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Aruba's Second Green Conference a raving success



ORANJESTAD -- The organizing team of this year's conference on alternative energy can look back at a tremendously successful Aruba Green Conference. It was an immaculately prepared conference by any standard. They succeeded in bringing some of the most outstanding speakers from around the world to Aruba.

These were all noted experts in the field of green energy, which is the topic

dominating discussion worldwide today. And, Aruba is poised for becoming a leader of green energy for our country. Each speaker somehow referred to this vision of Aruba. They had much praise for Aruba's resolve to pursue green energy initiatives.

Minister of Finance and Energy, Mike de Meza, who acted as the host for this year's green conference, opened the conference on Thursday morn-

ing in the presence of a packed auditorium of people interested in the topic of green energy. When asked what drives him to continue the goal for green energy, de Meza responded.... "The reason is, we must look for resources to ensure sustainability for our energy needs".

De Meza informed that the fossil combustible resources have its limitations. It appears to be depleting and it has a tremendous impact on the world's environment. Hence, the moment is right now to focus on sustainable energy.

According to de Meza, 50 years ago we were warned about what we are seeing today, a depleting energy resource. In 1999 a barrel of petroleum that was used for our sea water distillery and to produce electricity was priced at between 12 to 15 dollars.

Today that same barrel of fuel costs 100 dollars! The impact is great and the price of water and electricity has tripled during the last 10 years. De Mezas is convinced that we can no longer continue paying such prices. The global crisis is directly connected to the energy crisis.

Therefore, de Mezas believes that Aruba as a small island must prepare herself before it is too late. Aruba does not have fossil fuels. But, what we do have is the sun and

wind, and we have these in abundance and we are surrounded by water. All three of these are sources of sustainable energy.

As a tourism island, sustainable energy is extremely important to us. For this reason, said De Meza, Aruba is focusing heavily on green energy. Much has already been done and there is a whole lot more to be done.

According to de Meza, Aruba is taking a leadership role in this matter.



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