

**Seminar on Innovation, Science and Technology for the Energy-Efficient Development:
Green-Sustainable Buildings**

Information Form

COUNTRY: JAMAICA

Name: **Ruth Potopsingh**
Nationality: **Jamaican**
Current Position: **Associate Vice President – Sustainable Energy**
Institution: **University of Technology**
Address: **237 Old Hope road , Kingston 6, Jamaica [www.utechjamaica .edu.jm](http://www.utechjamaica.edu.jm)**



Short biography

Associate Vice President for Sustainable Energy at the University of Technology, Jamaica (UTech) and Director of the Caribbean Sustainable Energy and Innovation Institute. She has over 20 years of expertise in the energy sector and has been involved in several energy initiatives in Jamaica, the Caribbean and Latin American region, where she enjoys high professional visibility and respect. She is also an experienced environmental professional and has been able to influence her country's move towards renewable energy and energy efficiency. She is experienced in policy formulation and analysis, energy research, business design and management, negotiation, project management, and education at the tertiary level. She has served as key expert in various energy and environment projects in Jamaica and the Caribbean. She currently manages a UTech-led, EU-funded project valued at 495,000 Euros, and has implementation roles in other projects on which collaborates with other partners. She gained most of her experience at the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica where she worked in various Technical management capacities culminating in her being the Group Managing Director for the group of Companies for four years. A Commonwealth scholar, she holds a PhD in Sustainable Development, EMBA (Marketing and Human Resources), MSc (Urban Development Planning), B.A. Geography and a Diploma in Education.

Impact policy/research

Dr Potopsingh has participated in the transformation of Jamaica's energy sector over a twenty-year period. Her most recent contribution was as lead expert in drafting of the Second National Energy Action Plan for Jamaica 2013- 2016, a subset of Jamaica National Energy Policy 2010- 2030. In 2013 she undertook a study of Research Development and Innovation in Sustainable energy in the Caribbean as part of the building the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Roadmap & Strategy (C-SERMS). She also served on the CARICOM Energy Committee, which drafted a CARICOM Energy Policy approved at the Forty-First Special Meeting of the COTED on ENERGY in March 2013.

She was national coordinator of the programme for the removal of lead in gasoline and the introduction of two octane grades of gasoline in Jamaica (2000) an accomplishment that has had significant impact on the gasoline

trade and national economy. The implementation of 5% ethanol blended gasoline (2009) was done under her leadership at the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica.

Dr Potopsingh began working on renewable energy issues since the 1980's and prepared the first assessment of the bioenergy resources of Jamaica. Later she conceptualized and implemented a fuel wood demonstration project growing five species of quick growing trees in trial plots.

She was responsible for expanding the renewable energy portfolio of the PCJ in the areas of solar, hydropower, wind and biofuels. She established the Centre for Renewable Energy (CERE) as a department of the PCJ in an effort to build capacity in Renewable energy.

She worked on developing a National Energy Fund to provide affordable financing to the private sector to undertake energy audits and retrofits and for renewable energy installations.

She is currently managing a 100 kilowatt solar PV project at UTech, which will provide research on panel performance and grid connectivity.

www.ecpamericas.org