

June 2019

REGULATING ELECTRICITY, PROMOTING OUR ENERGY NEWSLETTER OF DOMINICA'S ELECTRICITY REGULATOR

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HEALTH & SAFETY

IT'S EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS



THE IRC's HEALTH & SAFETY CAMPAIGN

The IRC's Health & Safety Campaign has been very well received by Secondary Schools . The Commission has been visiting schools island wide as part of its sensitization campaign centered around electrical hazards and the many forms in which they exist. The theme of the Campaign is “ **HEALTH & SAFETY - IT'S EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS**” . The Commission has been encouraging Health & Safety practices which will help to mitigate and where possible, eliminate the related injuries, losses or deaths that are associated with such hazards. Though the sensitization had been interrupted due to the passage of Hurricane Maria, the IRC' has persevered in ensuring that every secondary school is sensitized.

Thirteen of the targeted secondary schools on island have so far been sensitized. Both students and teachers have been embracing the information provided, as they recognize the seriousness of hazards and how easily it could negatively impact health, property and the environment.



A back section of the class room of forth formers of the Dominica Community High School getting prepared to respond to a question on Electrical Hazards , while some of the teachers present looked on.

Some of the topics covered dealt with carbon monoxide as one of the dangerous gases released from generators and its poisoning effects on the human body. Discussions were also held on the importance of wearing protective gears when dealing with electrical current, the proper maintenance and storage of electrical appliances and the need to do

periodic inspection for damaged insulation and cracks.

Students were told of the consequence of overloading circuits, ignoring faulty electrical fan strips, not attending to a defective modified wiring, or to prolonged electrical problems , all of which have been some of the cause of many electrical fires . Emphasis was made on the relevance of placing fire extinguishers at

strategic places at schools / homes/ workplaces. Students realized the importance of keeping electrical appliances out of the reach of children as something they had taken for granted for too long .

The right response to electrical shocks, demonstrating how to separate an individual from the source of electricity ,was also a welcomed eye opener.

Some of the schools sensitized included the St. Mary's Academy, the Wesley High School , the Orion Academy , the Castle Bruce Secondary School, Portsmouth Secondary School, Seventh Day Adventist School, the Goodwill Secondary School and Pierre Charles Secondary School.



St. Martin Secondary School



North Eastern Comprehensive School



Isaiah Thomas Secondary School



Portsmouth Secondary School



Dominica Grammar School

IRC's Consumer Affairs Officer Miss Corine Pinard and Administrative Assistant Mrs. Denise Pemberton-Shillingford, have reported that the venture has been a very worthwhile one which has been highly embraced by both students and teachers .

MEET THE **IRC's** BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



IRC's Chairman Ms. Marah Walter

Miss Walter was appointed on July 1st, 2018 to serve for a term of three (3) years, ending June 30th, 2021. Ms. Walter serves as a Lawyer by profession.



Commissioner Kareem Guiste

Mr. Guiste was appointed on July 1st, 2018 to serve for a term of three (3) years ending June 30th, 2021. Mr. Guiste is involved in Marketing and Finance



Commissioner Mrs. Annette Lestrade

Mrs. Lestrade was appointed on July 1st, 2018 to serve for a term of three (3) years, ending June 30th, 2021. Mrs. Lestrade is a retired banker who now runs her own private business.



Commissioner Peter Bannis

Mr. Bannis was appointed on July 1st, 2018 to serve for a term of three (3) years, ending June 30th, 2021. Mr. Bannis is an Electrical Engineer by profession.

IRC's OUT-GOING COMMISSIONER



IRC's Chairman Ms. Marah Walter (*right*) extends gift of appreciation to outgoing Commissioner Miss Elizabeth Hill , as members of staff and Commissioners met for a fare well cocktail at the old Stone Bar and Grill . Miss. Hill 's second term as Commission on the IRC's Board , ended on May 20, 2019.

MEET IRC's IN-COMING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



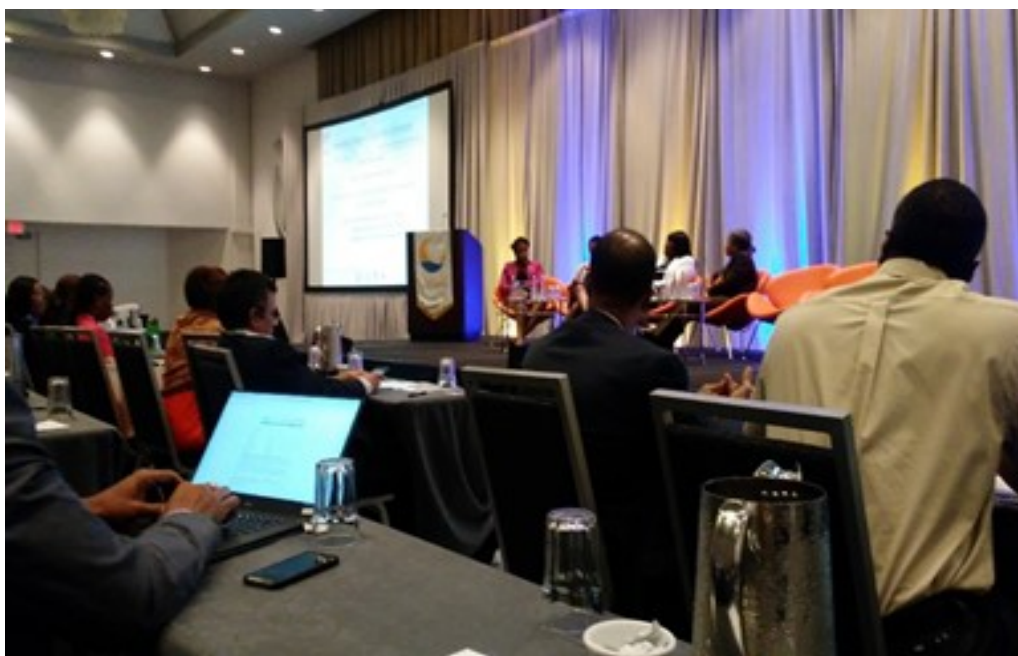
Mr. Justinn Kase is no stranger to the Commission, where he had already worked for over eight (8) years in the capacity of Utility Engineer. Mr. Kase came in on November 12, 2018 , as the Independent Regulatory Commission's new Executive Director.

CAREC CONFERENCE 2018—MIAMI FLORIDA

The Carilec Renewable Energy & Smart Grid Conference was held in Miami Florida from September 23rd to 27th 2018. The theme of the conference was “Energy Resilience and Independence”. Panel discussions were held on various topics to include:

- ♦ Understanding the trade off when adding renewable storage to an island utility grid;
- ♦ Grid Friendly Microgrids– How microgrids can create resiliency and independence for the off - takes;
- ♦ Capacity Building —An imperative in green energy transition for the Caribbean;
- ♦ Supporting Energy Sector Development through effective knowledge Management;
- ♦ Better & Cleaner fuel– Achieving Emission reduction in the Caribbean;
- ♦ The path to 100% diesel free operating electric utilities in the Caribbean;
- ♦ Electric vehicles– is it the silver bullet for electric utilities;

IRC's Financial Analyst Mrs. Connie Joseph-Louis represented the Commission at that conference.



LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN (FFRE) WORKSHOP

The Latin America's Fossil Fuel to Renewable Energy (FFRE) workshop organized by the United Nations Office of Sustainable Development (UNOSD) in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Costa Rica, brought together participants from government organizations from twenty one (21) countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The workshop was held in Fondation Omar Dengo, San Jose, Costa Rica from the 12th to 16th of November 2018. The facilitators of the workshop were from UNOSD & the United Nations Development of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

The facilitators were able to inform participants on the global trends and present thinking regarding Environmental Fiscal reform and in particular, Fossil Fuel Subsidiary Reform and the importance of the FFRE process in the attainment of many of the sustainable development goal.

Broadly the FFRE Workshop focused on topic such as Environmental Fiscal Reform in theory & practice, the Political Economy of Energy Policies, as well as designing robust FFRE policies. The Independent Regulatory Commission's Utility Engineer, Mr. Felix Julien, was in attendance.



Mr. Felix Julien (left) at FFRE Workshop

OOCUR ECONOMETRIC & STATISTICAL TRAINING

The Organization of Caribbean Utility Regulators , held a five-day workshop on Econometric and Statistical Techniques in Port of Spain Trinidad , from August 20th to 24th 2018.

The objective of the workshop, was to provide Caribbean Utility Regulators with an introduction to the fundamental methods of Econometric.

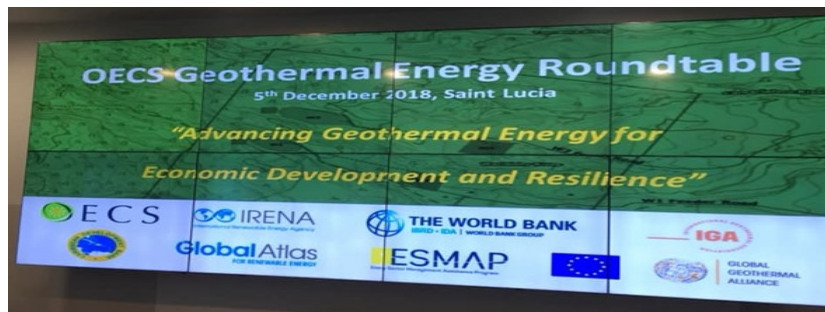
Participants were provided with techniques to develop more efficient ways to carry out routine but vital operation , principally, for Forecasting and Policy Analysis. The facilitator of the workshop was Dr. Patrick Watson of Trinidad. IRC's Financial Analyst Mrs. Connie Joseph-Louis and Utility Engineer Mr. Felix-Julien , attended the workshop.



Mrs. Connie Joseph -Louis (2nd-left) Felix Julien rear end - left

OECS GEOTHERMAL ENERGY ROUND TABLE

The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Geothermal Roundtable, was held in Harbor Club Hotel St. Lucia , on December 5th 2018, under the theme “Advancing Geothermal Energy for Economic Development Resilience”. A key objective of the Roundtable was to obtain a status report on the achievements with respect to Geothermal Energy in the region.



There were various presentations at the session. Some of the topics addressed were:

- ♦ Risk Management for Geothermal Progress in the Caribbean;
- ♦ Financing Geothermal Energy in the Caribbean;
- ♦ Geothermal Energy Interconnection.

The presentation on Geothermal Energy Island Interconnection generated discussions on the potential for export of geothermal energy through submarine cables in the region. Reference was made on the need for greater regional collaboration on geothermal energy.

Currently seven (7) OECS member states are pursuing geothermal energy as part of their renewable energy mix. The Independent Regulatory Commission’s Executive Director Mr. Justinn Kase represented the Commission at the Roundtable.



Mr. Justinn Kase (2nd—left) at Geothermal Energy Round Table



USTDA MISSION

The United States Development Agency (USTDA) invited the Independent Regulatory Commission to attend a Caribbean Microgrid Infrastructure Reverse Trade Mission from April 28th to May 4th 2019. The Trade Mission is an approach by the USTDA , inviting utilities and other electricity sector agencies and organizations within the Caribbean, to inform the targeted audience of technology business of funding opportunities available to them, for securing Technical Assistance, Studies and Expertise, necessary for establishing a microgrid infrastructure.



Visits were carried out to two sites with established microgrid operations. IRC's Executive Director Mr. Justin Kase along with the other participants, were able to observe how the sites took measures in making their microgrids more resilient to severe weather events. The sites had previously experienced damage from a few storms.



IRC Executive Director Mr. Justin Kase (left) at one of the sites with the microgrid operations

TRACTEBEL TRAINING

Tractebel Engineering Consultancy Firm was selected by Agence Francaise Development (AFD) to provide Technical Assistance to the IRC. This technical assistance is necessary for building the Commission's capacity and for working towards the goal of achieving Dominica's energy production target.

The training which dealt with Tariff Setting, Cost of Services and Demand Forecast, was held at the IRC's Conference Room from April 15th to the 19th, 2019. Members of staff present at the training were IRC's Executive Director Mr. Justinn Kase, Utility Engineer Mr. Felix Julien and Financial Analyst Mrs. Connie Joseph-Louis.



From left to right - IRC's Mr. Felix Julien, Mrs. Connie Joseph—Louis, Mr. Justinn Kase, along with Tractebel's representatives Lamis Aljounaidi, Erlene Simon and Monica Moncayo.

A HURRICANE TRACKING MAP IS QUITE HANDY DURING THE HURRICANE SEASON.

- ◆ Ensure that all safety measures are taken prior to a storm
- ◆ Do not wait the last minute to get the important things done
- ◆ Generator owners, ensure that your generator is in good working condition and is properly secured.



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