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## 2nd Green Aruba Energy Conference opens today

ORANJESTAD -- This is an exciting weekend for Aruba, when 2 spectacularly important events coincide and intertwine; the "Bishita Real" or Royal Visit of Her Royal Majesty, Queen Beatrix of Holland with her son, Prince of Orange, heir to the throne, and his wife, HRH Princess Maxima.

Today at 9:30, the opening sessions of the Green Aruba Energy Conference will also begin. The inaugural conference last year brought former Vice-President Al Gore to Aruba as Keynote Speaker; this year HRH Prince of Orange will end the three-day event on Saturday, after which the formal signing of the agreement between TNO (Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research) and Aruba for the establishment of the first renewable energy research and learning center in the region will close the conference.

Green Aruba 2011 is an opportunity for any and all who are interested in the welfare of not only Aruba, but the entire planet, to learn about the latest technology in harnessing renewable and "clean" energy sources from innovators in sun, wind, geo-thermal and hydro-energy. Presenters have traveled from Europe and the U.S.; lectures and the display booths are in English.

Opening session today will feature addresses of welcome by island officials: Prime Minister Mike Eman and Minister of Finance, Telecommunications, Utilities & Energy, Mike de Meza, who will outline their vision for an Aruba and Caribbean region independent from the vicissitudes of a volatile oil industry. Jan Willem Kelder, a member of the TNO Board of Management, will also address the gathering.

The morning sessions will be dedicated to the topic "Green Energy for Small Island Countries" featuring Ulric Trotz, Science Adviser from Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre and Aruba's Minister of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar. After the lunch break, the topic will continue with guest speakers Kevin De Cuba from the ECPA Initiative Manager Energy and Sustainable Development Specialist at OAS, Duzan Doepel of the Hogeschool of Rotterdam and O.J. Boekhoudt, Director of WEB Aruba, the island's energy producer and water plant, followed by a panel discussion.

Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development, European Commission will address the conference at 3:30 PM, after which he will join island dignitaries and con-



ference Co-Chairperson Dr. Edward Cheung for the official opening of Europe House and the TNO Caribbean Branch Office at their newly renovated premises on the Sasaki Highway, on the western outskirts of Oranjestad. The building is being dedicated to Dr. Cheung, an innovative robotics engineer born on Aruba, who has been an integral part of the NASA space program, in particular the Hubble Space Telescope, working out of Goddard Space Center for nearly 2 decades.

Friday's conference schedule examines "The future of Green Energy" in the morning with a green technology update after the lunch break. Featured speakers are:

- \* Mr. Gilbert Gouveneur – Ecopower International
- \* Mr. Chell Roberts - Executive Dean & Professor, Arizona State University
- \* Mr. Dr. Frederick Stoss – University of Buffalo

\* Mr. Ramon Hernan, Executive Vice President, North America & Brazil

\* Mr. Mart van Bracht – Managing Director Energy TNO

A panel discussion will follow the presentations. Guest speakers for the afternoon session are:

- \* Mr. Rens Knegt, director Alternative Energy Eneco
- \* Mr. Ray Buckley, Vice President Valero Refinery Aruba
- \* Mr. dr. Henry Brandhorst – former NASA scientist
- \* Mr. Jan van der Tempel – TUDelft

\* Mr. Jan Ebbing, Director Caribbean Branch Office TNO

A number of them will be updating information introduced at last year's conference.

Saturday morning will focus on "Green Finance" and examine the advantages for small islands of public/private partnerships, or PPP. Speakers are:

- \* Mr. Milton Berlinski – Managing Director, Goldman Sachs
- \* Mrs. Jacqueline Cramer – former Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment of the Netherlands

\* Mr. Niels Jongste – Managing Director Green Giraffe Capital

\* Mr. Jan Mengelers CEO TNO

\* Mr. Paul Nillesen – PWC, Partner Dutch Energy & Utilities Practice, Dutch EU&M Advisory

Mrs. Sandra Odendahl of the Royal Bank of Canada will moderate.

The conference is to inform all island residents and those who have concerns about the environment, financial stability regarding energy requirements and costs, and the sustainability of the island nations of the region. Aruba's present administration is taking bold and definitive steps to establish this industry not only with an eye towards stabilizing its economy by being oil independent, but as they describe it "a potential 3rd pillar of Aruba's economy" as it is expected the research center will generate income by attracting students and researchers from around the globe.

Presentations begin daily at 9:00 AM for those interested in attending.

by Rosalie Klein

## Department for Labor Progress working diligently on clearing accumulated overdue petitions

ORANJESTAD -- The Department of Admission to the Labor Market (Toelating Arbeidsmarkt) which is a division under the Department for Labor Progress, hereby informs the public concerning the accumulated overdue petitions, which accumulated during their move to the new facilities and the change from the old DAO to the new DPL.

The entire process which entailed significant administrative changes and the physical moving process of material and

documents, the change of personnel and new management, brought about a buildup of documents and a delay in executing these timely. As a result, the department of Admission

suffered a delay with the petitions of work permits. Some of these are for prolongations, others for change of signature or for new labor petitions.

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