

ESMAP/Africa Energy Group of the World Bank Speech

Regional ECREEE Workshop on the ECOWAS Scale-Up Programme for Small-Scale Hydro Power , 16th to 20th of April 2012 , Golden Gate Hotel, Monrovia, Liberia

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me begin by expressing my congratulations to the organizers of this regional workshop on behalf of the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) and the Africa Energy Group of the World Bank. I would like to mention particularly, the ECOWAS Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Government of Liberia represented by the Rural and Renewable Energy Agency.

The date and theme of the workshop are well chosen, right in the forefront of the Rio+20 and the 2012 Year for Sustainable Energy for All. I am convinced that the outcome of this workshop will stimulate the forthcoming discussions on the future modalities to boost universal access to energy services by 2030.

The ECOWAS initiative to launch a Scale-up Program for Small Scale Hydro Power is very timely and has the potential to address the energy challenges of the peri-urban and rural areas in West Africa in a sustainable manner. The framework conditions are promising since some of the ECOWAS countries have a good small hydro potential and the technology is a proven and cost-effective technology alternative to conventional and other renewable energy solutions. However, much has to be done to mitigate the existing barriers for the deployment of the small hydro technologies in the ECOWAS region

In this context, I would like to mention that the World Bank has been active in the large hydro power sector throughout the developing world for many decades. In recent years, small hydro power projects have also been included into the scope of eligible investments. Bundling small hydro projects of a pipeline into a portfolio with a representative size to be attractive to private investors is of particular interest to the World Bank since this could help reduce the transaction costs. PPAs, permits and licenses, environmental studies and other assessments could be negotiated and processed as a whole thus reducing the cost per MW installed. KfW has done some interesting work in Uganda which we can learn from. In the regard, it is exciting to hear the ECREEE plans to establish a pipeline of projects in cooperation with the national Ministries of Energy in ECOWAS.

Also, ESMAP, through its AFREA program has been supporting two universities in the ECOWAS region, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana and the International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering (2IE) in Burkina Faso to upgrade their capabilities to deliver to plan, deliver and evaluate “hands-on” training to transfer know-how on renewable energy technology (Solar PV, CSP and Wind) assessment and project implementation to policy makers, utilities, university students etc within the sub region. These two universities are already partnering ECREEE in a number of areas. One area ESMAP and the Africa Energy Group is considering further cooperation with ECREEE, KNUST and 2IE is to conduct an analysis of the gap in professional competencies in and to propose what can be done to fill the gaps in the sub region for the efficient implementation of renewable energy programs. I am pleased to note that as part of this workshop, ECREEE is conducting an SHP capacity needs assessment to identify the training needs of different stakeholder and to define appropriate modalities to best meet such needs.

For close to 30 years, ESMAP has supported over 800 energy-sector activities that help reduce poverty, foster economic growth and protect the climate. Our aim is to continue to assist the ECOWAS region in developing technical and institutional capacity to achieve environmentally sustainable energy solutions for poverty reduction and economic growth. Today, ESMAP is here to support yet another energy-sector programme, small-scale hydro power, for a better tomorrow for the ECOWAS populace.

Thank you.