

Media Release

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Regional utility regulators agree on framework for CRRC

Regional utility regulators who met in Jamaica last weekend have now agreed on the framework with which to move forward with the establishment of the Caribbean Regulatory Research Centre – *CRRC*.

The regulators who attended the Organisation of Caribbean Utility Regulators (*OOCUR*) Council Meeting in Kingston have decided that the Centre will now be the Research and Training arm of *OOCUR* and will not reside in any regional tertiary institution.

The *CRRC*, with possible assistance from the U.S. based National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (*NARUC*) and the United States Agency for International Development (*USAID*), will serve the training and research needs of regional regulators by developing its core training curriculum based on the needs analysis submitted by the utility regulatory institutions across the Caribbean.

According to the Chairman of *OOCUR* and Director General of the *OUR* Mr. Ahmad Zia Mian, the move to establish the *CRRC* is to “...ensure that the region receives the regulatory training specific to Caribbean circumstances as well as lower the training costs of the region’s regulators thus ensuring that more individuals can be trained.”

Last weekend’s meeting also affirmed that the 8th annual conference of the Organisation of Caribbean Utility Regulators will be held in Jamaica this year at the Sunset Jamaica Grande Hotel in Ocho Rios.

The conference, which will be hosted by the Office of Utilities Regulation in Jamaica, will run from November 3-5, 2010 under the theme “Regulation, Convergence and a Competitive Environment.”

The Organisation of Caribbean Utility Regulators (*OOCUR*) was established by agreement in Jamaica in 2002 and is incorporated in Guyana. Its membership comprises independent regulatory bodies with responsibilities for telecommunications, electricity, natural gas, water and wastewater and transportation sectors across the Caribbean and the US Virgin Islands.

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