

# Report

## On the Multi-Stakeholder Workshop in Guyana

**Project: Rural Electrification**

**Date: March 2008**



**GUYANA ENERGY AGENCY**



**Canadian International  
Development Agency**

**olade**  
Organización Latinoamericana de Energía



**UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY**

The author of this document is Patrick Ketwaru, consultant.

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## **1.0 Introduction**

This report is part of the Rural Energy Project being executed in Guyana by OLADE and funded by CIDA. This local project is part of the wider activity by OLADE and University of Calgary within Latin America and the Caribbean; to date, similar projects have been facilitated in Guatemala, Haiti, Bolivia and Paraguay. The project is being implemented by OLADE and the University of Calgary with in-country support from the national counterpart, the Guyana Energy Agency. The project is biased towards the improvement of the livelihood of women and indigenous populations.

This report will present issues that were deliberated on by the workshop participants and the general preparation for the workshop. The workshop is the third part of the first phase of the Rural Energy Project. It follows the selection of the community of Wowetta, which is the community earmarked to benefit from this pilot project.

The workshop attempted to bring together all the key stakeholders in the Guyana that would have an interest in the project or would be directly impacted by the project execution. As such the participating representatives spanned a very broad spectrum of organisations and activities.

The key objectives of the workshop were:

1. To inform the stakeholders about the details of the project
2. To sensitise stakeholders about the role that the participating organizations are, or will be playing in the development of the energy project at Wowetta, Region 9 to promote advancement of the community
3. To provide a forum for shared experiences in an effort to promote best practices for selection of communities for energy projects
4. To provide a forum for the ventilation of issues affecting the management of developmental energy projects in Guyana
5. To discuss modalities for sustainability of energy projects nationally
6. To discuss and review the issues related to project implementation, management and monitoring
7. To select a National Advisory Committee to overlook the implementation of the project as well as to advise on any project of this nature in the future
8. Review the choice of Wowetta as the beneficiary community

## **2.0 Preparatory Activities**

### **2.1 Selection of the Participants**

The participants' selection was broadly guided by the requirements of the Terms of Reference of the Contract:

"The consultant shall be in charge of organizing and starting up an "ad-hoc" project advisory scheme called the Multiparty Workshop, made up of major rural sector stakeholders. They shall include representatives from state sectors (energy, the environment, social and environmental issues, and agriculture), indigenous communities, *campesino* communities, municipalities, NGOs, women's groups, and others, to establish the advisory group to help define procedures, considerations or methodologies to ensure that all major social aspects are included in the rural energy pilot projects." (Service Agreement No. 223, Schedule A, Sect. 2.3).

Initially the local consultant developed a list of all related governmental agencies (including semi-autonomous governmental agencies) and NGO's. This initial list was reviewed by the National Project Coordinator based at the Guyana Energy Agency, Ms Sandra Britton. The final list of participating agencies was arrived at after some consultation between the national project coordinator and the local consultant. The number of participating agencies was not restricted so the final list represented most of the key stakeholders. For example, there are three groups representing general Amerindian interest in Guyana, all three groups were invited to avoid any suggestion of partiality. It should be noted that a number of the NGO's and agencies have multiple areas of interest.

A list of thirty local agencies was arrived at; GEA proceeded to send invitation letters to the Chief Executives of each agency requesting that they send a representative to the workshop. The invitations were sent via fax or had delivered to the organizations based in Georgetown. Communications with the persons in Region 9 was done via email, using the internet connection at Bina Hill Institute. A hard copy of the invitation letter was sent to the individuals in Region via the Intraserv Bus Service. A few agencies requested that they wanted to send two representatives; this was allowed in each instance.

A special effort was made to ensure that all the key stakeholders from Region 9 and the communities closely affiliated to the beneficiary community Wowetta were invited to participate. These included the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB), Conservation International (CI), Bina Hill Institute, Iwokrama and the Annai Village District.

GEA made a special appeal to the Prime Minister (the second highest ranking government officer) to give the feature address and open the Workshop since this ministry is responsible for energy and is the parent ministry of the GEA. The Prime Minister graciously agreed. OLADE also indicated that Dr. Julie Rowney, Director, Centre for International Management,

HASKAYNE School of Business, University of Calgary and Mr. Byron Chiliquinga Mazon, the Project Coordinator from OLADE would be attending the workshop. The date for the workshop was set to accommodate the travel plans of Dr. Rowney and Mr. Mazon.

## 2.2 Logistics

### a) Location

It was decided that for maximum participation the workshop should be held in Georgetown, the capital city. This was considered the best location, since most of the participants were based in or in close proximity and it was easier and less expensive for the participants from the outlying areas to be transported to, and housed in Georgetown. The workshop was hosted at The Tower Hotel in downtown Georgetown, this hotel was chosen for three main reasons;

- They provided the best rates for hosting the actual workshop
- They had accommodations for the out of town participants at reasonable rates
- They had a room large enough to host the workshop comfortably

### b) Transportation and Accommodation

The individuals who were from out of town were advised to use their money for transportation and they would be refunded on arrival in Georgetown by GEA. Additionally they were given a daily allowance to cover incidental expenses while in the city. Rooms and meals were provided for by the Hotel at CIDA's expense.

### c) Stationery and Support provided by GEA.

The Workshop Program booklet and the participants' package were prepared by Ms. Britton of GEA and her team with technical input from the local consultant.

The logistic support such as registration, recording and note taking was provided by GEA staff members. Rappateurs were provided by the local consultant and GEA to report on the activities.

### d) Workshop Agenda

The workshop was scheduled for one day since most of the participants were unable to be available for two days. As such a very compact agenda was developed. The agenda was developed collaboratively by Ms. Britton and the local consultant. The objective was to get the opening formalities over with by mid morning. The three main presentations were set for the rest of the morning and the participatory session to be held in the afternoon. This agenda was sent to OLADE via Mr. Mazon for final approval.

### **3.0 Implementation**

The program started at 9.00 a.m. with the registration process on February 13, 2008. On registration the participants were given the workshop package, including a name tag, and asked to be seated for the opening session. This started with the arrival of Prime Minister Samuel Hinds. Ms Britton who acted as the chairperson for the opening session started the proceedings with a welcome and opening remarks and then proceeded to follow the schedule as laid out in the Workshop Program.

Microphones were provided for speakers at the rostrum, and for the participants. Since all participants were comfortable with spoken English there was no need for translation services. The participants were seated in rows for the opening session. At the end of the opening session there was a snack break, this facilitated interaction with the participants and the Prime Minister. After the break the chairs were removed and the participants were seated on the outer side of a large square formation. This allow for easy communication amongst the participants. Two of the presentations (by Ms. S. Britton and Mr. P. Ketwaru) were done using PowerPoint Presentation these were projected on to a screen using multimedia equipment. The third presentation on the gender and indigenous issues was an oral presentation by Ms. B. Harris part of the consultant team. Her presentation was done in such a manner to reach the individuals who may have had problems following the PowerPoint format.

#### **3.1 Participants**

The level of attendance was very high; only four agencies which were listed did not attend. One organization could not send a representative because the person with the expertise was not available for that date. One indigenous NGO could not be contacted since it did not have any permanent listed address, for the other two the designated representatives were kept away by other pressing issues. The CEO of GEA was also present for the morning session.

## **4.0 Presentations**

### **4.1 Opening Ceremony**

- a) Opening Remarks – Ms. Sandra Britton, Head, Non Conventional Energy Unit, Guyana Energy Agency

In her opening remarks, Ms. Britton stated that Guyana has been benefiting from Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) in with regards to capacity building and currently this project which is focused on rural electrification. She felt that this is evidence of the commitment of OLADE towards helping to alleviate some of the problems associated with rural life. This particular project also included other organizations; University of Calgary, Haskayne School of Business, and Canadian International Development Agency, which are collaborating with the Guyana Energy Agency and OLADE to execute this project. The project, which the workshop is an integral part, is significant in many ways since it could ultimately result in the provision of electricity for Wowetta, a rural community in Region 9.

Ms. Britton noted that it was important to bring together a wide group of local stakeholders for broadening the discourse on rural energy, thus allowing for greater transparency and participation by stakeholders, and creating opportunities for the sharing of experiences. She stated that it is a pilot project and the lessons learned from the project could assist in the development of future projects. Ms. Britton noted that the emphasis is not on repaying for the project, but the community must contribute towards its sustainability while generating income to improve their livelihoods.

- b) Remarks- Dr. Julie Rowney, Director, Centre for International Management University of Calgary

In her remarks, Dr. Rowney noted that three groups; CIDA, the University of Calgary, and OLADE, have worked together for twelve years to deal with matters related to energy and for six years they focussed on education. She noted that many of the students who graduated from the University of Calgary eventually became professionals and they worked at reputable agencies globally. She stated that one of the main areas of emphasis over the last six years was to have the four countries namely, Guyana, Guatemala, Bolivia and Paraguay, collaborate in rural development programmes.

Dr. Rowney emphasized that the main problem is sustainability of projects and not necessarily getting projects. She reiterated that the reason for being involved in projects in these countries is that they are different. For the last six years, sixteen projects were completed including those based on energy and markets. She stated that the organizations have been committed to working in areas of poverty, conflict resolution, energy efficiency, energy privatization, and energy planning. Dr. Rowney encouraged the participants to be cognizant of what is taking place in

other countries and to utilize examples and experiences of those who have succeeded in their attempts.

c) Remarks- Mr. Byron Chiliquinga Mazon, OLADE

In his remarks, Mr. Mazon expressed appreciation for being present at this event, especially in the company of the Honourable Prime Minister, Representatives of the GEA, the National Coordinator and the Local Consultant. He noted that the Latin American Energy Organization is an inter-governmental agency and the Ministers meet annually in order to give support to relative countries in the area of energy.

He stated that the focus of the organization is to support rural energy development because the problem exists mainly in rural zones. In this respect, the organization sees it worthy to offer assistance to improve the livelihood of rural communities through the provision of various kinds of assistance related to the provision of energy.

Mr. Mazon said that it is the organization's mandate to involve all stakeholders, and to offer new mechanisms to promote rural development. However, stakeholders should be cognizant that the organization's mandate is not to offer technology to the community. He noted that it is critical to have support for the projects to be sustained. In this regard, the organization will be participants of these projects.





d) Feature Address- Mr. Samuel Hinds, Honourable Prime Minister, Guyana

In his address, Prime Minister Hinds extended appreciation to the representatives of the OLADE, University of Calgary HASKAYNE School of Business, and others for participating at the workshop. He noted that the government's desire is to have a more comfortable life in rural areas in relation to health, education and electricity, among other services. He said that the government's intention is to garner assistance from various sources to realize this goal.

The Prime Minister stressed that many challenges were experienced in 1992 when the PPP/C Government commenced. At that time the country faced grave difficulties with the provision of electricity even on the coast. The government also intended to extend electricity first to the rural coastal communities and also to the hinterland communities. One of the main challenges of most hinterland rural communities is the change from non-cash economy to cash economy. This issue brings special challenges to the implementation of sustainable electricity service.

Mr. Hinds noted that electrification of rural areas on the coast has been improved significantly, with most coastal rural communities having some relatively high access to grid electricity. Studies of possible sources of electrification have suggested that there was need for the use of alternative forms of electricity generation especially in hinterland communities. However in

some instances small diesel units are being used provided electricity in some of the hinterland areas because alternatives sources are still not cost effective. He emphasized that the provision of electricity is a costly venture. The advantage of solar system is related to the cost for of acquisition of the hardware, but over an extended period can be cost effective. One issue with hinterland electrification is that the houses in the interior are not in close proximity to each other. Also consideration must be given to the earnings of the residents and other problems that are associated with electrification.

He also elaborated on both the Unserved Areas Electrification Project (UAEP) and the Hinterland Electrification Strategy currently being executed by the government. He informed the participants that the average cost for the installation of a small solar system is approximately G\$300,000.00 (US\$1,500.00) in the hinterland region.

The Prime Minister recognized that while rural electrification is shifting away from the embryonic stage, the government does not have sufficient funds to fully support this and any support grant will be welcomed by all related agencies and individuals. He noted that most recently, the potential of utilizing bio-fuels has been investigated and one commercial bio-diesel plant has been built in Region one.

## 5.0 Working Presentations

After the mid-morning snack break the core business of the workshop were commenced. The three working presentations were done by the National Coordinator Ms Sandra Britton, the local consultant Mr. Patrick Ketwaru and Ms. Bonita Harris, who was part of the local consultant team for the workshop who addressed the gender and indigenous issues. Before the presentations began the participants were asked to introduce themselves to the rest of the gathering.

### a) Overview of the Rural Electrification Project- Ms. Sandra Britton, Head, Non Conventional Energy Unit, GEA

Ms. Britton detailed the various aspects of the Rural Electrification Project. The main objective is to promote energy as a tool for development. The project is geared to maximise the participation from a wide cross-section of stakeholders and should be self- sustaining. The project is divided in three phases and has an eighteen month duration. Phase One started in June 2007, this entailed assessing Guyana's rural sector. Baseline data was collected regarding poverty, availability of public services and utilities. The institutional and legal frame work was reviewed and special interest was paid to women's and indigenous issues. This during this stage, the project operatives from GEA and the local consultant had engaged in dialogue the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and other key agencies in order to facilitate the gathering of data and developing institutional support for the project. A community was selected using specific data and selection criteria. The community selected, Wowetta was visited and a community meeting was held to get the community's perspective of the project. This first phase concludes with the production of a report that would define three energy based projects (ventures) that would help to address the community's needs for economic and social development. These activities must be initiated by the community and have broad community support as well as being sustainable.



The Participants Listening to a Presentation

Ms. Britton noted that Phase Two involves the setting up of the financial mechanisms for the project and implementation. She said that the local community could make financial arrangements with a bank or other financial agencies or form their own group to facilitate the implementation of the project. The work plan will help to facilitate this process since it will be a detailed outline of the project. This plan will reflect the needs of the community.

It was explained that Phase Three would be the evaluation and monitoring stage. The consultants and GEA's will visit the community to assess the progress and determine whether the project was being beneficial to the community. Ms. Britton stated that the ultimate benefit will be electricity coverage and provision of jobs for the local community. Additionally, the venture will empower women since they will be better equipped to manage their life and earn more by the better utilization of their skills and time.

The questions from the participants were discussed; however a few were not addressed immediately. These issues the participants were informed would be addresses in the subsequent presentations.

Concern was raised about the terms of the funding and about the sustainability of the project and whether the RDC, Region 9 was contacted in relation to the selection of the community for whom the project will be developed, since there are sixty-two villages in the region. In response, the local consultant, Mr. Ketwaru, said that the terms for funding and repayment have not been finalised as yet. He further mentioned that the method of selection was up for criticism since that was one of the issues to be reviewed at the workshop.

b) Technical Report on Project- Mr. Patrick Ketwaru, Consultant

The consultant suggested that instead of waiting until the end of the presentation to raise clarification or make comments that the participants should feel free to stop him and raise the issues as the presentation proceeded.

He explained the impact the physical geography of the country had on the progress of development in the various regions of Guyana. He stated that, according to the Population Census report of 2002, the hinterland regions have a significant percentage of Amerindian population, an ethnic group that is found to be the fastest growing in Guyana, additionally; Amerindians as a group have the highest levels of poverty in Guyana.

He said that public utilities are very limited in the hinterland rural communities relative to the coastal rural communities. On the coast, electrical transmission lines are more easily installed this is facilitated by the closeness of the residences to each other. In the hinterland the residences are very scattered and this poses a serious economic challenge to grid based electrification.

It was pointed out that the National Development Strategy (NDS) and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) defined the direction for the development of energy and that the Electricity Sector Reform Act is the principal Act that focuses on all aspects of energy in Guyana. He stated that the Inter-American Development Bank is one of the funding agencies for the electricity sector in Guyana. He noted that there are many factors affecting the implementation of hinterland energy projects. The high cost of transport, especially air, will not help with hinterland electrification. Additionally due to the high demand, worldwide, for renewable energy sources especially solar, the economic aspects of demand and supply come into play and the cost of equipment to install and provide electricity is still expensive even though the production of solar panels has increased.

The method of selection of the beneficiary community, Wowetta, was discussed in detail and the weaknesses and strengths of the selection method were highlighted. When discussing local renewable resources, Mr. Ketwaru mentioned that the document that was prepared by World Bank was used to obtain information in relation to poverty in Guyana because it is the most recent and based on the 2002 census. The EDM data was applicable for the study of NDCs with villages that are dispersed as found in the hinterland regions. It was noted that villages earmarked for electrification under the Hinterland Electrification Strategy were not considered when

choosing the community since the project did not want to duplicate any effort in community electrification.

c) Gender and Indigenous Issues- Ms. Bonita Harris, Consultant

The objective of this presentation was to sensitise the participants of the gender and indigenous issues that should be considered when relating to a project of this nature. This was required since it was believed that the participants needed to be informed of these issues so the later discussions and decisions could be informed where these very important issues were concerned. As such some aspects of the presentation were rather general.

Ms. B. Harris recognized that language and communication barrier is an important consideration for projects of this nature. She stated that much emphasis must be placed on important concepts related to the project, including the meaning of the term 'energy'. She stressed that during communication, the project representatives will have to be candid, forthright and simple, and make provision for the residents to translate words while exercising patience at each stage of planning and implementation.

Ms. Harris stated that the social impacts that are associated with projects on communities that are vulnerable should be considered seriously, and the necessary mechanisms put in place to deal with these issues. She noted that this would assist to alleviate suspicion and facilitate an atmosphere of trust and understanding between the project representatives and the community.

Lunch was taken after this presentation.



## 6.0 Plenary Session

After lunch the plenary session of the work commenced. Before the discussion the local consultant highlighted some of the issues to be considered while the discussions were taking place. In addition both Mr. Mazon and Dr. Rowney provided direction along the same lines. It was also emphasised that the community would be required to repay for the project. However the community did not have to pay to an external entity but to the community itself. As such the funds being generated from the income earning project would be utilised to sustain the project as well as facilitate new projects.



L to R, Chief of Wowetta Mr. S. Moses, Mr. M. Williams (Annai) and Ms. T. Jaigobin (CHF)

### 6.1 Issues on Choosing a Community

Deliberations on this topic were facilitated by Mr. Patrick Ketwaru. The discussions were very open and extensive. The key points from the discussions were:

- NRDDDB chairperson suggested that a small hydropower plant would have been a better project since it could have serviced a much larger area.

- The Moraikabai Toshao shared his rural coastal community's energy initiative, he emphasised that the size of the project should cater for future capacity.
- In the experience of the CHF Partners in Rural Development 'funds that target the poor end up in the hands of the rich.' In the view of the CHF representative, the project must target each household.
- The existence of competing producers should be being taken into consideration when an economic venture is being developed. For example the joinery at Wowetta may encounter competition from those in two nearby villages.
- The overall market demand should be properly assessed before the project is developed.
- Project agents should be wary of misleading communities about their resources, instead of admitting ignorance and being willing to learn
- The availability and use of indigenous technology should be considered.
- The level of human resource within the community should be assessed to determine whether community selected can take up the challenge of human resource development, skills training and other capacity building to do what needs to be done.
- The individual benefit for everyone within the community and the cost to provide the service to the individuals should be considered.
- An assessment of the economic activities flowing from the energy source with respect to making the community net exporters, rather than net importers
- Will the project create expense rather than income in the selected community
- Assess the community's past experience with development projects
- Identify institutions that can support the project
- Will the energy system have the capacity to support health, education and community centres as well as other economic activities
- Will the size of project cause a real increase in productive capacity of selected community
- The level of accessibility, isolation and underdevelopment could/should represent positive, rather than negative criteria re selection
- Use of the consultation process to give guidance with respect to determination of energy source and capacity



## 6.2 Selection of the National Advisory Committee (NAC)

After the deliberation on the issues of choosing a community to benefit from an energy project the participants were asked to select the National Advisory Committee that would be responsible for selecting communities, reviewing the projects and overlooking implementation of these projects. The participants were informed that this committee will not be selected to oversee just this one project but it should be one that would oversee all future rural energy projects in the country. The committee should also be broad based and be cognizant of the gender and other social issues. After some discussions the following organizations were selected to be part of the committee.

- North Rupununi District Development Board
- Toshaos' Council
- Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
- Office of the Prime Minister
- Guyana Energy Agency (Ex officio member)
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Tourism
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Guyana Women's Leadership Institute/Women's Affairs Bureau
- Amerindian Peoples Association or GOIP.

Since there were two NGOs representing indigenous rights APA and GOIP it was decided that they would decide between themselves which individual would represent the indigenous rights groups. The Guyana Women's Leadership Institute declined the selection on the ground of being overworked and suggested instead that their parent Ministry's Women's Affairs Bureau would provide a representative. GEA would write each organization requesting that they formally appoint their representative to the NAC.

It was suggested that the representatives should be the individuals who were at the workshop since they are already aware of the focus of the NAC and would be able to seamlessly continue this approach when the NAC meets. One of the areas of concern was the very low level of representation of women on the committee; however it is important that the representative be aware of the women's issues. It is still possible that these issues are kept to the fore by effective planning of the agenda.

### 6.3 Issues Related To Project Implementation

This session was facilitated by Ms. Bonita Harris who is part of the local consultant team. She asked the participants to form pairs and address the issue. Each pair was asked to list the issues that they thought were important to the implementation of an energy project. They were then asked to make a short verbal presentation each. These were discussed to get ensure everyone was aware of the points. Each issue raised by each group was then placed on the screen using the multimedia equipment. The major issues highlighted by the participants were:

1. Employing human resources for project work and capacity building in the community before seeking labour, personnel and skills from outside
  - Identifying of trainable personnel in community and organising hands-on training
  - Conducting training with an eye to migration and replacement of those trained
2. Taking note of and planning around seasonal weather patterns, including flooding
3. Ensuring availability of necessary equipment and spares for project implementation
  - Verification of condition and serviceability of equipment before shipment into community
4. Paying attention to language, interpretation and communication
  - Recognition of communication barriers that can arise from ‘outside’ trainers
  - Recognition of language barriers between community and project implementers
  - Recognition of community expectations (realistic and unrealistic) of project
  - Recognition of dangers of raising community expectations that will not or cannot be met
5. Raising awareness so that beneficiaries can take full ownership of development initiatives
6. Appointing and briefing of village Oversight Committee, or Works Committee, or Management Steering Committee to oversee implementation and capacity building
7. Ensuring adequate funding for all aspects of project
8. Informing all concerned on the sums available so ‘we know what we have’ and therefore what we can do
9. Meeting of project timelines and avoiding delays in implementation especially start-ups and late decision-making which can affect completion times
  - Ensuring adequate time for disseminating project related information
  - Recognition of weather (rain and flood) patterns that can set back project timelines
10. Imposing of conditions (for example, requiring percentage of self-help and community contribution to project) that are difficult to meet, that communities can’t afford, that are unfair because not required of projects in the coastal belt of Guyana, that delay implementation of project and impede progress
11. Necessity for ‘proper consultation’ before finalisation of project
12. Ensuring that copy of project and tender documents, and budget get into hands of Works Committee and other key stakeholders, including
  - Clear statement of project objectives, indicators, benchmarks, assessment and verification procedures, project costs, timelines for implementation, construction and completion periods
13. Ensuring that the Toshao signs for all equipment handed over, and that

- Assets register is instituted, along with
  - System for full accountability by community for assets and performance
14. Holding of regular meetings between stakeholders and community
  15. Ensuring that community is part of the monitoring process
  16. Awareness of community disputes and challenges to leadership that could create problems with project implementation and development
  17. Planning for abuse of energy source, for example, “I want 10 lights although the system only permits me 2.”
  18. Taking community readiness to utilise energy into consideration, not just project readiness to begin installation of energy equipment
  19. Ensuring continuous monitoring and evaluation of project
  20. Planning for security during and after project implementation
  21. Evaluation of community capacity to implement project
  22. Conduct gap analysis, decide on scale of desired activities, technical requirements to implement projects in the way the community would wish, strong technical analysis of project to ensure viability

#### 6.4 Review of the Community Selected

This session was also facilitated by Ms. Bonita Harris.

The main objective of this session were to critique the selection process and to determine if there were any issues that could indicate that Wowetta should not have been chosen. The local consultant Mr. P. Ketwaru explained that the absence of a good database, especially for the outlying communities posed the major problem when trying to determine the levels of poverty. The data obtained was based on raw data collected from the 2002 census and transformed by the World Bank specialist using specific criteria. This was done for the whole country. Based on this data and the other project specific conditions Wowetta was selected. It was highlighted that while there were other communities that could have been considered they were excluded because they were already included in the Hinterland Electrification Strategy.

The participants were asked to comment on the selection of Wowetta and there was very strong support from the participants especially from the individuals from the Rupununi. The representatives from Annai and NRDDDB were especially strong in their support for Wowetta and pledged to assist Wowetta in the next phases of the project.

The Toshao of Wowetta said that there have been a few economic ventures in the community, for example, sewing group, he also asked that support be given to farmers who needed assistance as well. Additionally, the women’s group wanted to engage in farine production. He stated that all of those projects have been considered priority for the community. Generally, the women have been acquiring higher incomes than men as a result of their engagement in the activities.

The consultant also reported on the meeting he had with the residents at Wowetta and the projects they had put forward to be review for implementation. These projects would be the subject of more investigation and review in the last stage of this first phase.

## **6.5 Closing**

Before closing both Dr. Rowney and Mr. Mazon were asked to make closing remarks. After these remarks Mr. Ketwaru thanked all of the participants for their attendance and, more importantly, contribution to the discussions. He expressed appreciation to the overseas participants; Dr. J. Rowney and Mr. B. C. Mazon, for their presentations and contributions. Special thanks were given to Ms. Britton and her support staff of GEA, for a job well done.

The Workshop was concluded at 16:50h.

## **Attachments**

Attachment 1- Invitation Letter  
Attachment 2- Workshop Program  
Attachment 3- List of Participants



# G E A

**Mission Statement**

To ensure the rational and efficient use of imported petroleum –based energy sources, while encouraging, where economically feasible and environmentally acceptable, increased utilization of indigenous new and renewable sources of

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295 Quamina Street,  
P.O. Box 903  
Georgetown, Guyana  
South America

Tel: (592)-226-0394,6993,3719  
Fax: (592)-226-5227,225-5694  
email : [ecgea@sdnpp.org.gy](mailto:ecgea@sdnpp.org.gy)  
[gnea@guyana.net.gy](mailto:gnea@guyana.net.gy)

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January 24, 2008

Mr. William Andries  
Chairman  
North Rupununi District Development Board  
Annai Village  
Region 9  
Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo

Dear Mr. Andries

**Re: Workshop to Develop a Participatory Multiparty Mechanism to Promote Rural Energy**

You are invited to attend a one day workshop to be held at the Hotel Tower on Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at 9:00 am. If you are unable to attend, kindly send a representative.

This workshop is part of a wider Rural Energy Project which is facilitated by OLADE, University of Calgary and the Canadian International Development Agency. The local counterpart is the Guyana Energy Agency.

The objective of this workshop is to start up a self-sustaining “ad-hoc” project advisory scheme called the Multiparty Workshop, which will consist of major rural sector stakeholders. This workshop will include representatives from state sectors (energy, the environment, social and environmental issues and agriculture), indigenous communities and NGOs.

It is expected that the immediate output of this workshop will be:

- The establishment of an advisory group to develop methodologies to ensure that all major social aspects are included in the rural energy projects.
- To identify, in detail, the various criteria to be used when developing a rural energy project.

To develop a draft framework of the methodology to be used when choosing a community to benefit from a rural energy project.

The representative would be expected to present the following:

1. The activities that can be supported if sufficient energy is available in the community.
2. Possible commercial ventures that can be supported by the availability of energy
3. The problems that the community, especially women and children, encounters due to the lack of sufficient energy.
4. The initiatives that can be used to develop the availability of energy in the community.

Transportation and accommodation costs will be covered by the Workshop as well as per diem.

Kindly indicate your intention to participate at this workshop and confirm the name of the person that will attend to either of the following persons

Mrs. Sandra Britton,  
Head, NCEU, GEA  
Tel. No. 226 9060

or

Mr. Patrick Ketwaru  
Consultant  
Tel. No. 640 6015

Best Regards

Yours sincerely

.....

Sandra Britton  
Head  
Non Conventional Energy Unit  
Hydropower Division  
19 Fort Street, Kingston  
Email [san\\_britton@yahoo.com](mailto:san_britton@yahoo.com)

### **Workshop Programme**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
9.00 - 9.30	Registration
9.30 - 9.40	Welcome & Opening Remarks - Chairperson Ms. Sandra Britton (GEA)
9.40 – 9.50	Remarks – Dr. Julie Rowney (University of Calgary)
9.50 – 10.00	Remarks – Mr. Byron Chiliguina Mazon (OLADE)
10.00 – 10.15	Feature Address Hon. Samuel Hinds – Prime Minister (Guyana)
10.15 – 10.30	Break
10.30 – 10.50	Overview of Rural Electrification Project –Ms. Sandra Britton (GEA)
10.50 – 11.20	Technical Report on Project – Mr. Patrick Ketwaru (Consultant)
11.20 – 12.00	Gender & Indigenous Issues - Ms. Bonita Harris (Consultant)
12.00 – 1.00	Lunch
1.00 – 2.15	Issues on Choosing a Community - Patrick Ketwaru (Facilitator)
2.15 – 2.40	Selection of National Committee
2.40 – 3.00	Break
3.00 – 4.15	Issues Relating to Project Implementation – Ms. B. Harris (Facilitator)
4.15 – 5.00	Review of Community Chosen & Recommendations - Ms. B. Harris (Facilitator)
5.00 – 5.10	Closing Remarks – Mr. P. Ketwaru

**Registration List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Maxine Nestor	Office of the Prime Minister	Principal Project Coordinator	Wight's Lane Kingston	maxine@electricity.gov 226-3759
Did not Attend	United Nations Development Programme			
Sheila Veerasammy	Women's Leadership Institute	Head	Cove & John ECD	sveerasammy@yahoo.com 227-3497
Dr. Shyam Doodnauth	Min Of Labour , Human Services & Social Security	Director – Social Services	1 Water St Georgetown	dss@solutions2000.net 233-6014
Aditya Persaud	Min of Agriculture	Project/Research Officer	Regent & Vlissengen Roads	pandit83@yahoo.com 225-8310
Did not Attend	Min. of Local Government		Fort St, Kingston	
Romesh Kishun	CHF (Partners in Rural Development)		26 Lamaha & Irvin Sts Queenstown	rkishun.chf@gol.netgy 227-7839
Ovid Williams	Min. Of Amerindian Affairs	Principal Regional & Regional Development Officer	236 Thomas & Quamina Sts, G/Town	ovidkapong@yahoo.com 223-1622
Jane Parris	Private Sector Commission		157 Waterloo St Georgetown	219-0083
Annalise Bayney	Iwokrama		High St, G/Town	abayney@iwokrama.org 225-1504
Curtis Bernard	Conservation International	Biodiversity Analyst	Forshaw St, G/Town	cbernard@conservation.org 227-8171



<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Lawrence Anselmo	Amerindian People's Association		344 East St. G/Town	227-0275
Peter Persaud	Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana	Could not be contacted		
Satya Kishun	Environmental Protection Agency	Environmental Officer II	Turkeyen, G/town	chineman@hotmail .com 222-5784
Forest Smartt	Guyana National Bureau of Standards	Technical Officer	Sophia , G/town	forestsmartt@yahoo.com
Indranauth Haralsingh	Guyana Tourism Authority	Director	Sophia, G/Town	haralsing@guyanatours.com 219-0092
Colin Andrews	National Toshao Council	Toshao	Morakobai, Mahaicony River	444-9285
William Andries	North Rupununi District Development Board	Chairman	Annai Region 9	williamandries@yahoo.com
Michael Williams	NRDDB/ Bina Hill Development Institute	Chief Councillor	Annai Region 9	michaelhealis@yahoo.com
Seigmund Moses	Wowetta Village	Chief Councillor	Wowetta, Annai Region 9	
Sherwin Clarke	Guyana Energy Agency	Technician/Engineer	Quamina St. G/Town	sherwin_clarkeyahoo.com
Rondel Murray	Guyana Energy Agency	Project Assistant	Quamina St. G/Town	643-5667
Dr. Oudho Homenaught	National Agricultural Research Institute	Director	Mon Repos	Did not attend
Collin Croal	Institute of Applied	Deputy Director	Turkeyen, G/Town	depdir@yahoo.com

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Contact</b>
	Science & Technology			
John Cush	Guyana Association of Professional Engineers		G/Town	johnac@networksgy.com
Kumar Sharma	Guyana Power & Light Inc	Construction Manager	Middle St, G/Town	kumar.sharma@gplinc.com 225-7140
Mildred Akpan	Min. Of Amerindian Affairs	Projects Officer	Quamina & Thomas Sts, G/Town	msapan@hotmail.com 226-5167
Marcus Thompson	Guyana Tourism Authority	Tourism Officer	Sophia, G/Town	mthompson@guyanatours.com 219-0094
Horace Williams	Office of the Prime Minister	Electrical Engineer	Wight's Lane, Kingston, G/Town	horace@electricity.gov.gy 223-5203
Maxwell Jackson	University of Guyana	Lecturer	Turkeyen, G/Town	mboycin@yahoo.com 223-4184
T.Jaigobin	CHF (SFLP)	Technical Field Facilitator	Irvin & Lamaha St. G/Town	taitree_jaigobin@yahoo.com 669-5017