

# Decarbonising the Yucatan region of Mexico: Challenges, strategies and partnerships

## A British Council Newton Fund Researcher Links Workshop

Partners: University of Nottingham, University of Sheffield, Cinvestav Unidad Mérida<sup>1</sup>

Mexico is energetically independent, but more than 80% of its energy supply is derived from fossil fuels. National laws and regulations in support of alternative forms of energy are very recent, with a fledgling nuclear energy industry and modest investments in wind (amidst land and social conflicts) and more recently in biofuels. A new law on energy transitions seeks to accelerate the transition to clean energy technologies. But open questions remain: which business models will be most promising in stimulating energy transitions? What are the social consequences? To what extent can behaviour reduce demand and fuel poverty be alleviated? With regards to the Yucatan Peninsula an additional challenge relates to the increased diffusion of clean and renewable energy technologies without impacting on fragile ecosystems and tourism.

### Workshop aims:

- To introduce the natural, social and energy context of the associated challenges being faced in the Yucatan Peninsula.
- To explore and develop strategies for the decarbonisation of the Yucatan Peninsula, considering energy demand and supply; social, economic and technical perspectives.
- To develop UK-Mexico collaborative research partnerships to pursue promising strategies to address Yucatan's challenges.

Note that the focus is not on promoting specific known or emerging technologies, but to develop broader policies and strategies, considering the range of perspectives influencing successful widespread deployment.

### Tentative programme:

The workshop will take place in Merida, Yucatan from 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and will follow the following tentative structure:

*Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>:* Stakeholders' perspectives and the Yucatan context; introductory social event.

*Monday 9<sup>th</sup>:* Sectorial demands (transport/housing/industry/public services/food).

*Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>:* Decarbonisation technologies and strategies; socio-economic perspectives.

*Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>:* Challenges and strategies workshop

*Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>:* Future research projects and partnerships workshop; next steps.

### Participant profiles

We are particularly keen to attract participants, around 30 in total – 15 from the UK, from a range of disciplinary perspectives; including public, private and third sectors.

Participants should be at an early to middle stage in their career (having completed a PhD or equivalent within the past ten years).

### Next steps

Please prepare, using a maximum of one page, a brief application containing the following:

- Your name, qualifications, position and affiliation.
- A brief outline of your motivation for participating.
- A title and abstract for a brief introductory talk of relevance to Yucatan's socially responsible decarbonisation agenda.

When complete, please send this by e-mail to [Dyrm.workshop@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:Dyrm.workshop@sheffield.ac.uk), no later than Friday 18 November 2016.

### Practicalities

The workshop will be organised and hosted by Cinvestav Unidad Mérida, who will also provide catering throughout.

Travel costs will be reimbursed through the University of Nottingham.

<sup>1</sup> Center for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute of Mexico – Merida Unit.