

Deliverable: Speech

Event: Caribbean Energy Statistics and Information Conference

Date: 21st-23rd March, 2022

Speaker: Simon Zellner, Programme Leader, TAPSEC/GIZ

Message: TAPSEC/GIZ supports regional efforts to collect the reliable and high-quality energy data that is critical to the policies, regulations and investments that will help CARICOM meet the C-SERMS targets and objectives.

Length: ~ 5 minutes

Text

Good morning, everyone. Thank you for welcoming me here to speak to you all on behalf of GIZ/TAPSEC. It's good to be here and see you all face-to-face. It has been too long.

The Technical Assistance Programme for Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean exists to support the region's transition to a sustainable and climate-resilient future. As a team, we believe that this goal can be achieved through a three-pronged approach: the creation of sound policies and regulations, access to much-needed finance, and the availability of quality information and development of regional capacity. These three components are at the core of our partnership with regional organisations like the CARICOM Secretariat, CCREEE and the CDF. The third component — information — is why we're here today.

Information is at the foundation of the Caribbean region's drive to create a future where all its citizens have access to clean, modern and affordable energy services. Before there can be strong policies and regulations guiding the regional transformation, there has to be high-quality energy data, statistics and information. That data will inform the technical solutions that are developed and proposed. It will inform the decisions being made in boardrooms and governments across the Caribbean. And it will ultimately inform the region's path towards sustainability.

That's why this conference is so important. It's creating a space for the improvement of regional energy data through the sharing of practical data collection experience. Events like this bring the region that much closer to the goals and objectives laid out in the CARICOM Energy Policy and the C-SERMS. Projects like those being launched here today will play a critical role in making sure that the region has the information it needs to chart the way forward.

As TAPSEC's Programme Leader, I'm very happy to be here to witness the launch of the CARICOM Energy Information System and CARICOM Energy Knowledge Hub. These projects, which received TAPSEC and GIZ support, will contribute directly to the effort to collect and share the energy data that will inform regional energy policy decisions for years to come.

Under the guidance of CCREEE and in partnership with the CARICOM Energy Unit and the Regional University Network, the CARICOM Energy Information System was tailored

specifically for the region. OLADE designed it to collect and process the kinds of precise energy sector data required to understand the region's energy balances and plan for future energy needs. As part of the Regional Energy Statistics and Information Management initiative, the information gathered by the system will play a pivotal role in the development of CARICOM's energy sector. Existing and future energy professionals throughout the Caribbean will now be trained to use the system, enhancing their ability to manage national power supplies and create energy forecasts.

This system will be hosted within the CARICOM Energy Knowledge Hub, an information and knowledge management framework created by the CCREEE. The CEKH provides access to unprecedented amounts of accurate, up-to-date, energy-related data. It includes online courses, a document repository, a discussions hub, geographic data, regional energy sector reports and so much more. Thanks to the CCREEE, "everything energy" will now be at the fingertips of those directly involved in the energy sector as well as those involved in academic research, policy-making and business and investment planning.

In addition to everything else, the CEKH also houses the methodology for another GIZ-supported item on today's agenda: the Integrated Resource and Resilience Plan. The IRRP is an example of exactly the kind of preparations that can be made on the basis of reliable, precise energy data. As a long-term roadmap customised to a nation's energy needs, an IRRP includes assessments of the country's existing energy details and predictions of its future energy requirements. Based on sound data, it serves as a plan for ensuring a flexible, sustainable and resilient power supply for your country. As a result of CCREEE's efforts, Belize, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago are currently in the process of creating their own IRRPs and securing the future of their respective energy sectors.

CARICOM has been making great strides towards its sustainable energy goals. This clear commitment to making it easy to access the necessary data ensures that those goals are well within reach.

On behalf of the TAPSEC team and GIZ, I'd like to say how much we have enjoyed lending our support on this journey and how excited we are to continue doing so.

Thank you.