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PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme provides support to the Government for the development of renewable energy resources

The Government of Guyana (GOG) today completed the formalities with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in order to implement a project entitled **“Capacity Building and Demonstration Projects for Electrification of Hinterland Unserved Areas, Utilising Renewable Energy Resources”**.

This falls within the second Country Cooperation Framework (CCF) for Guyana (2001-2003) formulated by the GOG and approved by the UNDP Executive Board in February 2002.

The provision of efficient, reliable and affordable energy is necessary for economic development and poverty alleviation strategies pursued by Government. In places where access is difficult, and as the system of carbon credit evolves and develops, renewable energy sources can become competitive compared with fossil fuel sources.

This project will focus on three primary areas:

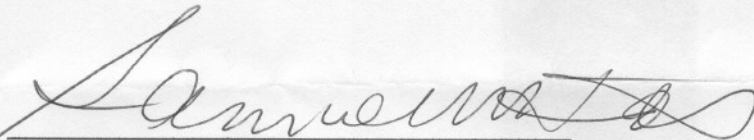
1. increasing knowledge and skills development in many aspects of policy and planning on renewable energy;
2. identifying and learning about alternative funding mechanisms and opportunities for clean energy development and how to source same;
3. providing technical assistance, institutional strengthening and capacity building in a practical way through the implementation of three or more hinterland demonstration projects.

The project is intended to play a supportive and catalytic role and complement the ongoing projects and activities of various donors, private sector and the Government. Focus will be on partnerships, networking, collaborating, national ownership, and community participation.

In addition, the project would not only allow Guyana to explore new financing alternatives under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), but also to make use of opportunities presented by new technologies and seek guidance from international policy frameworks. It will promote linkages to sustainable livelihoods development activities and other development activities such as micro-enterprise development currently supported by UNDP through the EMPRETEC project. By promoting development in hinterland locations, it will facilitate the expansion and creation of economic opportunities of residents and the diversification of the community.

Training would be provided to representatives in the communities where the demonstration projects are installed to ensure that the systems are effectively managed and maintained at the community level. There would be linkage with a regional training programme organized by the UNDP for the training of sector agency personnel on CDM.

The Guyana Energy Agency (GEA) will be responsible for the strategic monitoring and implementation of this programme.



Samuel A. Hinds

Prime Minister and Minister responsible for the Electricity Sector