



ECOWAS Certification of Sustainable Energy Skills (ECSES) Programme

Regional Workshop

Concept Note

Second Meeting of the ECSES Technical Committee

3-5 September 2019

Venue: Name of Hotel

Dakar, Senegal



1. Background

In fulfilment of the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy (EREP) and National Renewable Energy Action Plans (NREAPs) of Member States, the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) with the support of the European Union, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the World Bank and other partners, has established a Regional Certification Scheme (RCS) to promote professional competency and to address the quality assurance gaps that exist along the renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) value-chain. The rationale behind this initiative is that stakeholders including potential investors and developers are seeking skilled human resources throughout the development of their projects to ensure high performance of their systems. Having certified and skilled technicians serves as quality assurance and ensures less technical failure of installed technologies. As such for a successful growth and development of a viable regional RE and EE market, there is a need for quality assurance at various levels. This includes quality assurance of equipment e.g. through the establishment and enforcement of product standards. However, high-quality products will only provide the desired services if RE and EE systems are designed, installed and maintained by highly qualified individuals. Therefore, certification gives the reassurance that professionals have the competencies and capacities required to complete a job safely and effectively. Certification is a way to support the development of the regional sustainable energy market, promote the quality of systems and projects. Also, certification ensures the availability of highly-qualified local technicians and reinforces the credibility of off-grid solar standalone PV technologies.

The scheme is based on the Job-Task-Analysis (JTA), which was developed by stakeholders of all ECOWAS member states and with inputs from industry experts. ECREEE has aligned all the structures and procedures of the certification system to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17024:2012 "conformity assessment-general requirements for bodies performing certification of persons". This provides the possibility for professionals to obtain credentials that are recognized by their country and internationally. ECREEE has also formed a Technical Committee (TC) with representatives from each of the ECOWAS countries that serves as an advisory group and organised the first TC meeting in July, 2018 to validate the working documents of the scheme. The regional certification scheme was piloted in Senegal and Ghana in January and July 2019 respectively. Now, the ECSES programme has reached a stage where the compiled lessons-learned in the pilot examinations will be presented to the stakeholders including the TC for discussion. Also, in this workshop, additional framework documents of the scheme will be presented to the TC and stakeholders for validation before the scheme is rolled-out to the remaining ECOWAS countries. Last but not the least, successful candidates will also be awarded the professional certification during the workshop.

2. Objective of the workshop

The objectives of the second TC meeting of the ECSES scheme are to:

- A. present the compiled lessons-learned during the pilot examinations to stakeholders;
- B. inform the TC about the progress made towards of the scheme
- C. award the 17 successful candidates out of 32 the off-grid solar PV certification and
- D. validate the following documents:
 - Updated Guidelines covering off-grid, grid-connected and mini-grid solar photovoltaic technicians and solar photovoltaic systems inspector
 - Regional Certification Body's structure, operation and sustainability strategies

3. Expected results

The expected results of the workshop are:

- A. The lessons-learned are presented and participants made recommendations done
- B. Additional JTA and framework documents of RCS are presented and validated.
- C. Establishment of sub-committees are created and comprising a minimum of three members to undertake complaint reviews and investigations.

4. Participants

The workshop will bring together the members of the examination and training institutions, ECSES TC, national stakeholders, consultants, sponsors as well as representatives including IRENA and GIZ.

5. Accommodation and logistics

ECREEE and GIZ through the AGOSEREE-OA and the World Bank through the Regional Off-Grid Electrification Project (ROGEP) and IRENA will fully finance this workshop as part of their contribution towards the Regional Certification Scheme.

6. Draft Agenda

Tuesday, 3th September 2019 (Day 1)

Time	Agenda item
8:30	Registration of participants
Session 0	Opening of workshop
9:00-9:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Executive Director, ECREEE ○ Representative of IRENA ○ Minister of Petroleum and Energies of Senegal
09 :30 – 10 :00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coffee break and group picture
10 :00- 10 :30	Setting up the workshop bureau (President and reporters)
Session 1	ECOWAS Certification of Sustainable Energy Skills Programme
10:30-12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentation on ECOWAS Certification process status, by Ibrahim Soumaila, GIZ/ECREEE ○ ECSES Gender Video (TV Media Coverage), by Brunelle PADONOU, GIZ ● Discussion
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch break
Session 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentations of lessons-learned from pilot examinations
13:30-14:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ESP from Senegal, by Tall ○ KNUST from Ghana, by ● Discussion
Session 3	Support Plan and Strategies for ECSES Programme and others experiences
14:30 – 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ROGEP's TA, in 19 countries, by Siré A. Diallo, Programme Officer, ECREEE ○ IRENA's TA, Support Plan and Strategies for ECSES Programme in West Africa, by Ali Yasir, Programme Officer, IRENA ○ Presentation about their activities related to training and skills development in East, by RES4Africa Foundation ● Discussion
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
Session 4	Examination Issues on Certification Process
16:00-17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establishment of Committees at the certification body ● bylaws ● Discussion

17:00-17:30	○ Closing of Day 1, by Ali Yasir, IRENA
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Wednesday, 4th September 2019 (Day 2)

Time	Agenda item
08:30-9 :30	Registration of participants
09 :00-10 :00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Summary of results of Day 1, by Mr. Mohamed Alie Jalloh, Technical Committee Chairman (Moderator) ● Discussion on the documents presented on Day 1 continue
10 :00-10 :30	○ Coffee break
Session 5	JTA for Advanced Off-Grid/Mini-grid Solar PV Technicians
10:30-11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentations of JTA for Advanced Off-Grid/Mini-grid Solar PV Technicians, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Geoff Stapleton, GSES ● Discussion
Session 6	Guidelines for Advanced Off-Grid/Mini-grid Solar PV Technicians
11:00-13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation of Guidelines for Advanced Off-Grid/Mini-grid Solar PV Technicians, by Geoff Stapleton, GSES ● Discussion
13:00-14:30	Lunch break
Session 6	JTA for Grid-connected Solar PV Technicians -continue
14:30-16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentations of JTA for Grid-connected Solar PV Technicians, by Geoff Stapleton, GSES ● Discussion
16:00-16:15	○ Coffee break
Session 7	Guidelines for Grid-connected Solar PV Technicians
16:15-17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentations for Grid-connected Solar PV Technicians, by Geoff Stapleton, GSES ● Discussion
17:30	○ Closing of the Day2, Ali Yasir, IRENA

Thursday, 5th September 2019 (Day 3)

Time	Agenda item
8:30-9 :00	Arrival of participants
9:00-10 :00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Summary of results of Day 2 ○ Mr. Mohamed Alie Jalloh, Technical Committee Chairman (Moderator) ● Discussion on the documents presented on Day 2 continue
10:00-10:30	Coffee break
Session 8	JTA for Solar PV Systems Inspector
10:30-12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentations of JTA for Solar PV Systems Inspector, Geoff Stapleton, GSES ● Discussion
Session 9	Guidelines for Solar PV Systems Inspector
12:00-13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentation of Guidelines for Solar PV Systems Inspector, by Geoff Stapleton, GSES ● Discussion
13:00-14:30	Lunch Break
Session 10	Next steps for the Regional Certification Scheme
14:30-15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentation of next steps for the Regional Certification Scheme, by Ibrahim Soumaila, GIZ/ECREEE ● Discussion
Session 11	Certificate Award Ceremony and Closing workshop
15:00-17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Formation of Sub-committee, by Mr. Mohamed Alie Jalloh, Technical Committee Chairman ● Summary of the results of the workshop, by reporters ● Certificate Award Ceremony <p>Closing of the workshop</p>