

FIRE, AMBULANCE
AND POLICE

911 & 112

INSIDE THE OUR

POLICE DIRECT

119

REMAINS IN EFFECT

E-mail: consumer@our.org.jm

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Website: www.our.org.jm

Regional countries again asked to consider nuclear power

The Director General of the Office of Utilities Regulation and Immediate Past Chairman of the Organisation of Caribbean Utility Regulators (OOCUR) Mr. Ahmad Zia Mian has called on regional countries to consider the use of nuclear power in their mix of energy supplies. He made the call while addressing the opening ceremony of the recently concluded 9th annual conference of OOCUR held at the Accra Beach Hotel in Christ Church Barbados.

"New developments in nuclear technology and the emergence of economic Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) offer opportunities for the inclusion of nuclear generation into the energy supply mix of small economies like ours", he said. "I believe this is an area that is ripe for regional cooperation and a change in outlook".

According to Mr. Mian, "Jamaica must also evaluate the potential for deploying nuclear technology when the existing generating plants become due for retirement over the next 15 years". He noted there is a long lead time to establish these plants so if it is hoped to establish these plants within 15-20 years then work must begin now.

He hastened to assure that the concerns which were raised following the disaster earlier this year in Japan relate to nuclear plants which were built in the seventies and earlier and which had different configurations when compared with the new generation of nuclear power plants.

Mr. Mian said the new generation Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are safe, simple and have long fuel cycles varying between 10 and 30 years. "They are able to provide small economies like ours with clean and cheap energy, with enhanced energy supply sustainability and security".

The OUR Director General also welcomed the news that Caricom Ministers of Energy have mandated the finalisation of a Regional Energy Policy, a draft of which he said was submitted to the Heads of Government in 2007 but never saw the "light of day" as it fell victim to "special interest groups".

Meanwhile Barbados' Minister of Commerce and Trade Senator Haynesley Benn who also spoke at the OOCUR opening ceremony, said there should be incentives to establish renewable energy systems as the answer to our energy problems does not lie in any one technology being used.

"Empirical evidence confirms that meeting these needs lies not in any one resource or technology, but in various combinations of fossil fuels and renewable resources such as waste-to-energy, biomass, co-generation, wind farms and solar photo-voltaic power."

The Barbadian Minister noted that higher energy prices mean higher costs generally for consumers for all goods and services therefore there is no choice but to seek greater investments in these renewable technologies.

According to Senator Benn, startup costs for renewables are high but he is hoping costs will be lowered in the future.



Then Chairman of the Organisation of Caribbean Utility Regulators (OOCUR) and Director General of the OUR Ahmad Zia Mian (right) engages in conversation with Barbados' Minister of Commerce and Trade Senator Haynesley Benn following the opening ceremony of the 9th annual conference of OOCUR held in Christ Church, Barbados earlier this month.

STAKEHOLDERS' MEETINGS

The OUR has been having discussions with stakeholders in an effort to exchange views on regulatory issues and to hear the concerns of the various sectors as articulated by their leaders. The "Meeting the Stakeholders" series which began earlier this year has seen many executives and sector leaders visiting with the OUR's senior management team to exchange ideas and air their concerns. Here are highlights from some of those visits.



OUR Director General Ahmad Zia Mian (left) listens as then President of the JMA Omar Azan makes a point. The Executive Director of the Association Mrs Imega Breese-McNab is beside Mr. Azan.



Chairman of the Urban Development Corporation Wayne Chen (right) listens to a point being made by OUR Director General Ahmad Zia Mian.



OUR Director General Ahmad Zia Mian engages in conversation with the President of the PSOJ Joseph Matalon and Chairman of the MSME Alliance Professor Rosalea Hamilton.



Chairman of the Gleaner Company Limited Oliver Clarke (centre) listens to the arguments being put forward by Director General Ahmad Zia Mian (left). To the right is Deputy Director General Hopeton Heron.

OUTREACH



Public Affairs Co-ordinator at the OUR Collette Goode (extreme left) listens to arguments from residents of Mike Town in Manchester as well as councillor for the Spur Tree Division Ervin Facey (centre). The visit was made to hear the concerns of residents who are seeking an upgrade of the electricity service in their area.



Public Affairs/Information Officer Kishana Munroe engages in discussion with a visitor to the OUR booth at the Montego Bay Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Exposition at the MoBay Convention Centre in Rose Hall St. James.

New emergency services numbers in effect in Jamaica

Jamaicans are now dialling new numbers to reach the fire, police and ambulance services. The numbers which went into service this month are 112 and 911. They replace the current 110 emergency number. The current police direct emergency number 119 will remain and is not affected by this change.

Jamaica became the first country in the English-speaking Caribbean to activate the new Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) spearheaded International Telecommunications Union (ITU) recommendation towards the global harmonization of emergency numbers.

In order to get consumers accustomed to the new numbers, there will be a permissive dialling period of one year in order to phase out the 110 code. While both the old and new numbers may be dialled to reach the emergency services during this period, the OUR is encouraging callers to use only the new numbers, to become familiar with them early.

Following its acceptance of the OUR's proposal, the ITU has recommended that countries planning to introduce an emergency number use either 112 or 911. Those countries planning to introduce a second or alternative number should also use one of these two codes or both.

The OUR had placed before the ITU, issues relating to increased international travel, the concomitant concerns for the safety and well-being of persons travelling to a foreign country, and the consequential need for an internationally harmonized emergency number solution for easy dialling access to local emergency services.

The move by Jamaica, through the OUR, to spearhead this initiative arose out of an incident in the UK some years ago involving a Jamaican family which suffered a dire consequence because the visiting family members did not immediately know the number to reach the emergency services.

The full determination outlining the harmonization of emergency numbers is available on the OUR's website at www.our.org.jm

Excess renewable energy can now be sold to JPS

The Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) has introduced the net billing concept to Jamaica thus making it possible for JPS customers to sell excess energy from their renewable generating facilities to the Jamaica Public Service Company (JPS). This as the OUR has completed and made available a Standard Offer Contract (SOC) for the Purchase of Available Energy from Intermittent Renewable Energy Facilities up to 100kW.

The SOC outlines the terms, conditions and pricing regime for small power providers, such as those with solar photo voltaic systems and wind turbines, to gain access to the grid operated by the JPS. The compensation for the energy exchanged between JPS and the customer under the SOC is determined via a net billing arrangement.

Participation is open to residential and commercial customers of JPS who generate their own electricity using a facility which has a capacity of less than or equal to 100kW in the case of commercial customers or less than or equal to 10kW in the case of residential customers; uses renewable technologies as its primary source of power; and complies with all relevant technical specifications and standards as are set out in the SOC.

Eligible JPS customers may participate in the SOC arrangement by making an application with supporting documentation to JPS to interconnect to the national grid. Additionally, the customer is required to make an application to the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) for a licence to supply electricity.

The full determination, which includes the contract, is available on the OUR's website at www.our.org.jm



3rd Floor, PCJ Resource Centre,
36 Trafalgar Road, Kingston 10
Tel: 1.876.968.6053
Fax: 1.876.929.3635

INSIDE THE O.U.R. SCHEDULE (RADIO)



STATION	DAY	TIME
RJR 94 FM	Mondays	12:25 - 12:30 p.m.
Kool 97 FM	Tuesdays	7:30 - 7:35 a.m.
Nationwide News Network	Tuesdays	10:05 - 10:10 a.m.
Power 106 FM	Wednesdays	7:20 - 7:25 a.m.
Love 101 FM	Thursdays	8:32 - 8:37 a.m.

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