

# **CPACC PRIVATE SECTOR SEMINAR**

**15-16 May 2000**

**PETROTRIN Complex  
Point-a-Pierre, Trinidad**

**THEME: Climate Change Awareness and Opportunity**

# **REPORT**

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Consultant, Public Awareness and Information Dissemination**

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**Caribbean: Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change (CPACC)**  
*A Joint Project of: UWI – CARICOM – OAS – World Bank – GEF*

**1. OVERVIEW**

This Seminar was a result of the collaborative efforts of The Caribbean: Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change (CPACC) project, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago (PETROTRIN). The objective was to sensitize Caribbean private sector executives to the phenomenon of Climate Change, its anticipated impact, consequent challenges and opportunities.

It was expected to result in increased awareness, interest and action at the regional level.

In particular, the seminar provided a forum for presenting and analyzing initiatives currently underway primarily in the industrialized countries, and for a presentation of perspectives of Caribbean Private Sector executives and development professionals. Areas covered included insurance, banking, petroleum, manufacturing, tourism and Agriculture.

**2. PARTICIPATION**

Some 70 participants from the sectors mentioned above; representatives of CPACC participating governments (including the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard) and the mass media.

**3. VENUE**

The Human Resources training facility of The Trinidad and Tobago Petroleum Corporation (PETROTRIN) at Point a-Pierre, South Trinidad.

**4. COORDINATION & LOGISTICS**

The facilities and logistics were put in place by PETROTRIN and were very well done. These included their meeting participants at Piarco International Airport, easing their entry through customs and immigration, and transport to the hotels. PETROTRIN provided transport also for complementary activities such as the visit to the Point-a-Pierre Wild Fowl Trust, the Point-a-Pierre Club for the official reception hosted by them, and departures from Trinidad and Tobago.

**5. CONSTRAINTS**

Neither the organizers nor the participants identified any constraints to their participation. It is reasonable to assume that they faced none.

**6. OPPORTUNITIES**

The seminar appeared to achieve its initial objectives of CPACC catalyzing partnerships between the regional private sector, governments, international development agencies, the scientific community, and the mass media in planning for adaptation to climate change.

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For more on opportunities, see section 11.2, Comments, Networking and Alliances

**7. CLIMATE CHANGE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR:  
a NICU Perspective**

The seminar represented also the introduction of a dialogue between the private sector, the government focal points for climate change issues, and the media in the CPACC Participating Countries. The government climate change liaison points are alternatively National Implementation and Coordination Units (NICUs).

The consensus among the NICU officials present was that in bringing together the NICUs and their private sector representatives in a regional forum, CPACC stands to enhance the image of the NICUs as credible advocates and a source of reference in climate change adaptation and mitigation issues.

**8. CLIMATE CHANGE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR:  
a Regional Private Sector Perspective**

Throughout the Seminar; in plenary and informal sessions, invitees said that they were not aware prior, of climate change, and global warming in particular having perceptible impact on the Caribbean; nor were they aware that despite the obvious threats, it provided opportunities also.

They feel that this type of date and the awareness it creates ought to be shared much wider throughout the Caribbean, and urged CPACC to do so through similar seminars and related activities now that the momentum has been created. Many were amazed at the body of knowledge available.

**9. CLIMATE CHANGE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR:  
a CPACC RPIU Perspective**

From the RPIU point of view, the seminar provided the opportunity to work with the region's private sector formally for the first time, and an awareness of the potential of the private sector in the climate change debate. It raised issues of what needs to be done and the human and financial resources required to do it. These include the need to help the RPIU professional staff hone their advocacy and communication skills to complement their specific technical skills, and the importance of including the private sector in the matrices of contacts or activities planned as part of their work programmes.

**10. MAIN ISSUES**

The approach of CPACC to the Seminar was one of orientation and feedback. As such there was much more **discussion on areas of potential interest or relevance**, than on issues.

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These areas or categories included:

**10.1 The generic**

- “Climate Change and the Caribbean”.

**10.2 The opportunity**

- “New Opportunities for Investment in the Caribbean: The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)”
- The World Bank presentations “Carbon Fund” and “Charting a New Course;”
- The GEF presentation ““Financing Mitigation and Adaptation”
- A role for the Caribbean Private sector
- Climate Change Implications for the Caribbean Financial Sector
- Climate Change Adaptation and Private Sector Partnership

**10.3 The experiential**

- CDM and the Central American Experience
- Climate Change and the Insurance Industry: presentations by representatives of International intergovernmental and Non-governmental organizations, e.g. Insurance Institute of Canada, International Finance Corporation, Global Climate Solutions Inc. (GCSI)

**10.4 Petroleum, Agriculture, Policy**

- Caribbean Response Initiatives in the Petroleum Industry
- Multinational Initiatives in the Petroleum Industry
- Policy of Climate Change; a European NGO Perspective
- Climate Change and Agriculture

**10.5 The Communication Reality**

Understanding Caribbean People; Telling the Story

For specifics on topics and presenters, see **Agenda at Annex 1**,

**11. OPPORTUNITIES**

**11.1 General**

In general, the Seminar revealed the potential for awareness and adaptation to the anticipated impacts of climate change among the Caribbean private sector; a unique constituency. This sector is unique because even though in development terminology, there is the Private Sector and the Public Sector, there exist a number of sub-sectors within the private sector which are unique, influential, and critical in their own unique ways. These include Insurance, Banking, Petroleum, Manufacturing, Trade, Industry Tourism, Real Estate development and investment, and Agriculture.

This represents opportunity for CPACC to develop, and facilitate the running of networks of private sector entities on climate change issues. Under this umbrella, it

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provides also, opportunity for CPACC and its management partners, e.g. the World Bank, the OAS, The GEF, and CARICOM, to build capacity among the National Focal points and NICUs, and to utilize the expertise and existing private sector networks to sustain public awareness and advocacy initiatives. Evidence of the potential for this is the offer and subsequent action by Hilford Murrell of Barbados to convene a seminar for the insurance groups in the Caribbean in October/November 2000 as a result of his attendance at, and participation in, the seminar at PETROTRIN. In this he is working with the CPACC RPIU and the GEF. Another is the announcement by PETROTRIN of its intention to establish a sustainable development unit.

### **11.2 Networking and Alliances**

The opportunity presented by the successful completion of the seminar, is one also for an acceleration of networking activities and the forging of alliances. In this the CPACC RPIU is ideal placed to be the main catalyst and facilitator. It is an area in which all RPIU staff must be involved.

### **11.3 Follow-up**

The main follow-up activities would focus on the communication aspects of networking. This ought to include helping the private sector in the region establish a group to address the opportunities of Climate Change and facilitation the work of groups which are spawned. Areas in which these private sector groups should be assisted include relations with the Media and Public awareness, access to sources in information, and identifying international contacts for them in a wide range of Climate Change matters.

The advocacy and diplomatic aspects of follow-up are as important as seminars. These require constant vigilance and the direct involvement of the Project Manager. Primary constituencies are national governments, regional and international organizations, institutions and agencies, and the core management group of CPACC, viz. the GEF, World Bank, OAS, UWICED and CARICOM

### **11.4 Media and Public awareness**

The coverage of the seminar by the Trinidad and Tobago mass media was extensive, and complemented by the regional and international coverage of the Journalists who travelled to Trinidad to attend and cover it. These included journalists from the Nation newspaper of Barbados, The Caribbean News Agency, and the Associated Press. These are seen as key partners in the media alliance which is expected to be formed later this year following the recommendation of the CPACC Media consultation held in Trinidad and Tobago, 27-28 April 2000.

There is now a CPACC responsibility to broker and to help sustain a relationship between the various stakeholders and the national and regional mass media during the remainder of the project cycle and to set-up a mechanism for sustainability of that arrangement beyond the end of the project (December 2001)

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**12. RECOMMENDATIONS (Consultant)**

**12.1 Networking and Alliances**

It is recommended that:

12.1.1 The RPIU catalyze and facilitate networking activities and the forging of alliances. In this, all RPIU staff must be involved.

**12.2 Follow-up**

It is recommended that:

12.2.1 The CPACC RPIU follow-up urgently on the communication aspects of sensitizing and supporting the sensitization efforts of the regional private sector through seminars, contribution of experts to seminars, inclusion of Private Sector initiatives and contacts in the CPACC web-site.

12.2.2 The Project Manager accelerate and manage advocacy and diplomatic aspects of follow-up with primary constituencies, e.g. national governments, regional and international organizations, institutions and agencies, and the core management group of CPACC, viz. The GEF, World Bank, OAS, UWICED and CARICOM

**12.3 Media and Public awareness**

(Excerpt from Report on CPACC Regional Media Consultation)

“The participants in the CPACC Regional Media Consultation held at the Ambassador Hotel in Trinidad, 27-28 April 2000, tabled a consensus request to CPACC to:

- Devise a mechanism to ensure a continued flow of information on issues and developments related to Climate Change.
- Develop a forum for circulation and exchange of material produced and presented in the media of CPACC participation countries, and
- Facilitate the development of a network of media practitioners who deal with Climate Change issues.

The name I have suggested for the network is “ Media for Climate Change Awareness (MECCA). The RPIU will serve as the communication node for the network, which will comprise primarily, but not exclusively, journalists who attended the Consultation in Trinidad. It is anticipated that the circular on the structure and composition of MECCA will go out, in August 2000, to all who attended the Media Consultation. Trinidad and Tobago

**13. COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**(Participants and Government Officials)**

“For me as an international Banker and financier for over 25 years, this data on climate change and options for adaptation; the entire seminar, is an eye-opener”

*Hilford Murrell, Barbados*

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“Interaction far beyond my expectations”

*Michael Sanio, Global Environment Facility (GEF)*

“I gained a tremendous overview of climate change. Based on that I have decided to share all information which I have gained on climate change awareness with our Chamber of Commerce in Grenada.”

*Carlyle Green, Private Sector, Grenada*

“Very impressed. I will pass on this material and information to the Antigua of Commerce”.

“I would have liked more information on Tourism as that is very relevant to Antigua and Barbuda”

“Reduction of GHGs is irrelevant to Antigua and Barbuda, but we need all information we can get about the impact on beach erosion and coastal erosion.”

*Mario Bento, Private Sector, Antigua*

“Although Caribbean countries are small, we should still look at renewable energy. Antigua has in efficient electricity use. Mitigation methods would be appropriate for Antigua”.

*Jan Vermeiren, OAS*

Bahamas would be concerned with the tourism aspects of adaptation. There are a lot of hotels on the coast. We are interested in what CPACC is doing and I will take this back to the Bahamian private sector.

*Bismarck Oakely, Private Sector, Bahamas*

We are currently reworking our trade policy. This seminar has made me realize that climate change must be an element to consider

*Representative, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Trinidad and Tobago*

“We of the NGO community are committed to helping in the establishment of a climate change adaptation centre. We should look to the European Union for funding. CPACC should follow up with the issue of climate change in the Caribbean dialogue with the EU”.

*Stefan Singer, WWF Europe*

“We need to view this seminar not as an event, but an initiation. We all need to follow up. I am especially heartened that the banking and insurance sector has come up with the initiative of a risk management workshop in the Caribbean”.

“We applaud the announcement by PERTOTRIN of its intention to set up a climate change centre”.

*Neville Trotz, CPACC Project Manager*

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“Trinidad and Tobago will take the lead in the reduction of GHGs in the Caribbean region. We have a major project to reduce further flaring and other fugitive emissions by the third quarter of 2000”

*Kelvin Ramnath, PETROTRIN*

**14. CPACC MECHANISMS TO SUPPORT FOLLOW-UP.**

The CPACC mechanisms and assets to facilitate follow-up in the Public Awareness arena are many and varied. They include the **primary human resource assets** in the project as follows:

- The Project Manager (taking the lead)
- The Public Relations/Projects Officer
- The Consultant, Public Awareness and Information Dissemination
- All Staff of the RPIU
- Staff of the GEF, World Bank, CARICOM Secretariat, and UWICED.

These officials would need to keep one another and the Project briefed on requests, opportunities, invitations to speak, for interviews etc., and state whether any data or other information is required or conversely what was acquired in the interaction with mass media personnel, including members of the MECCA group.

Other mechanisms will be proposed and discussed by end of August. These could include funds for production, possibly publication, travel, and access modern multimedia computers. A budget will be prepared early in the period July – December 2000.

**15. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

I should like to thank the Project Manager and staff of the RPIU, The colleagues from the OAS/USDE, the World Bank, PETROTRIN and the CARICOM Secretariat for making my task as coordinator of the seminar, achievable and pleasant. ,mk

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16. ANNEXES

Annex # 1: AGENDA

## **PRIVATE SECTOR SEMINAR**

15-16 May 2000

PETROTRIN Complex,  
Point-a-Pierre, Trinidad

**Monday 15 May**

07:45-08:15

**REGISTRATION**

**OPENING CEREMONY**

Chair: ***Kelvin Ramnath. PETROTRIN***

08:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks

**the Honourable Finbar Gangar,**  
Minister of Energy of Energy Industries, Trinidad  
and Tobago.

08:40 Overview of Seminar

**Neville Trotz**  
Project Manager, CPACC-RPIU

08:50 Feature Address

**Dr. the Honourable Reeza Mohammed**  
Minister of Environment, Trinidad & Tobago

09:05 Vote of Thanks

**Kelvin Ramnath, Chairman**

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### **SESSION 1**

Climate Change (general)  
Chairman: **Carlton James**

- |       |  |   |
|-------|--|---|
| 09:10 | Announcements  |   |
| 09:15 | Climate Change and the Caribbean   | <b>Neville Trotz</b><br>Project Manager, CPACC-RPIU   |
| 09:45 | New Opportunities for Investment<br>in the Caribbean: The Clean<br>Development Mechanism (CDM) | <b>Doug Russell (GCSI)</b>  |
| 10:05 | <b>Break</b>   |   |
| 10:30 | CDM and the Central American<br>Experience   | <b>Christiana Figueres</b><br>Executive Director, Center for<br>Sustainable Development in the Americas |
| 10:50 | CPACC: Charting a New Course   | <b>Walter Vergara</b> , The World Bank  |
| 11:05 | The Carbon Fund  | <b>Loretta Sprissler</b> , The World Bank   |
| 11:20 | General Discussion   | Panel of Respondents:<br><b>Trotz/Russell/Figueres/Sprissler, Vergara</b>                               |
| 13:00 | Lunch  |   |

### **SESSION 2**

Insurance/Banking  
Chairman: **Jan Vermeiren**

- |       |   |   |
|-------|---|---|
| 14:00 | Panel: Climate Change and the Insurance Industry<br><i>Presentations of 10'00" each</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mark Baker</b>, Insurance Institute of Canada</li><li>• <b>Jean-Michel Attlan</b>, International Financial Corporation</li><li>• <b>Doug Russell</b>, Global Climate Solutions Inc. (GCSI)</li><li>•</li></ul>   |
| 14:45 | Discussion  |   |
| 15:30 | Panel: Private Sector Roles<br><i>Presentations of 10'00" each</i>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Financing Mitigation and Adaptation, <b>Michael Sanio</b>, GEF</li><li>• Climate Change Adaptation and Private Sector Partnership, <b>Christie Jorge</b>, Pew Ctr.</li><li>• Climate Change Implications for the Caribbean Financial Sector, <b>Hilford Murrell</b></li></ul> |
| 16:40 | Discussion  |   |
| 17:00 | <b>End of Session 2</b>   |   |
| 18:30 | <b>Reception</b>  |   |

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Tuesday 16 May

### **SESSION 3**

Petroleum, Agriculture, Policy  
Chairman: **Kelvin Ramnath**

08:30 Panel: Petroleum, Agriculture, and Policy  
*Presentations of 10'00" each*

- Caribbean Response Initiatives in the Petroleum Industry: **Kelvin Ramnath/Valerie Quan Vie, PETROTRIN**
- Multinational Initiatives in the Petroleum Industry: **Doug Russell, GCSI**
- Policy of Climate Change: a European Perspective: **Stephen Singer**  
European Climate and Energy Policy Unit, WWF
- Climate Change and Agriculture: **Peter Sparks, Clemson University**

10:45 Break

11:00 Discussion

12:15 **LUNCH**

13:15 **Visit to Pointe-a-Pierre Wild Fowl Trust**

### **SESSION 4**

Chairman: **Carlton James**

15:00 Views of the Regional Private Sector **Interactive Plenary Session**  
*(General discussions, recommendations comments)*

16:00 Climate Change: Understanding Caribbean People; Telling the Story **Paul Keens-Douglas, Motivational Speaker**

16:30 Closing Remarks **Wayne Usher, CPACC National Focal Point, Belize**  
**Terrance Smith, Grenada**  
**Bismarck Coakley, Bahamas**  
**Dev Sharma, Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, Guyana**  
**Hilford Murrell, Intl. Banking Sector, Barbados**  
**Michael Sanio, GEF**  
**Cornelius Fevrier, CARICOM Secretariat**  
**Jan Vermeiren, OAS**  
**Leslie Walling, CPACC**  
**Loretta Sprissler, World Bank**  
**Kelvin Ramnath, PETROTRIN**  
**End of Seminar**

17:05

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**Annex # 2**

***Point-a-Pierre; Tuesday 16 May 2000:***

The first Awareness Seminar for the Caribbean Private Sector on Adaptation to the effects of Global Climate Change, ended in Point-a-Pierre, South Trinidad, today with a call by Reeza Mohammed, Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Environment, for a Permanent Committee of Ministers for Environment within the 15-member Caribbean Community. Other highlights of the seminar included expressions of interest by the Private Sector to collaborate with regional scientists and planners to develop strategies to deal with the anticipated impacts of Climate Change.

The Seminar was co-sponsored by the Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change (CPACC) Project and the Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago (PETROTRIN), and was designed to share with the business community both the threats and the opportunities posed by Climate Change.

The 12 CPACC "Participating Countries", Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St.Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago, are primarily low-lying or coastal states with very fragile ecosystems. Tourism and Agriculture are their main sources of employment and foreign exchange earnings. Coastal areas, holding the vast majority of population and economic activity are vital to their prosperity, and are also the most productive areas as they support a wealth of living marine resources and high biological diversity.

CPACC is a joint project of these countries and The Global Environment Facility, The World Bank, The Organization of American States, The University of the West Indies Center for Environment and Development, and The Caribbean Community.

CPACC helps these countries to assess how vulnerable they are to the effects of Climate Change; to plan to adapt their styles of physical development and infrastructure; to train their people to address these issues, and to be part of a regional network of countries addressing this common challenge. The major threat and concern to these countries is anticipated global warming, consequent rise in sea level, increase in sea-surface temperature, changes in wind and ocean currents, and the impact of these events on coastal areas. For most, the entire country is a coastal area.

The threat posed by global warming comes at a time when already, the region is under stress. Many things contribute to this; increased human activity, tourism-related infrastructure, poor disposal of liquid and solid waste, decaying draining infrastructure, uncontrolled development schemes, severe weather events, mismanagement of coastal ecosystems, and build-up of silt due to poor watershed management. CPACC, begun in 1997, is being transformed rapidly from merely a project into an alliance between the national and regional Private Sectors, the Media, service organizations and civil society in general. Follow up to the seminar includes continued discussion and collaboration primarily between CPACC officials and the insurance, banking, agriculture, and tourism sectors.