



ORGANISATION OF CARIBBEAN
UTILITY REGULATORS

& Host



Public Utilities Commission, Belize

6th OOCUR Annual Conference

“Towards a Common Utility Regulatory Framework in the Caribbean”

5-7 November, 2008

The Princess Hotel, Belize City

PROGRAMME

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

**Delegates Arrive/Hotel check in
Conference Registration (5:00pm-7:00pm)**

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

Morning

8:00- 9:00 Conference Registration

9:00 –10:00

OPENING CEREMONY

- 9:00-9:05 Introductions:** Rita Persaud-Kong, Secretary General of OOCUR
- 9:05-9:15 Welcome:** Mr. John Avery, Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of Belize & Member of OOCUR Executive Council
- 9:15-9:30 Opening Remarks:** Mr. Floyd H. Phillips, Commissioner, Fair Trading Commission, Barbados & Chairman of the Organisation of Caribbean Utility Regulator (OOCUR)
- 9:30-10:00 Feature Address:** Honourable Melvin Hulse, Minister of Public Utilities, National Emergency Management, Transport and Communications

10:00 –10:30

~Break~



CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

REGULATORY, INSTITUTIONAL & THE STAKEHOLDERS

- Chair:** Mr. Floyd H. Phillips, Chairman of OOCUR
- 10:30-11:00 “Institutional and Framework Development in the Caribbean –Electricity Sector in Belize”
Presenter: *Mr. C. Victor Lewis, Director-Electricity of the PUC Belize*
- 11:00-11:10 *Discussion*
- 11:10-11:30 “The Economic Impact of Regulation in Belize”
Presenter: *Mr. Leroy Almendarez, Economist/Tariff Analyst of the PUC, Belize*
- 11:30-11:40 *Discussion*
- 11:40-12:00 “Who are our stakeholders and why is their participation important?”
Presenter: *Mr. David Geddes, Director, Consumer & Public Affairs of the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) Jamaica*
- 12:00-12:10 *Discussion*
- 12:10-1:15 *~Lunch~*
- Afternoon**
- Chair:** Mr. Floyd H. Phillips, Chairman of OOCUR
- 1:15-1:40 “Utility Regulators’ Role in Consumer Education”
Presenter: *Mr. Mohan Chadee, Customer Services Manager of the Regulated Industries Commission (RIC) Trinidad and Tobago*
- 1:40-1:50 *Discussion*
- 1:50-2:20 “A Case Study of the Jamaican Regulatory Experience regarding developments with Bill Payment Agencies and Utility Consumers”
Presenter: *Mr. Garfield Bryan, Manager Consumer Relations of the OUR, Jamaica*
- 2:20-2:30 *Discussion*
- 2:30-2:50 “Judicial Reviews of Utility Regulation in the Caribbean”
Presenter: *Ms. Kadian L. Birch LL.B, Associate of the Consumer Advisory Committee on Utilities, Jamaica*
- 2:50-3:00 *Discussion*
- 3:00-3:15 *~Break~*
- 3:15-3:40 “Guyana’s Jagdeo Climate Change Initiative: The Implications for Utilities in Guyana”
Presenter: *Mr. John C. Caesar, Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of Guyana & Senior Lecturer, University of Guyana*
- 3:40-3:50 *Discussion*
- 3:50-4:20 “The Impact of Electricity Privatization on Social Welfare of Rural Residents in Jamaica”
Presenter: *Ms. Tazhmoye Crawford of the Consumer Advisory Committee on Utilities, Jamaica*
- 4:20-4:30 *Discussion*

~End of First day Sessions~



Thursday, November 6, 2008

Morning

WATER /WASTEWATER

- Chair:** Mr. H.S Atwal, Executive Director, Regulated Industries Commission (RIC)
- 9:00-9:30 “Incentivising A State Owned and Run Utility to Improve Performance- Possible Tools for Use by A Regulator”
Presenter: Ms. Carol Balkaran, Tariff Analyst, of the RIC, Trinidad and Tobago
- 9:30-9:40 *Discussion*
- 9:40-10:10 “Bolivian Utility Regulation: Lessons for a Water Sector Agency”
Presenters: Ms. Claudia Vargas, Legal Consultant and former Legal Advisor for SIRESE & Professor Sandford V. Berg, Distinguished Service Professor, University of Florida, PURC
- 10:10-10:20 *Discussion*
- 10:20-10:35 ~ Break~
- 10:35-11:05 “Belize Water Services-the Privatization Experience”
Presenter: Mr. Alvan L. Haynes, Chief Executive Officer of Belize Water Services Limited (BWS), Belize
- 11:05-11:15 *Discussion*

ELECTRICITY/ENERGY

- 11:15-11:45 “Belize Cogeneration Energy Limited (Belcogen), A Project of National Importance”
Presenter: Mr. Richard Harris, Director, Belcogen
- 11:45-12:00 *Discussion*
- 12:00 -1:00 ~Lunch~
- Afternoon
- Chair:** Rita Persaud-Kong, Secretary General of OOCUR
- 1:00-1:20 “Encouraging Efficient Renewable Energy Generation”
Presenter: Mr. David Ehrhardt, President Castalia Strategic Advisors
- 1:20-1:30 *Discussion*
- 1:30-2:00 “CARILEC Position Paper on Energy Policy Reform in the Caribbean”
Presenter: Mr. Nigel Hosein, Executive Director of CARILEC, the Caribbean Electric Utilities Service Corporation, an association of Electric Utilities
- 2:00-2:10 *Discussion*
- 2:10-2:40 “A Preliminary Assessment of the Impact of Incentive Regulation on the Electricity Sector in Trinidad and Tobago”
Presenter: Mr. Gerard Emmanuel-Rodriguez, Tariff Analyst of the RIC Trinidad and Tobago
- 2:40-2:50 *Discussion*
- 2:50-3:05 ~Break~
- 3:05-3:30 “Challenges of Regulating Government -owned Utilities”
Presenter: Mr. Nils Janson, Vice President, Latin America of Castalia Strategic Advisors
- 3:30-3:40 *Discussion*
- 3:40-4:10 “Water, Electricity and Telecommunications in the Caribbean: Benchmarking Sectors and Systems”
Presenter: Professor Sandford V. Berg, Distinguished Service Professor, University of Florida, PURC
- 4:10-4:20 *Discussion*

~End of Second day Sessions~

Friday, November 7, 2008

TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ICT

Chair: Mr. Phillip D. Cross, *ITU Representative (Caribbean) Telecommunications Development Bureau (BDT)*

9:00-9:20 “Optimizing Regulation in the Caribbean”

Presenter: Mr. Julian Wilkins, *Head, Group Telecoms Public Policy of Digicel and Director of CANTO*

9:20-9:30 Discussion

9:30-9:50 “Achieving Telecommunications Universal Service...Whatever it takes”

Presenter: Mr. Dean Boyce, *Chairman, Executive Committee for Belize Telemedia Limited (BTL)*

9:50-10:00 Discussion

10:00-10:15 ~ Break ~

Chair: Mr. William Withers, *Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission and Member of the Executive Council of OOCUR*

10:15-10:35 “Return on Mean Capital Employed Ratio (RoMCE) How Useful is the RoMCE as a Performance Indicator?”

Presenter: Ms. Susanna Cooper-Corbin, *Financial Analyst Fair Trading Commission, Barbados*

10:35-10:45 Discussion

10:45-11:05 “Mobile Number Portability in the Channel Islands –a solution across two jurisdictions”

Presenter: Mr. Michael Byrne, *Deputy Director General, Office of Utility Regulation of Guernsey, Channel Islands*

11:05-11:15 Discussion

11:15-11:35 “Towards Harmonized Telecommunications Legislation in the Caribbean”

Presenter: Rita Persaud-Kong, *Attorney-at-Law & Secretary General of OOCUR*

11:35-11:45 Discussion

11:45-12:15 Closing Sessions

12:15 ~Lunch~

~End of Conference ~

Thank you for partnering with the Organisation of Caribbean Utility Regulators (OOCUR) and for participating in the 6th OOCUR Annual Conference