

Scientific Visit of Jamaican Team to Mauritius

A collaboration between Jamaica, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Republic of Mauritius under the project "Supporting Human Resource Development and Energy Planning" (JAM0005), July 18 – 29, 2011

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The project entitled **Supporting Human Resource Development and Energy Planning (JAM0005)** is now being undertaken between Jamaica and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The project is expected to be carried out over a three years period (2009-2011). The main objective of the project is the development of technical capacity to facilitate the creation of sustainable energy solutions for Jamaica. The objectives are implemented by the Ministry of Energy and Mining with beneficiaries being the Jamaican populace. It is achieved mainly through training, expert visits and knowledge transfer from IAEA experts to Jamaican energy sector stakeholders. The stakeholders who benefit includes staff from various Ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) and key stakeholders from private sector entities closely related to the energy sector.

With this in mind, the IAEA and MEM has approached Mauritius principals who have agreed to host a Jamaican Team as a scientific visit to that country in order to share energy sector experiences. The candidates chosen for this visit are:

- *Dr. Besty Bandy* – Director, Mines Development & Mineral Lands
Ministry of Energy and Mining
- *Mr. Lancelot White* – Head, Agricultural Engineering Department
Sugar Industry Research Institute (SIRI)
- *Mr. Niconor Reece* – Project Engineer for Bio-fuels
Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy (CERE), Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ)
- *Mr. Omar Alcock* – Senior Economist
Ministry of Energy and Mining

Given the similarities between Jamaica and Mauritius' economic and energy structures, a close working relationship with Mauritius would be of paramount importance to proceed successfully with the current IAEA/ Jamaica project. Further, this close relationship will help to develop the necessary mechanisms as Jamaica pursues the objectives of the various Energy Policies. The visit will provide key information for enhancing related local processes to promote the planning and implementation of Energy Policies. In particular the need to expand human capacity is currently being pursued and undoubtedly having a firsthand knowledge of how this is successfully done in similarly structured countries will inform the necessary steps going forward.

In addition, Jamaica is seeking to improve on its renewable energy potential by developing initiatives in various sectors, one of which is the initiatives in the Sugar Cane Industry. The local Sugar Cane Industry through this visit would be better poised to implement researched based techniques to improve efficiency in the production of bagasse which is now used for cogeneration by several industries and manufacturers. Through this visit, more feasible ways could be discovered to extend power generation to the national grid.

During the visit, the team also seeks to liaise with relevant Mauritius' divisions that are dedicated to energy studies, research and modelling. The team will seek to garner an understanding of how their bagasse/energy models may be adopted to effectively improve Jamaica's energy network. There will be site visits enabling the team to experience first-hand the operations of Mauritius's energy systems. Through this visit the team will gather more information related generally to energy sector developments, energy planning and policy, database management, energy balance development and human resource development (technical capacity and structural).