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ENVIRONMENT-Jamaica to host review of Copenhagen summit



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KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - The regional implications of last December's climate change talks in Copenhagen will be discussed here next week at talks that will feature two Caribbean prime ministers, senior environmental experts, academics and officials.



Prime Minister Bruce Golding



Prime Minister Stephenson King

Prime Minister Bruce Golding and his St Lucian counterpart, Stephenson King, will join a diverse grouping of environmental experts, civil society and youth organisations at the fifth Caribbean Environmental Forum (CEF).

The June 21-25 event has been organised on a biennial basis by the St Lucia-based Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) since 2002.

The Institute's executive director, Patricia Aquing, said the high-level speakers the event has attracted over the years was "a testimony to the fact that an increasing number of our politicians realise that the environment is one of the key pillars of development especially in the small states of the Caribbean."

Golding will officially open the talks in Montego Bay, while King, who has lead responsibility within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for environmental issues, is due to initiate discussions on the post-Copenhagen phase of the regional climate change agenda.

Joining him in the talks will be Nairobi-based Trinidadian, Angela Cropper, who is a United Nations Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Also present at the CEF will be Assistant Secretary-General of the Organisation of American States (OAS), Albert Ramdin, who will speak on hemispheric efforts to deal with leading environmental issues, including climate change.

CEHI will also lead discussions on the use of "cleaner production" methods by regional industry to "minimise waste, reduce the carbon footprint of industry and maximise production output in the," according to a release from the Institute.

Aqing told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) the CEF "has come to be seen as a premier event on the regional calendar where matters of environment and sustainable development of significance are discussed, debated and addressed."

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SOURCE: CARICOM NEWS NETWORK