

We have received an email from Ms. SUTHERLAND Areli Jesaiah from Belize in Central America with a recent activity report, and we would like to introduce it in the next page.

Her position is Energy Officer, Energy Unit, Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics & E-Governance, Belize.

She participated in a training course on energy at JICA Kyushu in February 2024.

Official Course Title: Promotion of Energy Efficiency and Conservation (A)

Course leader: Mr. Morinaga of KITA

Dear KITA and team,

Respectful greetings and hoping this email find you well.

Please find attached the completed "Report on your recent activities", as well as the newsletter that I mention in my activity report. My work has been so busy lately that I had to compile this report on my own time, but I hope it has some value for you.

I am ever grateful for the opportunity that the Energy Efficiency course offered me, and my time in Japan is full of beautiful memories and wonderful people.

People in Japan say "Arigatou" (Thank you) automatically, as a response to everything, but believe me when I say my experience was deeply appreciated. So much that now, whenever someone does something for me that is very precious or personal, it is "Arigatou" (Thank you) that comes first into my mind!

With pleasant regards,
Areli Sutherland

Report on your recent activities

I presented my Action Plan twice – first to JICA Belize’s office on the 5th June, 2024, then to my Ministry’s Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Energy Unit’s Director (my immediate superior) on the 17th June, 2024.

For my first presentation to JICA Belize, the representatives liked my project and told me my ideas were good. After the slides were done, we had a protracted conversation on the state of energy conservation and rising energy demand in Belize, and the cultural implications that go with making the recommended changes. The representatives asked me about my experiences in Japan – I told them about some memorable moments and people and showed them some pictures from my time there. They told me they hoped the presentation would get some traction with my Ministry because they felt it had potential. Some weeks afterward, they sent me an email informing me that my Action Plan had been featured in the JICA CARICOM newsletter, which I will attach to this activity report.

JICA Newsletter

—Leading the “Caribbean” World with Trust —

July 05, 2024
Volume 5
Email: tatsuya.morita@caricom.org



The Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)

JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Programs are a form of technical cooperation that JICA carries out in Japan. Some of the knowledge that Japanese society has accumulated, including its background in areas such as organizational know-how and social systems, can only be understood through first-hand experience. The programs are an important means of technical cooperation which supports human resource development and resolving issues in developing countries.



Ms. Areli Sutherland, Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics & E-Governance of **Belize** attended the KCCP course in “Promotion of Energy Efficiency and Conservation (A)” She formulated an action plan to be implemented by her unit to improve energy efficiency in industrial, commercial and residential sectors. Mainly, focusing on energy conservation since Belize does not practice “energy conservation” too often. The strategies of her action plans are the following: 1. Standardizing Belize’s Statistical System 2. Reduce Reliance on (Electricity) Imports through Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation. 3. Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation implementation through National Policies.

This presentation with JICA Belize was the only one I was able to take photos for.

I presented my Action Plan to my Ministry Management, who were very busy and could only give me less than an hour to go through it. Nevertheless, the CEO had a positive response, especially to the themes and ideas for reducing national energy demand and improving data collection and management systems. When I concluded, he gave instructions that my next steps should be to solicit the Statistical Institute of Belize for a price quotation for the use of their annual surveys, so that our Ministry can begin to plan how to pay for this expansion in our data system. He also instructed us to liaise with the Ministry of Tourism, which he believed was the sector where demand mitigation (through the replacement of technologies) would be the most impactful. This was an issue that had been highlighted and much discussed in national public circles, due to a series of power cuts and rolling 'load shedding' that the power company implemented during the months of April and June, due to insufficient power supply.

As of right now, production of our Unit's annual report has been Management's (including the CEO) priority and has taken up all my time, limiting my ability to follow up on these threads. However, since the CEO has already given permission, I foresee no problem with reaching out to these stakeholders and starting engagement with them, once our annual report has been produced – currently scheduled for the beginning of September.

**With Pleasant Regards,
Areli Sutherland**