

## Asuncion renewable electricity

The city of Asunción became the epicenter of energy discussions in Latin America and the Caribbean last week by hosting the IX Energy Week. This event, organized by the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), brought together the most influential leaders and experts in the energy sector to analyze the current and future state of energy in the region, laying out a path towards comprehensive and equitable development.

The event also served as a platform for the presentation of the first OLADE Energy Excellence Award, which recognized 28 projects in the categories of Energy Efficiency, Decarbonization, and Renewable Energy. These types of recognitions drive innovation and the adoption of sustainable practices throughout the region, reflecting a growing commitment to a fair and inclusive transition.

Additionally, strategic agreements were signed during the week, such as the agreement between OLADE and the Association of Oil, Gas, and Renewable Energy Companies of Latin America and the Caribbean (ARPEL), as well as technical cooperation with the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF), reinforcing the need for robust partnerships. These agreements aim to optimize infrastructure and foster a regulatory framework that ensures equitable access to energy resources and active participation in the region's decarbonization.

The IX Energy Week, as a whole, not only highlighted the relevance of cooperation between the public and private sectors but also underscored the importance of inclusive energy policies that take into account advanced technologies and low-emission fuels. The presence of authorities and representatives from institutions such as the World Bank, the IDB, and the CAF reinforces the certainty that only through a shared vision and concrete actions can Latin America and the Caribbean face the challenges of climate change and the growing energy demand.

This event, which also included the II Public-Private Dialogue, was a space for reflection and agreements where strategies for energy development were defined to meet the region's demands while enhancing its capacity to respond to climate challenges. The main conclusions of this dialogue were as follows:

As a milestone within the framework of the LIV Meeting of Energy Ministers, the vital importance of regional cooperation to build a sustainable and equitable energy future that considers the diverse realities of the countries in this vast region was emphasized. The meeting provided member countries with a space to assess energy transition and propose joint strategies. Notable agreements reached include:

The IX Energy Week undoubtedly continues to position itself as the most important regional energy event, which this time featured 3,000 participants and over 30 parallel events, delegations and representatives from all OLADE member countries, speakers, experts, academics, industry associations, and regional media, who discussed the strategies needed to face these challenges and continue advancing towards more sustainable and

equitable energy integration.

Access to modern energy services is essential for economic growth and human development [1,2]. The importance of energy for Paraguay is reflected in the government's ambitions to meet core goals in their national energy plans such as energy security, energy equity and environmental sustainability [3,4].

Paraguay faces particular other challenges related to its overall energy consumption. The country doesn't have any domestic fossil fuel reserves and relies entirely on imports for the different sectors (e.g., the transport sector) [7]. Also, for residential energy use, the consumption of traditional biomass is significantly high, a contributing cause to deforestation [5].

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