

***Side Event: Regional Sustainable Energy Centers in Africa:  
Creating regional Markets to Support the Decade of Sustainable Energy For All (SE4ALL)***

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29 May, 2013 | TRABANTENSTUBE | HOFBURG | VIENNA

The Energy and Climate Branch of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), in close collaboration with the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) and the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE), are organizing the VEF side event "Regional Sustainable Energy Centers in Africa: Creating Regional Markets to Support the Decade of Sustainable Energy For All (SE4ALL)". The side event will discuss the added value and possible actions of a south-south cooperation network between the regional sustainable energy centers in Africa. High-level representatives from the African Regional Economic Communities (RECs), UN agencies, bilateral donors, civil society, beneficiary countries and private sector will attend this event.

#### **BACKGROUND**

In December 2012, the United Nations General Assembly declared the decade 2014-2024 as the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, underscoring the importance of energy issues for sustainable development and for the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. In its resolution, the UNGA called upon Governments, as well as relevant international and regional organizations, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy.

There is general agreement that barriers to the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and markets transcend national boundaries. Given the need to increase access to energy and improve energy security, as a pre-condition for the attainment of the sustainable development goals and overall poverty reduction efforts, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa, namely the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC), have taken steps to address this issue by establishing regional centres to promote the renewable energy and energy efficiency markets. It is expected that by 2014, at the dawn of the Decade for Sustainable Energy, at least four African regions would have established such regional centres.

Regional energy cooperation is seen to offer one of the most promising and cost-efficient options to promote the green energy revolution in Africa. The Centers can play a key role in promoting policy and capacity development, knowledge management, awareness raising, as well as investments and business in the sustainable energy sector. They are an important link between Africa and international climate and energy policy processes. The ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) is operational since 2010 and, through it, ECOWAS has demonstrated leadership in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors by the adoption of regional policies in these two areas as well as establishing a sustainable energy information system to support investors and project developers in their decision making.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

The side event will facilitate discussions on the possible roles and contributions of regional sustainable energy promotion centers to achieve the three SE4ALL objectives in Africa. Lessons learned from the centers in West African and North Africa will be presented. Moreover, the added value and possible activities of a SE4ALL south-south cooperation network between the sustainable energy centers to promote the green energy revolution in Africa will be discussed. In a separate session, the ECOWAS Observatory for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECOWREX), one of the flag-ship programs developed by ECREEE under the GEF Strategic Program for West Africa (GEF-SPWA), will be introduced to the audience. A new publication on Renewable Energy Status and Trends in West Africa will be launched.

<b>Regional Sustainable Energy Centers in Africa - Creating Regional Markets to Support the Decade of SE4ALL</b> <i>Organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) and the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE)</i>	
<b>29 May 2013   TRABANTENSTUBE   HOFBURG   VIENNA</b>	
<b>14:30-14:45</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
	Dr. Kandeh K. Yumkella, UNIDO Director General, Regional Sustainable Energy Centres as part of the SE4ALL institutional structure
<b>14:45-15:10</b>	<b>Key notes (5 min each)</b>
	Dr. Naoko Ishii, GEF CEO, The role of regional programs in the future GEF portfolio Mr. Robert Zeiner, The role of regional integration in the energy sector Government of Spain, Creation of an enabling environment for sustainable energy investments Government of South Korea, The role of energy to promote green growth in Africa
<b>15:10-16.00</b>	<b>Panel Discussion</b>
<b>Description</b>	<p>This high-level panel discussion will address the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• added value of regional integration and centers in the green energy revolution in Africa</li> <li>• roles of regional energy centers to overcome existing barriers for RE&amp;EE in Africa</li> <li>• achievements and lessons learned of ECREEE in West Africa and RCREEE in North Africa</li> <li>• possible actions for a SE4ALL south-south cooperation network between the Centres</li> <li>• creation of links to international climate and energy policy processes (e.g. UN, IRENA)</li> </ul>
<b>Moderator</b>	Ms. Irene Giner-Reichl   President of the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE)
<b>Speakers</b>	<p>Dr. Pradeep Monga, Director of UNIDO Energy and Climate Change Branch, UNIDO's contribution to establish a south-south network of sustainable energy centers in Africa</p> <p>Mr. Mahama Kappiah   Executive Director of ECREEE, Achievements and lessons learned of the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE</p> <p>Mr. Tareq Emtairah, Executive Director of the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in North Africa, Achievements and lessons learned</p> <p>Mr. Richard Sezibera   Secretary General, EAC Secretariat, Establishment of the East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency</p> <p>Mr. Joao Samuel Caholo   Deputy Executive Secretary, SADC Secretariat, Establishment of the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency</p>
<b>16:00</b>	<b>End of Session and Coffee Break</b>
<b>16:30 – 17:30</b>	<b>Learning Event: The ECOWAS Observatory for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECOWREX)</b>
<b>Description</b>	<p>The ECOWAS Observatory for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECOWREX) will be introduced to the audience. More specifically the following will be presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• introduction to the energy component of the GEF Strategic Program for West Africa (SPWA) and opportunities for the EAC and SADC regions;</li> <li>• introduction to the roles, functions, funding structures, operational modes and cooperation channels of the ECOWREX;</li> <li>• highlight relevant information, data and GIS maps for investors and project developers</li> <li>• Links to other ECREEE Programs (e.g. ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy, ECOWAS Renewable Energy Facility, ECOWAS Renewable Energy Investment and Business Initiative)</li> </ul>
<b>Presenters</b>	<p>Mr. Mahama Kappiah and Mr. Pradeep Monga   The energy component of the GEF-SPWA</p> <p>Mr. David Vilar and other ECREEE experts   ECOWREX and interlinked programs</p>

17:30 – 18:00	<b>Launching of Publication: "Renewable Energies in West Africa - Status, Experience and Trends"</b>	
<b>Description</b>	The ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), in collaboration with Casa Africa and the Instituto Tecnológico de Canarias S.A. (ITC) have jointly edited a book on renewable energy markets in West Africa. The aim of this publication is to present the current situation and trends in West Africa. The book is a compilation of articles from local and international experts. It focuses on the international context, regulatory framework, technology development, financing options and real examples implemented in the West African region.	
<b>Presenters</b>	Mr. Mahama Kappiah, Executive Director of ECREEE	
	Mr. Ricardo Garcia Lemus, CEO of ITC	
	Mr. Santiago Martínez-Caro de la Concha Castañeda, General Director of Casa Africa	
	Mr. Sergio Colina, Counselor at the Dept. of Cooperation with Africa of AECID	
	Experts of ECREEE and authors of the publication	

**Supporters:**



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