PRESS RELEASE

OECS Countries Focus on Energy Efficiency as an Economic Strategy

Six countries of the Organization of East Caribbean States (OECS) concluded a two-day consultation this weekend at the Coco Palm Hotel, Rodney Bay, to launch officially, a landmark Energy Efficiency Promotion Project.

The Project jointly funded by the European Union (EU)/ACP Energy Facility, German International Cooperation (GIZ) and OECS Secretariat, addresses the introduction of norms, standards and energy efficiency ratings and labels in the six independent OECS member countries, to improve Energy Efficiency (EE) at the consumer level, with priority attention to low income households. The proposal, covering Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and Grenadines, was approved by the EU for co-financing and a financing agreement negotiated and concluded between GIZ and the European Union.

Day One saw the inauguration of the project, presentation of the concept to stakeholders; discussions on policy implications, and the need for consistent support from the OECS Governments. Day Two focused on, and agreed in principle on, the current and expected role of the OECS Bureau of Standards (BoS) in the area of Energy Efficiency standards and norms and a joint work programme for the implementation of the project.

In the keynote address, Senator Dr. the Honourable James Fletcher, Minister of Public Service, Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology of Saint Lucia, welcomed the project, classifying it as timely and committing the government of Saint Lucia to the project and a contribution to an improved quality of life of low-income groups and household economies within the OECS.

General knowledge on the energy efficiency of electrical appliances is not common among the consumers in the OECS countries; consequently a primary focus of the project is raising public awareness in populations, particularly those most affected by high energy costs, and youth, in and out of school.
Senator Dr, the Hon James Fletcher, Saint Lucia's Minister of Public Service, Sustainable Development Energy, Science and Technology delivers the Keynote Address.

From Right: Joseph Williams, Manager-Energy Programmes-CARICOM Secretariat; Senator Dr, the Hon James Fletcher, Saint Lucia's Minister of Public Service, Sustainable Development Energy, Science and Technology; Ms. Marina Meuss Regional Director GIZ, Mr Paul Mondesir, Focal Point for Energy, EU Delegation Barbados and East Caribbean

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