

Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation



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Haiti's Electric Utility Joins CARILEC

From May 23-26, CARILEC held its Annual CEO's Conference on the island of Antigua. For the first time the association hosted a two-man a delegation from Electricité d'Haiti (EDH) as a means of establishing and building long term relations with the earthquake stricken utility and country. Unfortunately, prior the earthquake earlier this year that devastated the country, CARILEC did not have any established contacts with the electric utility in Haiti. However, through the kind support of our member utility; EDF Martinique; who assisted EDH with some of its initial recovery efforts as part of a larger French delegation; CARILEC was able to establish firm personnel contacts with the utility.

The two-man Haitian delegation consisting of Mr. Serge Raphael (Directeur Général) and Mr. Anthony Jean-Baptiste (Senior Planning Engineer) of Electricité d'Haiti attended the CEOs Conference as well as the preconference 81st meeting of the CARILEC Board of Directors. During the board meeting and the conference discussions were held with Mr. Raphael and Mr. Jean-Baptiste on the support and assistance CARILEC (and its members) can provide to the Haitian utility with its short and medium term re-building efforts.

According to Nigel Hosein; Executive Director of CARILEC; the Haitian delegation came prepared and clearly identified three key areas that CARILEC (and its members) can assist the utility with in rebuilding their electricity sector in conjunction with the tremendous monetary support that is expected from the international donor agencies/countries. Mr. Raphael firstly stated that assistance is needed with selecting and implementing proper governance/policy/regulatory structures suitable for island utilities under which their sector should operate to supply electricity in the most efficient and reliable manner to the population in the post recovery period. It should be noted here that Mr. Raphael attended the CARILEC Regional Regulatory Forum and Workshop that was held in St. Lucia on 22nd and 23rd April where he was able to gain valuable insight to the experiences (both "best practices" and challenges) facing the electricity sector in the Caribbean with respect to regulatory reform.

Secondly, he identified the utility's need for assistance with the implementation of safety protocols/systems and equipment for their utility staff. He said "their deficiency in this area was magnified when the restoration crews from overseas came fully equipped with their safety gear and procedures to assist them with the initial recovery efforts after the earthquake". Safety is certainly an area that CARILEC utility members have tremendous experience in and has been demonstrated in times when recovery assistance is provided to member countries whose electricity systems have been adversely affected by hurricanes/storms.

The third area of assistance is with procurement procedures. This he stated would become useful when the funds from the international donor agencies/countries start coming in. Mr. Raphael stated that Electricité d'Haiti presented a clear short, medium and long term plan to its government for the rebuilding efforts. There will be need to carefully manage the procurement process to ensure the proper selection of consultants, contractors, equipment and materials required. Again this is an area that CARILEC can provide assistance with



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through the experiences of our utility members and our Associate Members (who have been supplying the region utilities with goods and services of high international standards over the years).

The CARILEC board members and all the utility CEOs and Associate Members present at the respective caucuses, agreed to support Electricité d'Haiti with its requested areas of assistance together with other opportunities that will arise from the services that CARILEC provides to its members (networking, training, technical studies, stakeholder relations, etc.). It was agreed that Electricité d'Haiti's membership within CARILEC would be sponsored by the Association for the first five years. The membership application was received and approved by the CARILEC Board during the CEOs Conference in Antigua and was announced at the association's Annual General Meeting.

Following the earthquake in January 2010, CARILEC; an association of Caribbean Electric Utilities and its vending partners; pledged their support to aid the electric utility in Haiti with its restoration efforts. CARILEC established a Haiti Recovery Fund to which our members have since generously made donations. Through the firm links that have now been established with the utility in Haiti and its membership in CARILEC, this creates a platform for the Association to fulfill its vision of "... facilitating the development of world class electric energy services for all peoples of the Caribbean".



L to R: Mr. Nigel Hosein Executive Director CARILEC , Mr. Serge Raphael Directeur Général, Mr. Peter Williams, Vice Chairman of the CARILEC Board of Directors and Managing Director of Barbados Light and Power, and Mr. Anthony Jean-Baptiste Baptiste Senior Planning Engineer of Electricité d'Haiti, upon Haiti acceptance into the membership of CARILEC at the 2010 CARILEC CEO's Conference .

For Further Information

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Energy Service Provider

