

Regional Meeting on Sustainable Development Strategies Begins in Castries on Wednesday

Written by Media

Wednesday, 14 January 2004 15:48 - Last Updated Saturday, 30 May 2009 17:07

The OECS Secretariat and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs UN DESA will co-host a Two-day Regional Workshop on National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS) and Indicators of Sustainable Development (ISD) beginning on Wednesday January 14.

The OECS Environment and Sustainable development Unit ESDU will be coordinating the workshop at the CARA Suits hotel in Castries.

The goal of the workshop is to build and/or strengthen capacity at the national and sub regional levels in the OECS in the areas of NSDS and ISD.

The workshop will target areas such as capacity-building and best practices. It will also consider options for decision-making through the use of indicators of sustainable development at the national level. Senior personnel from the Ministries of Finance/Planning and Environment throughout the OECS as well as Haiti , Cuba , Jamaica , Trinidad and Tobago , Barbados , the Bahamas , Belize and Guyana are likely to attend.

The format for the workshop will include presentations on issues such as the global status of NSDS implementation and key principles and characteristics constituting a sound NSDS.

The Director General of the OECS Secretariat and the St. Lucia 's Minister for Physical Development, Environment and Housing are expected to address participants at a special opening ceremony on Wednesday at 9:00am.

The Caribbean Regional Workshop on National Sustainable Development Strategies and Indicators of Sustainable Development is one of two projects enshrined in a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the OECS Secretariat and UN DESA on September 3rd 2003. The other project relates to Integrated Planning for Sustainable Development and Supporting National Sustainable Development Indicators for Saint Lucia .

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CONTACTS:

Valerie Isaac St. Hill OECS-ESDU

Kendol Morgan Senior Comm. Officer OECS Secretariat kmorgan@oecs.org

Raymond O'Keeffe Comm. Officer email : rokeiffe@oecs.org or rokeiffe@oecs.org