



Press Release

For Immediate Release
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Improving Wastewater Management in Belize

Wastewater management in the coastal cities has been identified as a priority for the UNEP/GPA (United Nations Environment Programme's-Global Programme of Action). The problem of the uncontrolled discharge of wastewater into the freshwater and coastal environment has also been identified as a priority by UNEP and reconfirmed at the 2002 Millennium Summit and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

In the Wider Caribbean, the consequences of untreated wastewater and the nutrients and pathogens associated therewith impact tourism, health and fisheries. The region constitutes an environmental hot spot, where toxic algae blooms threaten vital coastlines.

In an effort to address these consequences, the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) through its Regional Coordinating Unit for the Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP CAR/RCU) will be hosting a Wastewater Management Training Course. The course is funded by United Nations Environment Programme – Global Programme for Action (UNEP-GPA) from the Netherlands.

Training will take place at the Belize Biltmore Plaza Hotel, Belize City from June 15 – 19, 2009 with the opening ceremony beginning at 9:30am on June 15. This workshop is the sixth of its kind being held within the Caribbean and through local coordination with the Department of the Environment. The objective of the training is to provide participants with analytical tools, substantive information and skills on how to select, plan and finance appropriate and environmentally sound municipal wastewater management systems. It will focus on objective oriented planning; innovative technological and financial approaches; stakeholder involvement, and presentation techniques and feasibility reporting.

The course targets wastewater managers and decision-makers, town planners, including representatives from stakeholder groups such as fisheries, tourism, public health, communities or environmental NGOs.

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