group). The Cabinet expressed no objection to the NEP and suggested that a final decision on its adoption would be made before the end of 2010.

Additionally, Dominica is advancing the development of its geothermal resources via the INTERREG IV-B program, which aims at enhancing cooperation in the development of geothermal energy in the Caribbean. CSEP/OAS will provide the necessary assistance to enhance the success of the Dominica geothermal project.



Dominica's Geothermal Resources

Grenada

The CSEP/OAS organized a mission to Grenada on August 17-20, 2010, during which the team presented the final draft National Energy Policy (NEP) to the Ministry of Finance, Planning, Economy, Energy, Foreign Trade and Cooperatives.

Additionally, OAS representatives held discussions with the Minister to identify NEP implementation priorities. These included (1) the presentation of the final draft NEP to Cabinet for its endorsement before a second public consultation round; and (2) the organization of a multi-stakeholder meeting with the assistance of CSEP/OAS to bring together all key stakeholders and interested citizens for the final consultation and review of the NEP.



Wind Turbines at Maddens, Nevis

Saint Kitts and Nevis

The Ministry of Housing, Public Works, Energy, Public Utilities (MHMEP) and OAS signed a Cooperation Agreement aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Government; developing and implementing the National Energy Policy (NEP) and Energy Action Plan (EAP); and assisting the federal government in its efforts to establish a self-sustaining Federal Energy Department within the MHPEP.

Commendable efforts were made in the identification and development of renewable energy resources. The first 1.1 MW wind farm in the Eastern Caribbean was officially commissioned in Maddens, on the island of Nevis, on July 21st, 2010. The development of another wind farm to be located in the Bellevue area on St. Kitts is moving forward. It is anticipated that an 8 MW wind farm will be commissioned by early to mid 2011.

In addition, geothermal energy developments in Nevis are ongoing. Exploration and drilling activities are taking place and the potential for an electricity interconnection between the islands of Nevis and Saint Kitts is being studied.

Saint Lucia

A National Energy Policy White Paper was submitted to the Government in January 2010 and approved by the Ministerial Cabinet in June 2010. This NEP is the result of six years of work supported by CREDEP-GTZ and CSEP/OAS. Many stakeholders, including among others the utility LUCELEC, collaborated in its drafting, led by

the Ministry of Physical Development and the Environment.

In July 2010, the Government of Saint Lucia signed a 30-year geothermal exploration contract with Qualibou Energy Inc. The contract addresses previous barriers to the development of geothermal potential and obligates the developer to establish the existence of commercially-viable geothermal resources within six months. As a result, drilling should begin in late 2010. In addition, Qualibou Energy signed a term sheet for power supply to LUCELEC which contains all principal commercial terms under which power will be delivered. The term sheet is the basis for a prospective Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with LUCELEC and has a validity of 30 years on condition that the geothermal resource is deemed commercially viable.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

In April 2010, the Cabinet granted approval for the adoption of the Energy Action Plan (EAP), subject to editorial changes. CSEP/OAS provided assistance on the editorial corrections. The final version of the EAP was approved on October 6, 2010. It will be incorporated into a single document together with the National Energy Policy (NEP) approved in February 2009.

The EAP contains short (1-5 years), medium (5-10 years), and long (10-20 years) term actions designed to enhance the implementation of the policies and goals of Saint Vincent and the Grenadine's NEP. These actions foster to energy conservation, energy efficiency, and diversification of energy source and energy use sectors, including goals such as delivering 30% of projected total electricity output from renewable energy sources by 2015 and 60% by 2020, and reducing the projected electricity generation by 5% by 2015 and 15% by 2020, among others.

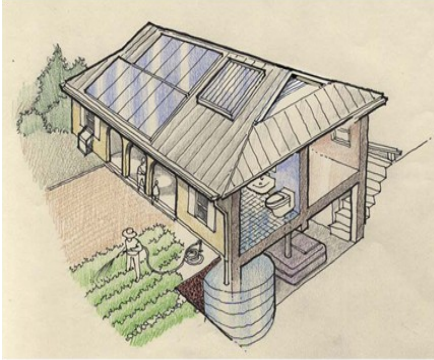
Finally, wind energy developments are being contemplated by Cabinet, which approved the acquisition of 200 hectares of privately owned land. The value of said land was disputed by the land owners, and an alternative site is being identified on the Eastern coast, where land is cheaper but of limited access.

GRENADA SUSTAINABLE HOUSING PROGRAM - UPDATE

As part of GSEII's sustainable housing program in Grenada, this summer Climate Institute was able to sign agreements with the key stakeholders and participants of the program including government and private sector partners and international experts. A site for the first model Earth Home has also been selected and the owner and buyer of the house has been identified who is arranging the financing through a local bank.

In the first phase, one model Earth home will be built, which would be designed for a middle income household. Two sites were visited and one site was chosen more suitable for the buyer and with higher visibility and exposure, with the intention of using the model home as a public awareness tool for the promotion of Earth Home construction in Grenada.

The architect, John Spears, has begun his architectural design work of the model home. He also met with the builder and reviewed with him the project requirements and



Earth Home building system

the schematic design. After the site had been selected, the owner ordered a detailed site plan including a topographic survey from a local engineer. The selected site is steeply sloping and the topographic survey is required to begin the design development. Over the past few months, the architect has been developing the schematic design and fitting the home to the site. The schematic design will be fully developed

and ready for presentation to the owner in late 2010. Upon receiving approval of the design, he will prepare construction drawings of the home and begin planning the construction.

In addition to the construction of a model home, the program also includes a training program, which will be organized in Spring of 2011 in collaboration with the local contractors association. A business plan for a broader housing program in Grenada will also be developed, which is also expected to be replicated and promoted in the rest of the Caribbean island nations.

An awareness campaign will also be conducted, and financing options for Earth Homes will be explored through the local credit union and other commercial banks. It is expected that Earth Homes will provide an affordable, more comfortable, energy efficient and hurricane resilient housing option to the local community.

THE GSEII CONSORTIUM

- *CLIMATE INSTITUTE*
www.climate.org
- *UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)*
www.unido.org
- *AOSIS (Alliance of Small Island States)*
www.aosis.org
- *ORGANIZATION FOR AMERICAN STATES, DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT*
www.oas.org
- *ENERGY AND SECURITY GROUP*
www.energyandsecurity.org
- *COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL*
www.counterpart.org



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