

NEWS  RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CARICOM Energy Week Launched

The first staging of the CARICOM Energy Week was launched this morning (November 3, 2011) and precedes the November 6-12 week of activities.

The week is being observed under the theme “**Energy Security for a Sustainable Future**” and will be celebrated simultaneously in all member states of CARICOM.

Speaking at the launch, Minister of Energy and Mining Hon. Clive Mullings urged those in attendance to make a difference in the way we use and treat energy thus making energy conservation and efficiency and diversification must therefore become our mantra.

He states that “Jamaica spends billions of dollars annually to import oil [and at this time] current trends do not augur well for our country’s energy future and so at this pivotal moment we must implement the strategies that will revolutionize our domestic consumption patterns, manufacturing and productive processes.”

Minister Mullings also outlined his plan of action to take Jamaica into the future. “We can diversify so that we can have a sustainable future. Utilizing our renewable energy sources will mean big savings for everyone both individually and collectively. We will spend less on oil imports thereby having more funds for distribution to other essential areas which would lead to better infrastructure and services while giving consumers more spending power.”

He also added that “in 20 years, Renewables will account for 20% of the country’s energy supply. This will produce 1920 GWh per year of electricity. At today’s efficiencies, this is a displacement of 3.5 million barrels of oil. At today’s prices (which are obviously lower than in 2030), this is 284 million USD per year.”

CARICOM Energy Week promises to be filled with insightful and analytical presentations and discussions, catering to the taste of various sections of the society.

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