The Energy and Climate Ministerial of the Americas

Secretary Steven Chu
Inter-American Development Bank
Washington, D.C.
15 April 2010
The Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas

“I pledge to you that we seek an equal partnership. There is no senior partner and junior partner in our relations; there is simply engagement based on mutual respect and common interests and shared values.”

President Barack Obama
5th Summit of the Americas
April 2009
The Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas

- Accelerating clean energy
- Advancing energy security
- Reducing energy poverty

**Flexible framework** – projects can be bilateral, multilateral, regional

**Broad participation** – governments, industry, non-governmental organizations, Inter-American organizations
Through this Partnership, we will:

• Learn from each other and share best practices
Partner countries have hosted three regional meetings

**Colombia**
Developing long distance electricity interconnections

**Mexico**
Improving energy efficiency

**Trinidad & Tobago**
Starting a renewable energy research center

Photo courtesy the Trinidad Guardian Newspapers - Shirley Bahadur

DOE’s Sam Browne & Minister Conrad Enill
Standards stimulate technology:
Refrigerator efficiency standards and performance

Refrigerator energy savings (3%) is greater than all of US renewable energy generation

Best Available Tech.
254 kWh/yr
More than 1.6 Gt CO$_2$e annual abatement potential in 2030 from improved efficiency standards and labeling

The Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program provides an online clearinghouse for energy efficiency policies

www.clasponline.org

Source: LBNL, November 2008
Importance of standards: The quality of LEDs in off-grid lighting products varies widely

Quality assurance programs protect consumers and prevent “market spoiling”

The Open Energy Information project

www.openei.org

A new platform to connect the world’s energy data

U.S. OpenLabs provides access to the resources of our National Laboratories

We’re working with our partners in Chile to launch a Spanish-language version
Through this Partnership, we will:

- Learn from each other and share best practices
- Cooperate on technology research, development, and deployment
Latin America’s electricity growth is projected to be met largely by hydropower and natural gas.
Melting glaciers will affect hydropower

Since 1970, glaciers in the Andes have lost 20 percent of their volume, according to Peru’s National Meteorology and Hydrology Service.

Bolivia’s Chacaltaya Glacier in 1940… and 2005

“During the next 15 years, inter-tropical glaciers are very likely to disappear, affecting water availability and hydropower generation.” -- IPCC 2007
Upgrading existing hydro facilities

Modernizing older facilities:

• Output increases as high as 30% are possible

• Relatively low cost

IDB is helping refurbish Haiti’s Peligre Dam

Pumped Storage can provide:

• Rapid response to offset intermittent renewable energy

• Extra capacity during times of peak electricity use
Renewable energy sources can diversify energy supplies and address energy poverty

Solar, wind, bioenergy, geothermal and small hydropower hold great potential in the region

The Department of Energy is providing technical assistance for Regional Clean Energy Centers throughout the hemisphere
High impact does not require high technology

Efficient cook stoves

60 – 70% more efficient, less wood-gathering, less deforestation, fewer emissions, improved public health

White roofed buildings:

Sunlight energy is reflected back into space rather than heating up buildings and homes in the summer.

Rio de Janeiro
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- Encourage investment
New financing mechanisms are accelerating clean energy deployment in the region

- Guaranteed renewable energy payments
- Revolving loan funds
- Public benefit funds
- Loan guarantees

Brazil has been a leader through the PROINFA feed-in tariff incentive and BNDES financing for renewable energy projects
Today, we’re announcing the creation of an **Energy Innovation Center** at the IDB

To channel investment toward clean energy

Helping IDB expand its clean energy investments and support projects of all sizes

The Department of Energy will provide expert staffing
Connecting the Caribbean

Much of electricity generation relies on imported fossil fuels.

Renewable energy could displace fossil fuels if market sizes were increased and economies of scale achieved.

We have the technology to connect the Caribbean region, make clean energy profitable, and make island economies more energy secure.
Haiti relief effort

The Department of Energy immediately began working to restore and improve the Haitian energy system.

The United States has announced $1.15 billion for reconstruction of Haiti, and part will help Haiti create a clean, efficient energy sector.

We are working to improve output of existing hydro and to introduce new technologies – solar, micro-hydro, and micro-grids.

A long-term solution under consideration is long distance transmission lines between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.
Energy systems are vulnerable to earthquakes

Our Hemisphere has recently had major earthquakes in Haiti, Chile, and Baja California, Mexico

Today, we are proposing a new task force to:

- Promote seismic design standards that will minimize losses to energy infrastructure
- Use computer simulation of disasters to estimate earthquake motions and structural response
Where the world uses the most electricity...
Where the most people live.
We can help turn on the lights where people live...

...and solve the climate challenge at the same time.