

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****27th November 2008**

“CaribDA Annual RO Operator Training Program off to a Good Start”

... The Caribbean Desalination Association held its 1st Annual Reverse Osmosis (RO) Operator Training Program in Curacao last week....

- **November 19th up to 21st** the Caribbean Desalination Association held their first Reverse Osmosis Operator Training. The event took place at the **World Trade Center in Willemstad, Curacao**. Opening remarks were made by CaribDA's Cofounder and President Mr Humphrey Gouverneur, who is also Director Production of Aqualectra. He welcomed the attendees and emphasized the importance of desalination training, as stated also in the strategic plan of the CaribDA.
- Caribbean Desalination Association (CaribDA) was founded in 2007 as a forum for desalination and water re-use in the Caribbean and also to exchange experience and knowledge in this field.
- Approximately **60 attendees from various countries such as Antigua, Anguilla, Mexico, Trinidad & Tobago, St. Maarten, Virgin Islands, USA and Curaçao** participated in the training.
- **Mr. Wes Byrne, President of C.E.A.** (Company for Educational Advancement) and also Adjunct Professor of the St. Cloud Technical College at Minnesota was the Lead Trainer and Co-ordinator.
- **Guest-speakers** included **Mr. Brent Brodie** of G.E. Water & Process Technologies who presented a case study on the topic: *“High pressure pump and vibration issues”* and **Mr. Anders Hallsby** of Nalco Chemical Company who presented a case-study of *“Bio-fouling and cleaning”*.
- Both presentations were very well received by the participants and ignited interesting discussions.
- The training ended on a Friday afternoon with a **site visit to the Aqualectra St.Barbara R.O. plant** where the delegates participated in hands on operation exercises.
- The training received very high ratings from the participants, who announced to be looking forward to the next CaribDA training event.
- **CaribDA would like to thank;** Aqualectra, Curaçao Mining Company, G.E. Water & Process Technology, Curaçao Utilities & Operations Company and Nalco Chemical Co. for their cooperation as sponsors of the training event.



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