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**ECPA TO HOLD SEMINAR ON INNOVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY DEVELOPMENT IN
CENTRAL AMERICA**

Technical experts to meet in Costa Rica to discuss renewable energy and energy efficiency development

Washington, D.C., 31 August 2012 – The Seminar on Science, Technology and Innovations for an Energy Efficient Development of Central America forms part of the activities of the Energy Efficiency Working Group of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA). This seminar will be held at Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, Regional Headquarters located in Liberia, Guanacaste on September 10, 2012.

The Secretariat of Energy (SENER) of Mexico, Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica (TEC), the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica (UNA), with support from the Department of Sustainable Development of the Organization of American States (OAS), joined efforts to analyze Central America's energy-efficient development. Technical experts, representatives of public institutions and companies working on energy efficiency will gather to identify relevant renewable energy and energy efficiency projects currently being carried out in the region. The seminar aims to identify areas of regional cooperation in scientific and technological research for renewable energy and energy efficiency; and identify needs and opportunities for the financing these type of projects.

The seminar will be divided in two sessions: A morning public session with opening remarks from the Dean of Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, Dr. Olger Rojas Elizondo and Senior Energy Specialist, Juan Cruz Monticelli from the OAS. Follow by a presentation of scientific and technological research by Senior ECPA Fellow, Suresh Garimella from Purdue University. Field experts from the University of British Columbia Clean Energy Research Centre and the Institute of Electrical Research in México will share their experiences on renewable energy and energy efficiency, while representatives from Centro Internacional de Física Teórica, Chiapas, Mexico will highlight the Centre's effort in promoting regional high-level scientific research. The afternoon session will include two round tables for discussing financial opportunities targeting current and future renewable energy and energy efficiency projects led by Central American technical experts.

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The [Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas \(ECPA\)](http://www.ecpamericas.org) is a flexible mechanism through which governments in the Western Hemisphere, on a voluntary basis, may lead multi-country or bilateral initiatives to promote clean energy, advance energy security, fight energy poverty, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions for a sustainable Americas. For more information on ECPA initiatives, news, and events, please visit, www.ecpamericas.org.

The [Energy Efficiency Working Group](http://www.ecpamericas.org) supports the efforts of the governments of the Americas to promote energy efficiency. Under Mexico's leadership, the Working Group provides information and tools to countries in the region to promote energy efficiency and conservation. One of the objectives of the Working Group is to establish institutional links and coordination mechanisms with other ECPA energy efficiency activities.