

Media Release

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Renewable and nuclear energy possibilities high on agenda of OOCUR Conference

As the nation grapples with the challenge of finding cheaper alternative energy sources, the prospects for renewable and nuclear energy in Jamaica and the Caribbean will be high on the agenda for discussion when regional and international utility regulators meet in Ocho Rios St. Ann next week.

The use of Smart Meters to fight electricity theft will also be a discussion paper as over 120 delegates from the region and across the United States and Canada gather at the Sunset Jamaica Grande Resort and Spa from November 3-5 for the 8th annual conference of the Organisation of Caribbean Utility Regulators (OOCUR) under the theme “*Regulation, Convergence and the Competitive Environment*”.

The regulators will also examine whether or not there is a case for competition in the electricity sector in small island states, with specific reference to the Caribbean.

The Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR), which is host of this year’s conference, recently conducted a study on the feasibility of the introduction of number portability to Jamaica and the results of the study will be a major topic at the conference as well as a discussion on the Trends, Opportunities and Best Practices for Universal Access to Broadband Services.

Regulators will also be contemplating how they can promote better performance from Caribbean water utilities.

The three day conference is now expected to be officially opened on Wednesday November 03 by the Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Kenneth Baugh.

The Organisation of Caribbean Utility Regulators (OOCUR) is a non-profit organisation which was established by Agreement dated July 26, 2002 in Jamaica.

It assists in the improvement of utility regulation, fosters transparent and stable utility regulation through autonomous and independent regulators in member countries, undertakes research, training & development and facilitates understanding of regulation issues and sharing of information and experiences.

More information on the conference is available at the OUR's website which is www.our.org.jm.

Editors please note: OOCUR is pronounced OH-KUR i.e. one 'O' is silent

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