

Beef Shish Kebab



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Aruba Green Energy Conference 2011 “The Green Gateway” begins



Co Chairs Dr. Ed Cheung and Tina La Sort

The second Aruba Green Energy Conference “The Green Gateway” was officially opened by Minister of Finance, Telecommunications, Utilities & Energy, Mike de Meza, yesterday morning at the Renaissance Convention Center. It encompasses three intensive days of presentations and discussion about the future of Aruba and the region regarding renewable, “clean” energy source development.

Minister de Meza opened the conference with a recitation of disturbing global figures regarding explosive population growth, energy

consumption, oil reserves and pollution, which underlined the purpose of the conference and the urgency of action to resolve the dilemma of demand by the more technologically driven nations.

Following his startling revelations, Prime Minister Mike Eman came to the podium to confirm that his administration is “delivering on the promises” made at last year’s congress, by definitive action towards insuring Aruba becomes oil independent. Advancing in the technologies of harnessing wind, solar and water power can also provide an additional

economic pillar for the island, and as was proposed last year, this conference will end with the ratification of an official contract with TNO (Netherlands Organization Applied Scientific Research) and the establishment of the TNO Caribbean Branch on Aruba.

Final opening address was given by Jan Willem Kelder of the TNO Board of Management, who outlined the diversity of TNO innovative technology and how it is deployed residentially, by industry, medicine, police and defense. “We will work hard to make this endeavor a success, and we will do it in close co-operation with the Aruban people,” he told the gathering.

Co-chairs for the 2nd Green Energy Conference are Tina La-sort and Dr. Edward Cheung, who is the namesake of the new TNO offices, which opened last night in the Dr. Edward Cheung Center for Innovation. The building will also be headquarters of the Europe House.

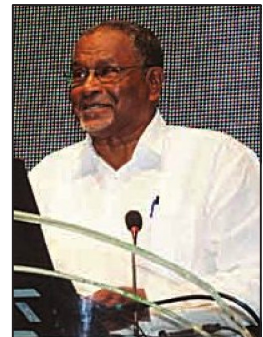
The morning sessions were particularly dedicated to the energy and related climate

problems that emerging Caribbean island nations must contend with to achieve economic and developmental sustainability. Dr. Ulric Troetz, Science Advisor to the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center, (CCCC) in Belize, supporting the member nations of CARICOM was the first presenter. CARICOM accounts for 2 dozen island nations out of 36, with a population of 40 million people. Dr. Troetz cited the region’s strong dependence of oil, with an average use of 116 millions barrels annually, which in 1985 cost \$530 million, but in 2008 soared to \$6.3 billion; though the price dropped drastically, it is again climbing in price; this puts a severe drain on nations with limited resources. Not only is this oil dependence causing a heavy outflow of foreign exchange, but reducing the region’s carbon footprint is essential to maintaining the environment and the Caribbean’s foremost attraction.

Following Dr. Troetz were Aruba’s Minister of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar. Afternoon sessions included presentations by Kevin De Cuba from the ECPA Initiative Manager Energy and a 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



TNO Board Member Jan Willem Kelder



Ulric Troetz of Caribbean Community Climate Change Center

water plant, followed by a panel discussion.

Today’s topics include “The Future of Green Energy” and a “Green Technology Update.”

by Rosalie Klein



A standing ovation for Dr. Edward Cheung

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