



Co-host: Office of Utilities Regulation

## 2nd OOCUR Annual Conference

3-5 November 2004

The Ritz Carlton Hotel, Montego Bay, Jamaica

"Independent and Transparent Utility Regulation in the Caribbean"

### PROGRAM

Tuesday, November 2, 2004

Afternoon:

3.00 - 6.00 pm

7.00 pm

Delegates arrive

Hotel check in

Conference Registration

~Welcome Reception ~

#### Sponsors





**Wednesday, Nov. 3**

**Independent and Transparent Utility Regulation**

**Morning:**

**8.00-8.30** Conference Registration continues

**8.30-9.30** Opening Ceremony

***Introductions:***

**Rita Persaud-Kong, Secretary General -OOCUR**

***Welcome:***

**Mr. J Paul Morgan, Vice-Chairman of OOCUR &  
Director General of OUR, Jamaica**

***Welcome:***

**Justice Prem Persaud, Chairman OOCUR &  
Chairman of PUC, Guyana**

***Opening Address:***

**Dr. the Honorable Paul Robertson, Minister of Development, Jamaica**

**9.30-10.00** ~Coffee~

**10.00-10.30** “Importance of Independent Utility Regulators, with Special Reference to Telecommunications in the Caribbean.”

**Presenter: Mr. Juan A. B. Belt, Director Office of Energy and Information Technology (EIT), Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, & Trade (EGAT) and US Agency for International Development (USAID)**

**10.30 -10.45** “Fundamentals of an Independent and Transparent Regulator”

**Presenter: Ms. Cyralene Benskin-Murray, Attorney-at-Law & General Counsel, Fair Trading Commission (FTC)**

**10.45-11.05** *Discussion*

**11.05-11.20** “Organizational and Financial Autonomy of the Regulator – The Independence Debate”

**Presenter: Ms. Turkessa Blades, Attorney-at-Law & Legal Counsel/Corporate Secretary, Regulated Industries Commission (RIC)**

**11.20-11.40** *Discussion*



**Wednesday Nov. 3 contd.**

- 11.40-11.55**                    **“Accountability and Benchmarking of the Regulator”**  
**Presenter: Ms. Carol Balkaran, Economist & Tariff Analyst, RIC**
- 11.55-12.15**                    *Discussion*
- 12.15-12.30**                    **Sponsor: Mr. Michael Mc Naughton of Bill Express**
- 12.30-2.00**                    **~Lunch~**
- Afternoon:**
- 2.00-2.15**                    **“Governance in the Commonwealth Caribbean-Balancing Independence and Accountability of the Regulator”**  
**Presenter: Ms. Michelle C Goddard, Attorney-at-Law and Chief Executive Officer of FTC**
- 2.15-2.35**                    *Discussion*
- 2.35-2.50**                    **“Integrity and Impartiality of the Regulator: Code of Ethics”**  
**Presenter: Ms. Jettie Olf, Director Telecommunications Authority Suriname**
- 2.50-3.10**                    *Discussion*
- 3.10-3.25**                    **~Coffee~**
- 3.25-3.40**                    **“Ethics as a Fundamental Construct for Best-Practice Regulation: Advancing the Evolution of a Code in Guyana”**  
**Presenter: Mr. J. Cartey Caesar, Commissioner, PUC Guyana & Senior Lecturer, University of Guyana**
- 3.40-4.00**                    *Discussion*
- 4.00-4.15**                    **“Ethical and Legal Issues for the PUC- U.S. Case Study”**  
**Presenter: Mr. Brian J. Moline Chairman, Kansas Corporation Commission**
- 4.15- 4.45**                    *Discussion*

-----End of Wednesdays’ Sessions-----



**Thursday, Nov. 4**    **Experiences of Regulators in Carrying out their Functions in an Independent and Transparent Manner**

**Morning:**

- 8.30-8.45            “Performance-Based Ratemaking – The Rhode Island Experience”  
**Presenter:** Mr. Elia Germani, Chairman Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission.
- 8.45-9.00            *Discussion*
- 9.00-9.15            “Regulatory Performance vs. Independence-The European Experience”  
**Presenter:** Virendra Ajodhia, Electrical Engineer (KEMA Consulting/Delft University of Technology)
- 9.15-9.30            *Discussion*
- 9.30-9.45            “U.S. Perspective on Security of Supply-System Reliability and Vulnerability”  
**Presenter:** Ms. Constance B. White, Commissioner Utah Public Service Commission
- 9.45-10.00          *Discussion*
- 10.00-10.15                 ~Coffee~
- 10.15-10.30          “Experiences of a Regulator in the Electricity, Water & Wastewater Sectors”  
**Presenters:** Mr. H.S Atwal, Economist and Executive Director, RIC  
Ms. Shinelle Padmore, Economist, RIC
- 10.30-10.45          *Discussion*
- 10.45-11.00          “Quality of Service Standards as a Measure of Regulatory Transparency and Effectiveness: A case study of Jamaica”  
**Presenter:** Ms. Marie James, Economist (OUR)
- 11.00-11.15          *Discussion*
- 11.15-11.30          “Handling Complaints in an Independent and Transparent Manner Trinidad & Tobago Experience”  
**Presenter:** Mr. Mohan Chadee Manager, Customer Services RIC
- 11.30-11.45          *Discussion*
- 11.45-12.05          **Sponsors:** Mr. Mark Henry of Itron Inc.
- 12.05-1.30                         ~Lunch~





**Friday, Nov. 5**      ***Institutional Design /Framework for Independent Regulator***

**Morning:**

- 9.00-9.15**                      **“Ministerial Policy Directives: the Case for an Appropriate Framework”**  
  
   **Presenter: Mr. Franklin Brown, Senior Economist (OUR)**
- 9.15- 9.30**                      *Discussion*
- 9.30-9.45**                      **“The Search for Optimal Institutional Design for Utilities Regulation: Revisiting the Debate”**  
  
   **Presenter: Mr. Ansord E. Hewitt, Economist (OUR)**
- 9.45-10.00**                      *Discussion*
- 10.00-10.15**                      *~Coffee~*
- 10.15-10.30**                      **“Measuring Regulatory Independence: A Caribbean Perspective”**  
  
   **Presenter: Mr. Claude Byer, Economist & Tariff Analyst, RIC**
- 10.30-10.45**                      *Discussion*
- 10.45-11.00**                      **Generating Trust and Respect through Transparent and Impartial Regulation**  
  
   **Presenter: Mr. Andrew Gorton- Regulatory Manager, Digicel™ Mossel (Jamaica) Limited**
- 11.00-11.15**                      **“Survival Guide for the Independent Regulator”**  
  
   **Presenter: Dr. Mark A. Jamison- Economist & Lecturer, University of Florida**
- 11.15-12.00**                      *Panel Discussions-A wrap up session*
- 12.00-12.15**                      **Mr. Facundo Alberdi of NARUC – “Overview of NARUC/USAID Global Regulatory Network Program”**
- 12.15-12.30**                      **Vote of Thanks**

*~Lunch~*

-----End of Conference-----