



**GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND ENERGY AFFAIRS**

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MEDIA RELEASE

Energy Ministry to host a Special Meeting of CARICOM Energy Ministers

THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND ENERGY AFFAIRS (MEEA) will be hosting the CARICOM's 41st Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) on Energy, scheduled to take place between 27 February and 01 March, 2013. The Meeting venue is the Port of Spain Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency.

Several Ministers of Energy from CARICOM Member States are expected to be in attendance.

Two key issues are expected to occupy the attention of the CARICOM Ministers and Technical Officials participating in the upcoming meeting, namely: the finalisation and approval of the CARICOM Energy Policy; and the activation of that Policy under the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Roadmap and Strategy (C-SERMS).

The C-SERMS is the framework for establishing sustainable energy targets and strategies in the context of the CARICOM Energy Policy. Its implementation will encourage a more strategic approach for increased contribution from Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy

Efficiency (EE) initiatives. A few Member States already have established targets which have been included in the C-SERMS, as that framework has been fleshed out over the last few years.

The CARICOM Energy Ministers also will turn their attention to the Renewable Energy agenda, which is being seen as critical, in light of increasing hydrocarbon prices on the global market. Specifically, interest is high in increasing the deployment of wind and geo-thermal facilities across CARICOM.

Prior to this year's Special Meeting, the most recent CARICOM Energy Ministerial – the Thirty-Fifth Special COTED on Energy – was held in March 2011 in Georgetown, Guyana.

T&T's Energy Minister, Senator the Honourable Kevin Ramnarine, made the offer of Trinidad and Tobago hosting this Special COTED on Energy in 2012, and since then, has been working closely with the CARICOM Secretariat to fulfill his obligation.

Minister Ramnarine says he is encouraged by the overwhelmingly positive responses from his CARICOM Colleagues and Ministers of Energy, who are looking forward to visiting Trinidad and Tobago in March.

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