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# U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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**USTDA-FUNDED WHITE PAPER FOSTERS CENTRAL AMERICAN  
ENERGY INTEGRATION AND REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS**

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS – Supporting DR-CAFTA efforts to form an integrated regional power market and strengthen the region’s competitiveness is the objective of a USTDA-funded White Paper that was presented today at the Central American Energy and Competitiveness Conference in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The event, which continues through May 25, 2007, is being sponsored by Caribbean Central American Action (CCAA), with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development and key support from USTDA. Collaborating partners include the Central American Bank for Economic Integration and the U.S. Department of Energy.

“Many countries around the world face energy challenges,” said USTDA Director for Policy and Program Geoffrey Jackson. “This event is testament to the willingness of countries in Central America to work together and to share best practices in meeting those challenges and furthering the regional integration gains made in DR-CAFTA. USTDA is pleased to support these efforts through the findings of the White Paper presented today.”

The goal of the conference is to help lay the groundwork for an energy Action Plan to help speed the efficient development of the energy sector in Central America, foster cooperation among the DR-CAFTA countries, and put in place a regulatory framework that encourages investment for sustainable development of the region. To further this effort, the USTDA-funded White Paper summarizes the current regulatory framework within each of the DR-CAFTA member countries, highlights ways to over the key challenges and presents questions for consideration at the conference.

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. The agency funds various forms of technical assistance, early investment analysis, training, orientation visits and business workshops that support the development of a modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment. USTDA’s strategic use of foreign assistance funds to support sound investment policy and decision-making in host countries creates an enabling environment for trade, investment and sustainable economic development. In carrying out its mission, USTDA gives emphasis to economic sectors that may benefit from U.S. exports of goods and services.