

ENERGY NEWS IN CENTRAL AMERICA No.5**Energy Efficiency in Hotels**

The tourism sector in Costa Rica has rapidly grown in the last 30 years, reaching in 2004 more than million tourists. So, the addition in the electrical load installed in the hotels due to air conditioning units, mini bars, and other electric equipment, has increased considerably in recent years.

**Recent Activities of BUN-CA in Energy Efficiency****The PEEST Project:**

Last April 18, 2005. BUN-CA carried out in San José, the Inception Workshop of the project "Energy Efficiency in the Hotel Sector", with the participation of its Dutch partners, BECO Group and CE Consultants.

This initiative, with a foreseen duration of 18 months, looks for generating a market to energy efficiency in the Costa Rican hotel sector. It is financed with contributions under the Bilateral Program for Sustainable Development: The Netherlands-Costa Rica.

This Initiative will contribute to reduce the consumption of electricity promoting best practices, especially in relation to the environmental, social, and economic aspects also promoted by the Costa Rican Institute of Tourism.

Another important aspect of the project is *reciprocity*: to increase the level of knowledge in the Holland's tourist industry around sustainable hotel alternatives in Costa Rica.



Hotel Bougainvillea, Inception Workshop
April 18, 2005

This Workshop was carried out with the purpose to review the work plan for the next 18 months. Some of the topics were: lessons learned related to energy efficiency in Dutch hotels, best practices for the hotel sector in Costa Rica, methods and topics to take into account for the selection of the participating hotels, related energy efficiency technologies, among other topics.

NEWS

- BUN-CA, in collaboration with the office of the PNUD-Costa Rica will begin in the following weeks the elaboration Project Document for the Sustainable Energy in Central America (PESCA), recently included in the Work Program of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- La Autoridad Reguladora de los Servicios Públicos (ARESEP) has recently approved rises between the 7,8 and 17,3 percent in the electricity price for commercial and industrial customers. This affects at least 455.000 clients located in the Pacific coast, especially to high-consumers like hotels (La Nación Newspaper, April 15, 2005).