

GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ISLANDS INITIATIVE

2010 - TIME TO SCALE-UP SUPPORT FOR THE SIDS

- BY NASIR A. KHATTAK, CLIMATE INSTITUTE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2010 - Time to Scale-up Support for SIDS	1
Past and Current GSEII Activities by Country	2
Saint Lucia Holds Its 8th Annual Energy Awareness Week	4

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.

The Global Sustainable Energy Islands Initiative (GSEII) celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2010. This coincides with the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI) to be formally held at the UN General Assembly in September. GSEII, which works to develop renewable energy and energy efficiency programs in the small islands states at both the national and regional level, was initiated at the request from the then Chairman of the Alliance of Small Islands State (AOSIS), Ambassador T. Neroni Slade, to help carry out the energy related recommendations of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) of 1994. The Mauritius Strategy of Implementation was the outcome of the 10th year review of the BPOA, which is now due for its five-year review at the UN.

The Barbados Programme of Action was a roadmap for environmental and development planning to be implemented by SIDS governments with assistance from the international community. It was an excellent document and plan, however, at Mauritius the findings indicated poor implementation on the part of SIDS due to lack of the support from the international community. Hence, a more ambitious and aggressive strategy for implementation was adopted at Mauritius. After 15 years of BPOA, it is now high time for the international community to scale-up the support for its implementation.

The GSEII approach includes four components :

- i) Identification of the participating small island state - based on requests from the SIDS and donor commitments,
- ii) Development of a national sustainable energy plan – through a consultative process by a working group of stakeholders and partners,
- iii) Implementation of the sustainable energy plan – by providing technical assistance and support through implementation partners,
- iv) Capacity building and international outreach activities – including training activities and special events on international fora promoting the interests and raising support for SIDS.

GSEII’s mission strongly overlaps with the energy components of the BPOA and the Mauritius Strategy. Small islands states’ dependence on imported



UN General Assembly to Review MSI +5

fuels for electricity production limits their ability to develop sustainably. Many of these SIDS have abundant renewable energy resources, which if exploited could totally transform their economies.

It was in November 2000 at the Hague Climate Conference when the St. Lucian Prime Minister, Dr. Kenny Anthony announced their intention and plans to become the first sustainable energy demonstration country. Today, the GSEII key partners including Climate Institute, the Organization of American States (OAS), Energy & Security Group and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) have active programs in nine Small Islands Nations in the Caribbean and the Pacific that seek to develop and implement national sustainable energy plans, which will put these nations on a path of energy independence. In the next 3 years the GSEII plans to expand its work to 15 SIDS. The highlights of GSEII past and present activities are presented in the subsequent pages.

Energy dependence is the key cause of economic vulnerability of the SIDS. However, transformation of the SIDS energy base to renewables also presents the most viable path to achieving the economic stability that would enable the SIDS to cope with the challenges, such as Climate Change that they face today.

PAST AND CURRENT GSEII ACTIVITIES BY COUNTRY

GRENADA



Rooftop Solar Hot Water System

- **National Energy Policy and Sustainable Energy Plan**
Plan development was revised after Hurricane Ivan. A 20-year NEP is in the works accompanied by a short term Sustainable Energy Plan.
- **Earth Home and Sustainable Housing Project**
Building model sustainable homes and training local builders in sustainable construction techniques.
- **Solar Hot Water Heating Financing Program**
Developed financing program to make long-term cost saving solar water heaters available to low- and middle-income homes and business.
- **Solar PV demonstration project** - 1.8kW PV system on a school building

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS



Exploratory drilling for geothermal energy on Nevis

- **National Energy Policy and Sustainable Energy Plan**
Assisted in drafting National Energy Policy and Sustainable Energy Plan.
- **Wind Energy Development**
Studied potential sites for wind farms. Negotiations are underway for a 1.1 MW farm.
- **Biomass Energy Project**
OAS and ESG conducted a study to examine the possibility of using sugarcane to produce electricity and/or ethanol.
- **Geothermal Energy Development**
Conducted feasibility study and aided development negotiations. Drilling for a 10 MW station is expected to begin soon.

TRAINING SESSIONS

- GSEII has organized six annual training sessions on renewable energy and energy efficiency at the Pacific Power Association's annual conferences in the Pacific.
- Three training sessions on renewable energy technologies and policies have been organized for the Caribbean energy officials and utilities professionals of CARILEC.
- Training sessions on solar water heaters finance were organized for the credit unions in St. Lucia & Grenada

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- Climate Institute has organized at least a dozen special events at international fora, such as the Climate Change Conferences, WSSD, Mauritius Meeting, and during the UN CSD sessions to showcase SIDS energy activities and to raise international support for them.
- In addition, SIDS energy activities have been showcased in numerous presentations at conferences and events.
- GSEII continues to publish magazine articles, newsletters, and promotes SIDS energy agenda through its web site.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



BAHAMAS



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES



- **National Energy Policy and Sustainable Energy Plans**
OAS is providing assistance in the formulation and implementation of energy policy and sustainable energy plans in Antigua & Barbuda, St. Vincent & the Grenadines and the Bahamas. These plans are at different stages of development and adoption. These activities are part of the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Program (CSEP) funded by the European Union.

SAINT LUCIA



Students participate in Energy Awareness Week 2009 in St. Lucia

- **National Energy Policy and Sustainable Energy Plan**
Developed a 10-year comprehensive Sustainable Energy Plan & Implementation Plan.
- **Hotel Industry Energy Audits and Training**
Initiated energy efficiency training project for hotel representatives and conducted energy audits of five hotels. This was conducted by Marbeck Consultants & Lewis Engineering of Canada.
- **Energy Efficient Lighting Project**
Distributed over 6,000 compact fluorescent bulbs with the support from Climate Care.
- **Energy Efficiency and Awareness Campaign**
Initiated the continuous support organizing of annual Energy Awareness Week.
- **Solar Hot Water Heating Financing Program**
Developed financing program to make long-term cost saving solar water heaters available to low and middle-income homes.
- **Wind Energy Development**
Studied potential sites for wind farms. Facilitating negotiations between the stakeholders.
- **Geothermal Energy Development**
OAS conducted a feasibility study of an 100 MW station and is currently working to eliminate barriers to its construction. GSEII advising the government on negotiations with the developers.
- **Solar Photovoltaic Demonstration Project** - 1.8kW PV system planned for a school.

DOMINICA



- **National Energy Policy and Sustainable Energy Plan**
Planning has gone through many revisions but appears to be moving towards adoption of National Energy Policy first and then the implementation of a Sustainable Energy Plan.
- **Efficiency Improvement in Electric Distribution System**
UNIDO studied and recommended capital investments to the utility to make distribution more efficient.
- **Energy Efficient Lighting Project**
Organized an energy efficient lighting project with an energy awareness component and free distribution of compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).
- **Geothermal Project Pre-feasibility Development**
OAS feasibility study found geothermal potential. GSEII helped to secure EU funding and further feasibility studies and development of the project is in progress.

FIJI



- **Coconut Biofuel Development**
Investigated potential for coconuts to serve as an energy source. Ran tests on a coconut methyl ester fuel additive.



Coconuts to be used for biofuel development in Fiji

MARSHALL ISLANDS



- **National Energy Policy and Sustainable Energy Plan**
Assisted in development of national renewable energy plan (ADMIRE).
- **Energy Efficient Lighting Project**
Distributed over 10,000 compact fluorescent bulbs.

SAINT LUCIA HOLDS 8TH ANNUAL ENERGY AWARENESS WEEK

Energy Awareness Week (EAW) is an annual activity in Saint Lucia that seeks to promote energy consciousness and education at the national level. GSEII helped organize the first EAW and continues to support the Ministry of Planning in carrying out this annual event every subsequent year.

EAW 2009 was observed from November 23-28 under the theme “Combating Climate Change through Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.” The activity is spearheaded by the Ministry of Physical Development and the Environment. Collaborative partners include additional government ministries, the national utility, and various businesses and non-profit organizations and donors.

Like previous years, EAW 2009 included a wide range of events and media intended to engage citizens of all ages and backgrounds. A Student Symposium was held, which was

attended by representatives from 25 schools around the island and exposed the students to the range of sustainable energy and energy efficiency options available to Saint Lucia. The students then analyzed the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the various options presented.

Local radio stations ran energy-themed quizzes and a video documentary aired on local television during EAW. The documentary featured interviews with local people involved in energy and highlighted ongoing energy initiatives.

With the theme “Innovative Designs for Energy Efficiency,” the Construction Symposium sought to increase the awareness of energy issues among persons involved in the construction industry and to impact the design and construction sector in order to produce more energy efficient buildings.



Exhibit during the Energy Week

The Energy Exhibition provided a clearing house for the dissemination of energy related information to the public, as well as showcase locally available clean energy options. Representative from groups involved in the energy, renewable energy, and energy efficiency fields were given the opportunity to make their products and services and related information available to the public.

THE GSEII PARTNERS

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



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Nasir Khattak, Climate Institute
900 17th St NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20006
Phone: (202) 552-4723
Fax: (202) 737-6410

Email: nkhattak@climate.org
Website: <http://www.gseii.org>

GSEII DONORS

- United Nations Foundation
- Rockefeller Brothers Fund
- Government of Italy
- US Agency for International Development
- Government of Austria
- Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP)
- US Department of Energy