Belmopan renewable electricity



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The remote, but vibrant, community of Corazon Creek in the Toledo District has entered the era of renewable energy, with the launch of the Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Project. This groundbreaking initiative is the result of a successful collaboration between Belize Electricity Limited (BEL), CDW Stiftung, and the Government of Belize, through the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics and E-Governance (MPUELE).

The inauguration ceremony, held at the project site in Corazon Creek, marked a major milestone for the region, as officials, community members, and stakeholders gathered to celebrate the successful implementation of this transformative energy project.

Dr. the Hon. Osmond Martinez, Minister of State for Foreign Trade in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, was also present at the ceremony. He expressed his excitement and gratitude for the positive impact this solar project will have on the people of Toledo.

This successful collaboration between local communities, government officials, and stakeholders has paved the way for the Corazon Creek Solar PV Project to provide a foundation for future initiatives in renewable energy. To commemorate this achievement, a plaque was unveiled on site.

The Belize Energy Unit plans, promotes, and effectively manages the production, delivery, and use of energy through Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Cleaner Production interventions for the sustainable development of Belize.

In February 2012, the Government of Belize endorsed the National Energy Policy and Planning Framework (NEP). This document was created to assess the country"s energy sector and propose a pathway for its evolution. The NEP highlighted the need for energy planning which propelled the creation of the Energy Unit. The Energy UnitIt is the administrative agent of the energy and public utilities portfoliowith responsibility for planning and policymaking. The Energy Unit currently operates within the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics & E-Governance.

On February 6, 2023, the Government of Belize, through the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics & E-Governance, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the University of Belize (UB) to formalize full ownership and operation of the 480 kilowatts 'peak' (KWp) Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System to the university.

In 2012, the Government of Belize partnered with UB and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to install a solar PV system on the UB"s main campus in Belmopan. This initiative was designed to support all sectors of society through socioeconomic benefits. It seeks to do so by enhancing environmental sustainability by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and by producing a viable energy source through the

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development of clean energy via solar generation. The partnership was founded on the notion that solar PV systems are an important part of Belize's energy future.

The installation of this system has been beneficial for the nation and the government, as highlighted through many purposes, such as academic enhancement through training students and conducting school tours, the introduction of clean energy, and meeting environmental commitments, among others. It will improve the technical capacity of the university"s engineering faculty and staff maintenance team members.

Throughout its operation, the Government of Belize has ensured that the system operates at its full potential and meets all stipulations outlined in its 2011 MOU. The government will continue to support the national development of Belize by supporting UB's incorporation of renewable energy into its curriculum.

The Government of Belize appreciates JICA and the Government and people of Japan for their role in installing this system. We are excited about future collaborations between our two nations that can benefit both parties equally.

The MOU was signed by Dr. Vincent Palacio, President of the University of Belize, and Mr. Jose Urbina, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics & E-Governance.

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