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UNITED NATIONS DELEGATE: "ECREEE CONVERTS COMMITMENTS TO KWH FOR REAL PEOPLE"



From L - R: Mr. Mahama Kappiah - Executive Director of ECREEE, H.E. Dr. Kandeh Yumkella - Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for SE4ALL, H.E. Mr. Jorge Carlos de Almeida Fonseca - President of Cabo Verde, H.E. Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas - Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for West Africa, Mrs. Maria Jesus Mascarenhas, State Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Cabo Verde Mr. Remi Nono Womdim FAO Representative

UN DELEGATE: "ECREEE CONVERTS COMMITMENTS TO KWH FOR REAL PEOPLE"

A United Nations delegation visited Cabo Verde to showcase the country as a role model for sustainable energy in the ECOWAS region. The two-day mission held meetings with Cabo Verde head of state and key players in the energy sector

ECOWAS MEMBER STATES ENDORSE "REVOLUTIONARY" ENERGY GENDER POLICY

The policy covers several aims, which include achieving the widespread understanding of energy and gender considerations at all levels of society and ensuring all energy interventions are gender-inclusive

LUXEMBOURG AND CABO VERDE TETE-A-TETE ON BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Convening at a business forum in Cabo Verde, business promoters from Luxembourg's Chamber of Commerce and ECREEE executives discussed business potential and infrastructure particularly in relation to as well as Cabo Verde's renewable energy

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Colleagues and Readers,

It is with great pleasure that we present the 10th edition of the ECREEE newsletter, in which we intend to inform you about some of our accomplishments and activities related to renewable energy and energy efficiency in our region. This edition shows ECREEE's commitment to the promotion of renewable energy within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), since the work we do as a regional centre focuses on improving people's lives through clean, affordable and sustainable energy.

The ECOWAS Member States have endorsed, as described by the ECOWAS Energy and Mines Commissioner Dr. Morlaye Bangura, a "revolutionary" policy aiming to stimulate discussion of gender on issues related to energy access. Some of the aims of this policy include achieving the widespread understanding of energy and gender considerations at all levels of society and ensuring that all energy interventions are gender-inclusive and directed towards resolving inequalities and energy poverty. Another aim is to increase women's public sector participation in technical energy fields and decision-making positions and to ensure that women and men have equal opportunities to enter and succeed in private sector energy.

A remarkable point is related to the awarding by the European Union, ECREEE and the Islamic Development Bank, of an 8.6 Million euro to finance clean energy mini-grids in 40 Senegalese villages. This project will contribute to the improvement of living conditions in rural areas, reducing the poverty rate and also greenhouse gas emissions.

This newsletter also covers the visit of two special representatives from the United Nations to Cabo Verde. Dr Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for West Africa, and H.E. Dr. Kandeh Yumkella, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for SE4ALL, paid a working visit to Cabo Verde in June 2015, where they had the opportunity to meet with key players from the energy sector and also the President of Cabo Verde.

ECREEE has launched a new Solar Thermal Programme (SOLtrain West Africa). This is one of ECREEE's flagship programmes with the objective of exploiting solar thermal technologies as part of the switch from fossil fuel energy. ECOWAS' renewable energy policy sets targets for solar thermal energy for water heating in schools, hospitals, hotels and other buildings and even industrial processes.

Another laudable accomplishment for Cabo Verde and ECOWAS as whole, was the inauguration of the Centre for Renewable Energy and Industrial Maintenance (CERMI) in Praia, Cabo Verde. CERMI was set up to build capacities in a range of renewable energy technologies such as solar thermal, solar PV and wind as well as in maintenance and energy efficiency. ECREEE will work closely with CERMI and the two will combine forces to build capacities not only in Cabo Verde but throughout the ECOWAS region.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude and satisfaction for the support provided by ECOWAS Member States, our core partners such as the governments of Spain and Austria, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, and also the European Union and all of our partners and other stakeholders which have given great support to ECREEE.

We hope you find this edition both interesting and informative.

Mahama Kappiah
Executive Director, ECREEE

ECREEE TAKES STOCK OF SE4ALL ACTION AGENDAS

ECREEE and its collaborating partners have conducted a major review of progress on several regional and national action schemes launched a year ago. The ECOWAS Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency National Action Plans and Sustainable Energy For All (SE4ALL) Action Agendas were all set up in March 2014 and are due to conclude by end September 2015.

The review took place at a two-day workshop for ECOWAS country representatives on 24-25 March 2015 at the African Development Bank in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Each country needs to define its national renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy access targets using validated templates provided at the launch.

First anniversary of plan launch

The follow-up workshop on the first anniversary of the launch revealed that ECOWAS countries have been working very hard on their national action plans based on validated templates and extensive national stakeholder consultation. However, the workshop aim was not just to assess the progress of each country. It was also to strengthen the capacities of national representatives in scenario development for energy planning.

The meeting also provided a platform for collaboration between energy ministry representatives, national consultants engaged by ECREEE to develop the action plans, and international experts supporting the national consultants as well as ECREEE. It also highlighted the different support mechanisms available from international partners.

Hyacinth Elayo, energy policy analyst, representing ECREEE's Executive Director Mahama Kappiah, said: "ECOWAS has come a long way since the development of its regional sustainable energy policies in 2012." As he explained, the action planning process started with the adoption of the regional poli-

cies authorised by ECOWAS heads of state and governments in July 2013. The national action plan process, started in 2014, is expected to convert into practical ground-level action.

Alex Rugamba, the African Development Bank (AfDB) energy director, thanked ECREEE for having taken the lead in organising the workshop. "Access to sustainable energy services is a critical development enabler for all African countries and regions," he stated. As he pointed out, energy is at the base of all economic activities, and Africa will not be able to make progress without the widespread availability of reliable, affordable, economically viable, environmentally and socially acceptable energy services. "The ECOWAS region is at the forefront in Africa in the development of regional energy policy and in the implementation of SE4ALL. I can confirm that all ECOWAS countries have joined SE4ALL," he said.

Kofi N'dri, Director of Cabinet representing the Côte d'Ivoire Minister for Petroleum and Energy, welcomed participants and reiterated the different energy and energy security challenges in ECOWAS countries. He emphasised the im-

portance of energy security in promoting sustainable development and the battle against poverty. "It is very important to build a sustainable energy future for Africa," he said, noting that the EU is committed to SE4ALL. It has reserved EUR 3.5 billion for SE4All support activities in EU partner countries to build a resilient energy sector.

Other top speakers expressed their views at the workshop. They included:

- the representative of the Austrian Development Cooperation,
- Côte d'Ivoire's representative at the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)
- and representatives of German development organisation Deutsche Internationals Gesellschaft fuer Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

All affirmed the critical role of energy in achieving sustainable development.

ECREEE was commended for its leadership in seeking to steer ECOWAS Member States and development partners towards implementing the ground breaking policies and plans. ECOWAS is only the second region in the world after the EU to aim to transform regional renewable energy and energy commitments into national action plans.

The workshop was attended by over 50 participants, including en-

"Access to sustainable energy services is a critical development enabler for all African countries and regions"

portance of energy security in promoting sustainable development and the battle against poverty.

EU reserve of EUR 3.5 billion

Representing the European Union (EU), Géza Strammer stated that the EU attaches great importance to energy as an engine of sustainable development. He emphasised that major attention should be paid to energy access including renewable energy and energy efficiency. "It

energy directors from ECOWAS Member States, national SE4ALL focal points and national consultants alongside ECREEE partners. These include the governments of the Ivory Coast, Austria and Spain, AfDB, GIZ and UNIDO.

Presentations and other documents from the workshop are available at <http://www.ecreee.org/event/regional-workshop-ecowas-re-ee-national-action-plans-and-se4all-action-agendas>

UNITED NATIONS DELEGATE: “ECREEE CONVERTS COMMITMENTS TO KWH FOR REAL PEOPLE”

A United Nations delegation to Cabo Verde in June 2015 has praised the country’s success in clean energy development so far. Dr. Kandeh Yumkella, Sustainable Energy For All (SE4ALL) Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, congratulated ECREEE for both creating an enabling environment and implementing projects in the field. He said ECREEE “converts commitment to kilowatt hours for real people.”

Dr. Yumkella was visiting ECREEE alongside Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Special Representative for West Africa of the UN Secretary-General. The delegation visited Cabo Verde to showcase the country as a role model for sustainable energy in the ECOWAS region.

The two-day mission held meetings with Cabo Verde’s head of state and key players in the energy sector. It explored opportunities to support other ECOWAS Member States to follow Cabo Verde’s example in achieving universal access to sustainable energy. As head of ECOWAS’ SE4ALL focal institution, ECREEE Executive Director Mahama Kappiah presented the centre’s key activities. He addressed the centre’s role in achieving the SE4ALL objectives to ensure universal access to modern energy services. This means doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency



From L - R: H.E. Dr Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for West Africa, H.E. Dr. Kandeh Yumkella, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for SE4ALL, Mr. Mahama Kappiah, Executive Director of ECREEE and Mr. Remi Nono Womdim FAO Representative in Cabo Verde

as well as the renewable energy share in the global energy mix. The director also described the centre’s significant achievements over the past few years in promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency in the ECOWAS region.

Dr. Yumkella expressed great satisfaction with the role of ECREEE in the ECOWAS region, commending the effectiveness of its mission in promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency. “A lot more needs to be done to mitigate energy poverty in Africa in general, particularly in the ECOWAS region, where lack of energy is a real problem affecting

millions of people,” he stated.

Dr. Chambas spoke about the lead taken by Cabo Verde in the region to implement renewables. “One of the strongest reasons why Cabo Verde was chosen to host the centre was the Cabo Verde government’s commitment to driving forward the green energy agenda,” he explained. Following the visit, the delegation embarked on a field trip to Cabo Verde’s Cabeólica wind farms, the Centre for Renewable Energy and Industrial Maintenance and paid a courtesy call on Cabo Verde president Jorge Carlos Fonseca.



THE VISIT OF THE HIGH LEVEL UN DELEGATION TO CABO VERDE IN PICTURES



ECREEE COULD SET UP AFRICAN BIOCHAR PARTNERSHIP

ECREEE has been designated as the potential lead for establishing an African Biochar Partnership at a biochar meeting in Kumasi, Ghana. The meeting, which took place on 1-5 March 2015, included a four-day capacity building workshop, serving as a forum for practical training and general capacity building for project partners on constructing gasifier stoves.

Its highlight was a practical training session on how to build gasifier stoves which work with a range of feedstocks. These include, for instance, corn cobs, palm kernel shells, wood chips, sawdust, rice husks and other agricultural waste. The pyrolysis stoves produce biochar as a by-product, which has excellent agricultural and environmental benefits.

The event was also the setting for the Biochar Plus project Annual General Meeting. Biochar Plus is a capacity building programme. As ECREEE is already the leading coordinating partner for biochar capacity building in the ECOWAS region, it showcased its educative and capacity building potential in biochar systems production and use.

The Africa Biochar Partnership would coordinate, communicate and build capacities for biochar systems as an opportunity for optimal biomass use, helping improve resource management in African agriculture, environment, energy and health.

ECREEE POLICY EXPERTISE PUT TO GOOD USE AT MARRAKECH CARBON FORUM



ECREEE's practical experience and expertise was put to good use at the Seventh Africa Carbon Forum in Marrakech, Morocco in April 2015. The forum provided a setting for knowledge sharing and information on climate investment, finance and development opportunities. It was aimed at project developers and policy makers.

The forum presented an opportunity for ECREEE executives to inform other African countries using its track record in low carbon energy and climate resilience policy making. This is demonstrated by ECREEE's renewable energy and energy efficiency policies as well as by developments in its national action plans in these fields.

Executives discussed several useful policy tools. These include climate finance instruments that complement low carbon development policies in the energy sector and policy action to increase local private sector participation in African low carbon development.

These tools also showcased Intended National Determined Contributions (INDCs) in Gabon and South Africa. INDCs are public outlines of post-2020 climate action a country intends to take given the backdrop

of the forthcoming UN Conference of the Parties in December 2015. A series of peer-to-peer consultations with the Africa low emission development strategies (LEDS) and green growth partnership (GP) yielded a new agreement with ECREEE.

LEDS-GP fosters peer exchange, in-depth training, technical assistance and cooperation on tools and approaches. ECREEE agreed to explore the possibility of mobilising private investment and finance support for ECOWAS Member States. ECOWAS countries with a specific financial need to shape renewable energy and energy efficiency policies will receive technical and financial support through LEDS-GP. The partnership will help governments in project planning and investment risk mitigation as well as on project pipeline development for submission to the Green Climate Fund. It will help governments with public funds to create green funds to advance low emission project development.

The event was organized by several UN organisations, the World Bank, Africa Development Bank and the International Emissions Trading Association with support from the Government of Morocco.

ECOW-GEN CALLS FOR END TO GENDER GAP AT GLOBAL FORUM

West African executives have led a call to close the energy gender gap at the Vienna Energy Forum in June 2015. They were speaking at a networking event on Women for Sustainable Energy organised by the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and ECOWAS' Programme for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access (ECOW-GEN). ECOW-GEN coordinator Monica Maduekwe, presenting the #Standtall campaign, said its message needed to be "embedded in the hearts and minds of those who can change things in their countries and change the status quo."

Maduekwe presented the accomplishments and aspirations of the campaign and noted it could not have been successful without the strong backing of individuals and organisations that have joined it and raised the banner for gender equality.

The event also provided an opportunity for others to introduce current women empowerment ini-

tiatives. Presenters included Ndey Bakurin, Executive Director of the National Environment Agency and Global Environment Facility Focal Point for the Gambia, Wandee Khunchornyakong, owner of the largest solar power company in Thailand who has received a UN Momentum for Change Award and Elizabeth Cecelski, senior technical adviser at international gender advocacy and networking group Energia.

Speaking at a technical session entitled "Mutual Linkages: Sustainable Energy, Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women", ECREEE's Executive Director Mahama Kappiah highlighted the need for a gender-responsive approach to improving energy access in the ECOWAS region and outlined how the region was paving the way for gender equality in energy access.

One of the winners of the #Standtall campaign Youth Gender and Energy Writing competition, Chinonso Onah, attended the event with the financial support of the

World Bank Energy Sector Management Assistance Program. He discussed gender inequality issues in Nigeria and expressed his commitment to push the gender equality agenda as a "Standtaller".

The networking event brought together about 125 people. Among them were:

Pradeep Monga, Director of UNIDO Energy Branch; Irene Muloni, Uganda Minister of Energy and Mineral Development; Carolina Cosse, Uruguay Minister of Industry, Energy and Mines; Helen Hai, CEO, Made in Africa Initiative; and UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador and Christine Lins, Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21) Executive Secretary.

ECOWAS' Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access, validated and adopted at technical expert level, aims to close gender gaps in the energy sector by solving the root causes of gender inequality to ensure the achievement of the region's goal for universal energy access.

TRADITIONAL BIOMASS COOKING STILL TOO HIGH, ACCORDING TO ECREEE STUDY

A new study finds traditional biomass cooking is still too high in Cabo Verde, especially in rural areas. It was conducted jointly by ECREEE, Cabo Verde Directorate-General for Energy and the Group for the Environment, Renewable Energy and Solidarity.

The research forms the basis for a comprehensive cooking energy programme in the light of West Africa's Clean Cooking Alliance (WACCA) objectives. Its results were presented and discussed at a validation workshop in June 2015, also covering energy poverty. It also finds traditional biomass use counterbalanced by high liquefied petroleum gas consumption in

Cabo Verde.

ECREEE's ED Mahama Kappiah provided statistics at the workshop highlighting the harm from the unsustainable use of traditional biomass for cooking. This affects both the environment and people's health, especially that of women and children. He described the study as "a step towards the development of a long-term national programme, capable of achieving widespread promotion of clean cooking energy services".

Cabo Verde's General Director for Energy Anildo Costa stressed the importance of using efficient energy for cooking purposes. "The use of biomass should be an addi-

tional option, not the only source," he pointed out.

STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

Study recommendations include introducing appropriate mechanisms for the large-scale adoption of improved cookstoves as well as running another larger-scale study involving other ECOWAS Member States. This will prompt action plans with country-specific solutions.

WACCA was launched at the ECOWAS High Level Energy Forum in Accra, Ghana, on 30 October 2012 to establish an enabling environment to advance the clean cooking energy market.

ECOWAS MEMBER STATES ENDORSE “REVOLUTIONARY” ENERGY ACCESS GENDER POLICY



Energy ministers from countries in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have endorsed the region’s policy to mainstream gender in all energy programmes and initiatives. They rubber-stamped the policy, which includes large-scale energy infrastructure projects and investment, at a two-day regional gender and energy workshop on 4-5 June 2015 in Dakar, Senegal.

ECOWAS’ Commissioner for Energy Dr. Morlaye Bangura described the policy as “revolutionary” at the validation workshop. This was organised by the ECREEE and ECOWAS’ Department of Social Affairs and Gender.

The overarching policy objective is to overcome existing barriers that may obstruct women and men from participating equally in expanding energy access in West Africa. By extension, this affects the success of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative and ECOWAS’ regional policies on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The policy covers several other aims. These include achieving widespread understanding of energy and gender considerations at all levels of society and ensuring that all energy interventions are gender-inclusive and directed towards resolving inequalities and energy

poverty. Another aim is to increase women’s public sector participation in technical energy fields and decision-making positions and to ensure that women and men have equal opportunities to enter and succeed in private sector energy.

Dr. Josephine Odera, Senegal representative for the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), commented: “Lives can be transformed when gender dimensions are integrated in development policies.” Mrs Aminatou Toure, representing Senegal’s Minister of Energy, stated that ECOWAS’ Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access must take priority in member state plans to bring forward development. She said gender considerations must feature significantly when implementing the SE4All initiative in order to achieve universal access to sustainable energy by 2030.

ECREEE’s Executive Director Mahama Kappiah said: “inequality in any facet of a society should not be condoned, even more so when it is preventing sustainable development, as is the case for the gender inequalities in the energy sector.”

The workshop created a platform for diverse energy and gender experts to discuss the draft policy document and implementation plan. They came from ECOWAS’ energy and gender ministries, civil

society organisations, non-governmental organisations, research institutions, development partners and representatives of other relevant stakeholder institutions.

The workshop featured a technical session and an ECOWAS Member State session outlining the status of gender mainstreaming in energy access in each country. Severe energy crises are driving the policy. For example, ECOWAS countries have some of the world’s lowest consumption rates of modern forms of energy. They also experience gender inequalities preventing them from fully utilising both male and female human capital to resolve energy challenges.

The workshop was attended by over 80 participants. Other prominent delegates included UNIDO Senegal representative Mr Victor Djemba, Mrs Maimouna Ndoye Seck, Mrs Khady Gassama, representing the African Development Bank’s Special Envoy on Gender, Mrs Geraldine Moleketi-Fraser, Mrs Victoria Healey from the US National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Ms Olga Martin, representing the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development.

Following adoption by technical experts, the policy will be presented to the responsible ECOWAS ministers and is due to be adopted in Q4 2015.

ENERGY IN WEST AFRICA COULD REMAIN A CHALLENGE UNTIL 2030

Insufficient access to energy is to remain the predominant challenge for West Africa through to 2030 unless urgent steps are taken to address the Energy Access situation, according to ECREEE's Executive Director Mahama Kappiah. This can make a significant impact on local economies and social development. Kappiah was speaking on the occasion of a working visit by an ECOWAS delegation in June 2015 headed by ECOWAS Commission Vice President Dr. Toga Gayewea McIntosh. Its aim was to strengthen the partnership between ECOWAS and ECREEE.

Welcoming the delegation, Kappiah presented ECREEE projects over the last five years. But he drew attention to the peculiar imbalances in the region that need to be redressed: "About 52% of West Africa's estimated 300 million population lack access to electricity supply despite the region's huge bioenergy, hydropower, solar and wind energy potential," he said. Household fuel substitution continues to be a problem. "Only 20% use liquefied petroleum gas and other modern cooking fuels, and the other 80% still rely on traditional biomass for cooking," he stated.

Kappiah outlined the region's low energy baseline. It has the lowest rate of electricity consumption worldwide while still experiencing price inequalities between urban and rural areas. Whereas urban areas depend on electricity, charcoal, kerosene and gas as their



From L - R: H.E. Mrs. Khadi Ramatu Saccoh - ECOWAS Commissioner for Administration and Finance, H.E. Dr. Toga Gayewea McIntosh - ECOWAS Commission Vice President, H.E. Hamid Ahmed - ECOWAS Commissioner for Trade, Industry, Customs and Free Movement, Dr. Muhammad Sani Bell - ECOWAS Financial Controller, Dr. Mamadou Sidiki Traore - Chief Internal Auditor and Dr. Xavier Crespin - WAHO Director-General

source of energy, rural areas continue to rely largely on traditional biomass to meet their energy requirements for cooking, lighting and space heating. He also noted that household access to electricity across the region is only about 20%. An urban/rural split exists in terms of energy access, with 40% access in towns and only 6- 8% access in the countryside.

"In most member countries, the grids usually serve urban and peri-urban areas (with the exception of Cabo Verde and Ghana) and leave the rural electricity supply dependent on expensive diesel generators," he added, also drawing attention to the stark inequalities between different countries across the globe. For example, electricity consumer tariffs in most ECOWAS countries are either equal or higher than those of in-

dustrialised areas like the US and Europe.

"Low-income groups are obliged to spend much more of their money on poor quality energy services. For others, dependency on wood fuel is causing deforestation across the region, general deterioration of key ecosystems, and exposing the population to indoor air pollution, among many damaging impacts," he said.

Commenting on gender and energy efficiency, Kappiah stressed the need to help improve the income levels of poor families and communities. "Energy policies and projects should target those who are most in need, particularly women, who suffer the most from conditions of extreme poverty," he concluded.

Dr. Toga Gayewea McIntosh commended the management and entire staff of the centre for their hard work and dedication. He assured the centre of his support and underscored the need to harness solar and water energy to meet the region's energy demand and attract more industries.

Electricity consumer tariffs in most ECOWAS countries are either equal or higher than those of industrialised areas like the U.S and Europe

LUXEMBOURG AND CABO VERDE TETE-A-TETE ON BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



From L - R: Mr. Gil Évora - Vice-President of the CCISS (South of Cabo Verde), Mr. Rui Amante da Rosa - Vice-President of the CCISS (South of Cabo Verde), Mr. Jeannot Erpelding - Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce director of international affairs, Mr. Belarmino Lucas - President of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Services of Barlavento (North Cabo Verde), Mr. Mahama Kappiah - Executive Director of ECREEE

Commercial envoys from Luxembourg arrived in Cabo Verde in March 2015 as part of an exploratory business visit development mission. Convening at a business forum in Cabo Verde's capital Praia, business promoters from Luxembourg's Chamber of Commerce and ECREEE executives discussed business potential and infrastructure, particularly in relation to Cabo Verde's renewable energy and maritime economy.

Speaking at the forum, Luxembourg's Chamber of Commerce director of international affairs Jeannot Erpelding drew attention to similarities and differences between the two countries. "Cabo Verde could learn from Luxembourg's experience," he suggested. For instance, associates at the Luxembourg's Chamber of Commerce, amounting to 50,000, make up 80% of his country's GDP – an unusually

high concentration of expertise.

The forum was an opportunity to share information about the gains achieved by ECREEE through its operations across the ECOWAS region. Gil Évora, Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services of Sotavento (CCISS), also highlighted business opportunities in Cabo Verde, with a special emphasis on the south of the country. His counterpart in the north, Belarmino Lucas, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Services of Barlavento, identified opportunities in the north. Lucas drew attention in particular to the country's three international airports and large port. "These important components in our infrastructure could promote domestic and international commerce," he reasoned.

ECREEE's Executive Director Mahama Kappiah outlined the projects

promoted by ECREEE since its establishment. He emphasised the enormous potential in the region to attract major private sector investments. "Cabo Verde can be a renewable energy hub for ECOWAS, as the government is seriously committed to increasing renewable energy by 100% by 2020," he said. Kappiah also described the establishment of the Renewable Energy and Industrial Maintenance Centre. "Cabo Verde can be a training centre for the region on different renewable energy technologies such as solar PV, solar thermal and wind," he pointed out.

The business forum was a good indication of potential further commercial cooperation between Cabo Verde and Luxembourg on renewable energy and maritime economy. It was organised by Cabo Verde's Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services.

ECOWAS COUNTRIES LEAD ON CLEAN ENERGY ACTION PLANS

ECOWAS countries are ahead of the rest of Africa on clean energy plans, according to a UN representative. Daniel-Alexander Schroth, SE4ALL hub coordinator for the African region, said: "Out of the 42 countries in sub-Saharan Africa that have demonstrated interest in the SE4All initiative, ECOWAS countries are those taking the first concrete steps." He was speaking at the launch of ECOWAS's national RE & EE and SE4ALL action plan process.

The UN SE4ALL initiative was launched in 2012 and ECOWAS' RE & EE policies were adopted in 2013. They form a major component of the action plan process. All three action plans are due to be in place in all 15 ECOWAS countries by the end of 2014.

The launch took place at a regional kick-off workshop organised by ECREEE, the governments of Cote d'Ivoire, Austria and Spain, the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in March 2014 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

More than 80 experts from within the region and international organisations attended the workshop. These included ministry of energy representatives from the 15 ECOWAS countries. It also attracted officials from a number of international organisations such as the European Union (EU), the US Agency for Inter-

national Development (USAID), the African Development Bank (AfDB), IFC and UNIDO. Executives from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and many other local and international stakeholders also attended. National consultants selected to assist action plan facilitation for each member state were also present.

The main purpose of the workshop was to officially launch the national renewable energy and energy efficiency action plan process. Executives present also discussed the framework for implementing the regional renewable energy and energy efficiency policies and the SE4All Action Agendas in the ECOWAS region. They also validated the templates for developing the action plans.

"The creation of these national action plans by the 15 ECOWAS countries is essential to fulfil the goals of the two major regional renewable energy and energy efficiency policies," stated Hyacinth Elayo, ECREEE policy analyst. They provide a road map for countries in the region to address the triple challenge of energy poverty, energy security and the impact of climate change.

Speaking at the workshop, ECREEE's Executive Director Mahama Kappiah reiterated the importance of fulfilling these objectives. "I am delighted to see all the national representatives who have come here today. It is a sign of their commitment to reaching the regional policy targets," he said. He also noted the significance of the plans. "Action needs to be taken at a national level if these regional sustainable energy policies to improve the conditions of rural and semi-urban populations are to deliver."

The workshop also featured presentations from key experts on the experiences of other regions on implementing action plans, especially the EU. They outlined the various support mechanisms available to drive them forward. They also praised ECREEE leadership on this issue. Delegates agreed that the action plans are critical to attaining the regional targets.

ECREEE and other international partners have repeated their commitment to providing ECOWAS Member States with the necessary technical and financial support to ensure that the action plans are rolled out.

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ECREEE TAKES STOCK OF ACTION PLANS

ECREEE and collaborating partners have conducted a major review of progress on several regional and national action schemes launched a year ago. ECOWAS' Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency National Action Plans and Sustaina-

ble Energy For All (SE4ALL) Action Agendas were all set up in March 2014 and are due to conclude by end September 2015.

The review took place at a two-day workshop for ECOWAS country representatives on 24-25 March

2015 at the African Development Bank in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Each country needs to define its national renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy access targets using validated templates provided at the launch.

GIZ EXPERTISE TO REINFORCE ECREEE PROJECTS

Experts from German development organisation GIZ have been flown in for extra support as ECREEE broadens its clean energy portfolio. Mohamed Youba Sokona and Lucius Mayer-Tasch joined ECREEE at the end of 2014 as part of a regional GIZ project collaborating with ECREEE, the West African Power Pool and the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority. This promotes a climate-friendly interconnected power system in West Africa.

Focusing on grid-connected renewables in the ECOWAS region, its aim is to foster an enabling environment for renewables and encourage the spread of knowledge about and experience of flagship projects. It will also support the development of National Renewable Energy Action Plans through which ECREEE and GIZ will assist particular member states in developing new policies or help them embed existing measures. At least four ECOWAS countries will be included.

By concentrating on flagship projects, ECREEE intends to build a store of knowledge and intelligence on grid-connected projects in the region, which in turn will help inform the construction of new projects through technical assistance. This activity forms part of ECREEE's Project Development and Financing Programme. The ECREEE/GIZ pool of international short-term experts is particularly experienced in technical, legal, financial and economic issues and can also provide transaction advice.

ECREEE AND EU FINANCES CLEAN ENERGY MINI-GRIDS IN 40 SENEGAL VILLAGES

ECREEE and the European Union (EU) have launched an EUR 8.6 million project promoting rural electrification in 40 villages in Senegal



The European Union (EU) has awarded a EUR 6.4 million grant for a rural electrification project in Senegal with co-financing of EUR 2.25 million from the Senegalese government through the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). The project's cost amounts to EUR 8.6 million. An appraisal mission in Dakar, Senegal, came to an agreement on the terms of financing and proposed ECREEE as technical partner for co-financer IsDB and the West African Development Bank.

This EUR 8.6 million project will promote rural electrification in 40 villages in Senegal through mini-grid construction. Other partners funding the project include the Senegal government and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

It will be put in place as implemented by ECREEE, working with its partners Energie-R and Solar23.

The project, "Sustainable Development through Renewable Energy South-East Senegal", will provide electricity for the first time to 40 villages in the communities of Casamance, Tambacounda and Kedougou. The EU contribution amounts to EUR 6.4 million, equating to XOF 4.2 billion. It will be used to provide

modern and sustainable electrical services to 3,000 households, more than 100 social institutions such as schools and health centres and 150 small and medium enterprises.

"This project will contribute to the improvement of living conditions in rural areas, reducing the poverty rate and also and greenhouse gas emissions," says ECOWAS' Commissioner of Energy and Mines Dr. Morlaye Bangoura, speaking on behalf of ECOWAS Commission President His Excellency Kadré Desiré Ouedraogo. Bangoura challenged the project partners to support and engage in the development of similar projects across the whole ECOWAS region.

European Commission Senegal representative Marc Boucey has highlighted the Commission's commitment to developing the energy sector in Senegal. "The EC is financing several rural electrification projects in Senegal and promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency," he said. The project is well aligned with ECREEE objectives and will contribute to the much needed transformation of rural areas to more sustainable forms of electrification.

AFDB UNVEILS “NEW DEAL FOR ENERGY IN AFRICA”

The African Development Bank Group (AfDB) unveiled its landmark initiative to solve Africa's huge energy deficit by 2025 at a High Level Stakeholder Consultative Meeting attended by business and political leaders at its headquarters in Abidjan on 17 September 2015.

The “New Deal for Energy in Africa,” which charts the way for a transformative partnership on energy focuses on mobilizing support and funding for the initiative from five key areas.

Firstly, the AfDB would significantly expand its support towards energy in Africa; development partners would also be obliged to scale up on-going efforts while countries must also expand their share of financing going into the energy sector and at the same time demonstrate stronger political will to ensure success of the Deal. Development partners would also be required to work together and coordinate their efforts to drive critical policy and regulatory reforms of the energy sector to improve incentives for accelerated investments.

The AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina, speaking at the launch, noted that the \$55 billion financing gap for energy in sub-Saharan Africa must be closed, while the greater levels of commitment would be required in order to meet the \$22 billion needed to support universal access to energy in the region.

President Adesina also illustrated how domestic resource mobilization would play a crucial role by leveraging on just 10% of the continent's tax revenues estimated at US\$ 500 billion per year; how ending the over \$60 billion annual



Intervention of Mr. Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank on the occasion High Level Stakeholder Consultative Meeting - AfDB headquarters

illicit financial flows out of Africa can help; how developed countries meeting the 0.7% commitment for Gross National Income for development assistance which can generate more than \$178 billion can also help to scale up energy development in Africa.

“The New Energy Deal for Africa will push for the establishment of a Bottom-of the Pyramid Energy Financing Facility for Africa. This should support some 700 million people to afford clean cooking energy stoves. The cost is well within our reach to provide, for it will take only \$4.2 billion to solve the problem. We can and must solve their problem – and do so quickly,” the AfDB President said. He also noted that reforms were needed in Africa's energy sector to achieve the universal access to energy by 2025. He also called for the development of major regional energy projects such as the Inga dam in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Also speaking at the gathering, Nigerian Banker and Co-chair of the African Energy Leaders Group, Tony Elumelu, said that the private sector can play a crucial role

in the development of Africa's energy sector, if provided with the required enabling environment.

He said that given the situation in which some 600 million people lack energy in Africa, it would be necessary for Africa to explore all good sources of energy to meet the huge deficit, adding that the AfDB was in the best position to bring businesses, governments and international organisations together to make the deal a success.

For his part, former United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan, in a video message, commended the initiative, noting that Africa's leaders had no choice but to urgently bridge the energy gap.

The Vice Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Thomas Luhaka and Cote D'Ivoire's Prime Minister, Daniel Kablan Duncan commended AfDB President Adesina for putting together such an ambitious initiative barely two weeks after his investiture. They pledged to mobilise the necessary political support required to ensure that Africa gets rid of its “energy poverty” by 2025.

SPOTLIGHT ON SOLtrain WEST AFRICA PARTNER INSTITUTIONS



Group picture of participants at the SOLtrain West Africa training program, Praia - Cabo Verde

Burkina Faso International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering (2iE)

The International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering (2iE) is an international education and research organisation in Burkina Faso. The institute was formed from the merger in 2007 of two schools established in the 1970s by 14 Western and Central African governments and states. It delivers Master of Engineering and Bachelor diplomas in three main fields: civil engineering, energy engineering, water and sanitation. Among the five research laboratories of 2iE, the Laboratory for Solar Energy and Energy Savings (LESEE) deals with solar thermal engineering among other subjects.

Three main solar thermal projects and activities are ongoing at LESEE:

- CSP4Africa is the development of a 100 kilowatt pilot of a cost-effective concentrated solar power plant for mini-grid electricity generation. It is designing and experimenting with components

using local low cost materials.

- Concentrated Linear Fresnel for Cogeneration (Colifre)
- and Solar Air-Conditioning based on Adsorption (Climsol). The laboratory has also run a few solar cooking activities.

Solar adsorption processes for refrigeration and cooling as well as active solar hot water production are of growing interest at LESEE.

University of Cabo Verde Department of Engineering and UNI-CV DECM

At UNI-CV professional training initiatives in renewable energy are in progress. Uni-CV DECM recently launched a research department in sustainable construction, energy and water maintenance (NICTEAM) technologies. This nucleus has been created to develop research in renewable energy with partner projects with private and public agents. It integrates the work of postgraduate courses with several national projects.

Koforidua Polytechnic, Ghana

Koforidua Polytechnic Department of Energy Systems Engineering is based in Accra, the capital of Ghana. It was established in 2008 exclusively for Higher National Diploma training and qualifications. The Bachelor in Technology (BTech) qualification became available from 2013. The polytechnic provides training on alternative energy sources and efficient resource utilisation and conservation. Areas of training include all aspects of solar thermal, solar PV, wind, hydropower, bioenergy (biogas, biofuels) renewable energy production and utilisation, and solar installation for community agents.

The polytechnic has conducted various research projects on component production. These include, for instance, mixed mode solar dryers, 100-litre water heaters using local materials, solar cookers, box cookers, parabolic cookers, baking stoves and solar stills. The Koforidua polytechnic also organises seminars, fairs, exhibitions and conferences.

Polytechnic Superior School of Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal

University Cheikh Anta Diop, located in Dakar, started up in the 1980s. The university conducts research on renewable energy systems (solar water collectors, solar cookers and thermodynamic pumps) and organises training for different target groups. This includes the professional degree METERBAT, and masters and doctorates in thermal and energy systems. Areas of research include hot water solar collectors, solar cookers, solar cooling, solar drying and desalination. The university is also working on technology production. Up to now it has produced prototypes of water phase change solar collectors and box solar cookers.

National Centre for Energy Research and Development, Nsukka, Nigeria

Nigeria's National Centre for Energy Research and Development (NCERD) has created a range of prototypes. Examples include solar crop dryers, improved single tank and flat plate thermosiphon systems for solar water heating, trombe wall solar chick brooding systems and hatcheries using solar thermal energy. The NCERD solar thermal unit also carries out research, development, dissemination and training on solar thermal energy and its applications. It has trained staff in some Nigerian ministries on solar drying and solar water heating technologies, as well as National Youth Service Corp members.

In the future, NCERD aspires to deliver short courses, diplomas and degree programmes in collaboration with relevant academic departments in the University of Nigeria. NCERD is researching efficient and cost-effective solar thermal storage systems, solar cooling and water disinfection using solar

energy, production of technologies or components. The components are produced at NCERD for the purposes of research and for project orders.

Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, annexed partner institution, Nigeria - partly involved in SOLtrain

The Sokoto Energy Research Centre at Usmanu Danfodiyo University in Sokoto, Nigeria (SERC/UDUS), was set up in 1983 for the purposes of research and development, public awareness and communication as well as manpower development in the renewable energy sector. This consists of solar thermal, solar PV, biomass, wind, meteorology and small hydropower. SERC has vast experience in solar thermal and has devised various prototypes in the field.

Examples include:

- flat plate thermosiphon solar water heating systems,
- solar distillation systems,
- indoor and outdoor solar cooking systems,
- photovoltaic hybridised solar drying systems
- and combi-systems for solar drying and cooking.

Since its establishment, the university has run several research, development and training activities. In addition to academic training, SERC/UDUS has initiated many pilot projects across the country and conducted different training programmes. Examples include the annual National Youth Service Corps training on renewable energy system fabrication, installation and maintenance, and training unemployed graduates for entrepreneurship. The centre also produces technologies and components. Solar products are manufactured locally using locally available materials.

Centre for Renewable Energy

and Industrial Maintenance, Cabo Verde

The Centre for Renewable Energy and Industrial Maintenance (CERMI) was established to build practical and mechanical capacities in different renewable energy technologies such as solar thermal, solar PV, wind energy, welding and industrial maintenance. This is intended not only for Cabo Verde but also selected ECOWAS and Portuguese-speaking African countries. CERMI was constructed and equipped as a support project of the Luxembourg Development Cooperation. It is kitted out to deliver training and qualifications for both young and advanced professionals working in energy and industrial service. CERMI also certifies energy systems and associated professionals. It is responsible for regulatory compliance procedures and monitoring certification systems and/or diligence, and also works to increase public awareness of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

These seven institutions are the main project partners in the six participating countries. They were selected on the basis of their participation in the programme definition workshop in June 2014. This workshop created an opportunity for knowledge exchange between various institutions in the ECOWAS region working on solar thermal technologies.

These institutions will be responsible for implementing the project in their country or region. They also conduct training activities and communicate the results, as well as run awareness campaigns. In the long term, these institutions will act as competence centres for solar thermal technologies in the different countries concerned. ECREEE will work closely with these institutions to implement and achieve the programme objectives.

TECHNICIANS GET TRAINED ON RURAL HYBRID MINI-GRIDS

Nearly 30 technicians received hands-on training in March 2015 on West African renewable energy hybrid mini-grid systems for rural electrification. Organised by ECREEE, the Government of Guinea Bissau and the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in Bissau, Guinea Bissau, the training course aimed to promote the contribution of renewable energy technologies to regional rural electrification. Another objective was to improve the understanding of different technology solutions and financial schemes necessary to complete the different phases of a renewable energy rural electrification project.

One likely impact of the training is an increased number of local stakeholders able to design, implement and maintain renewable energy rural electrification projects in all ECOWAS member states. Another is an increased number of renewable energy rural electrification projects in the region.

The course took place in the context of the Global Environment Facility project "Promoting investments into small and medium-sized renewable energy technologies in the electricity sector of Guinea Bissau" and the development of a regional renewable energy mini-grid project for the entire ECOWAS region.

Presentations and discussions were held on ECREEE's Rural Electrification Program 2015-2020 and two Global Environment Facility projects and proposals alongside the training.

ENERGY LEADERS GROUP SET TO DRIVE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INVESTMENTS

The African Energy Leaders Group (AELG) was officially launched in June 2015 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The new West African body comprises high-level business and political leaders, and aims to drive sector reforms and a pipeline of bankable investment projects for sustainable energy access across the region.

Sub-Saharan Africa, where 600 million people live without electricity, has the lowest level of energy access in the world, and West Africa has the highest levels of energy poverty on the continent. Electricity and clean cooking facilities are fundamental building-blocks for prosperity and wellbeing, from basic health and education to industrial and agricultural development.

According to the African Development Bank (AfDB), an estimated \$42 billion per year will be needed to meet Africa's energy demand by 2040, including a tenfold increase in private investment over current levels. But significant barriers exist, notably the lack of public policies that create the right conditions for such investment, and a shortage of suitable projects.

The AELG, conceived under the United Nations Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) initiative, creates a platform for governments and business leaders to build dialogue and partnerships to break down these barriers, fostering the necessary reforms and encouraging investment through both traditional and innovative channels.

As well as President Ouattara, the West African launch was attended by Nigerian Vice-President Yemi Osibajo and the Prime Ministers of Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Mali, Niger and Togo. Former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo and former Ghanaian President John Kufuor were also present, as well

as leading private-sector figures including Nigerian entrepreneur Tony Elumelu, and Senegalese-American musician Akon, whose Akon Lighting Africa programme is installing solar lighting for communities in 11 African countries.

The West African Energy Leaders Group is the first regional branch of the AELG, which was unveiled during the 2015 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, and is endorsed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU).

The AELG secretariat will be hosted by the AfDB, SE4All's Africa hub for the continent. It will accelerate the implementation of suitable projects by bringing together public- and private-sector actors to mobilise finance. The group has already identified a range of priority projects at both regional and national level for its first year, falling into three main categories: hydroelectric power (including the Souapiti project in Guinea); gas-to-power (for example, securing regular gas supplies for power generation in Côte d'Ivoire); and tapping the huge potential for solar power in the Sahel.

The ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), which has been appointed by the ECOWAS Energy Ministers to act as the Focal Institution for the implementation of the SE4All Initiative in West Africa, supports the work of the Group. The Centre has already assisted the 15 ECOWAS Member States to develop their respective SE4ALL Action Agendas. The next phase will include the development of Investment Prospectuses that will enable the operationalization of the national action agendas.

ECREEE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER HUB MEMBERSHIP TO BRING NEW BENEFITS

ECREEE has joined the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), a global technology transfer hub expected to extend ECREEE reach, assistance and expertise. The CTCN, an operational arm of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Technology Mechanism, provides technical assistance to accelerate climate technology transfer at the request of developing countries, creates access to climate technology in-



formation and fosters collaboration between climate technology stakeholders through an expert network.

CTCN MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- **Commercial opportunities:** pre-qualified access to competitive bidding for CTCN technical assistance service delivery to developing countries.

- **Connection:** networking with national decision-makers, thought leaders and other network members to expand partnership opportunities and learn about emerging activities and areas of practice.

- **Visibility:** increase in global recognition and showcasing organisation's experience and success stories. Broader organisation or company global reach by engaging in new technology projects and showcasing relevant experience, events, reports and tools.

Becoming a CTCN network member reinforces ECREEE's capacity to support ECOWAS countries managing energy access, energy security and climate change simultaneously through

the transfer of environmentally sound low carbon technologies.

Regional CTCN forums

As a member of the network, ECREEE helped organise two CTCN regional forums for National Designated Entities (NDEs) in the African region. These are representatives of developing countries party to the UNFCCC. They act as focal points for interacting with CTCN on country-specific technology needs. A developing country request for assistance from the CTCN is channelled through its NDE.

The regional workshops were run in tandem in June 2015, one in Dakar, Senegal, for the Francophone African countries and the other in Arusha, Tanzania for Anglophone African countries. Both sought to develop and strengthen the regional NDE network and their relationship with key financial institutions, regional consortium partners, current

and potential CTCN members.

NDEs shared country-level experiences in setting up NDEs, the use of CTCN technical assistance, as well as other CTCN services. The forums also facilitated links between CTCN technical assistance and other financial mechanisms, financial and institutions relevant to climate technologies.

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) both host CTCN with the support of 11 independent organisations with expertise in climate technologies. CTCN's overarching mission is to assist developing countries in deploying technologies which include equipment, techniques, practical knowledge and skills that can be used for greenhouse gas emissions reduction and to climate change adaptation.

CABO VERDE LAUNCHES NEW CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE

Cabo Verde's Centre for Renewable Energy and Industrial Maintenance (CERMI) was officially inaugurated on 10 March, 2015. The launch of the centre marks a major step in building capacity for Cabo Verde's renewable energy and energy efficiency. Its foundation was jointly unveiled by Cabo Verde's president His Excellency Mr. Jorge Carlos de Almeida Fonseca and Henri Albert G.E.M. Guillaume, Grand Duke of Luxembourg. The centre owes its existence to long-standing cooperation between the two states.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Cabo Verde Minister for Tourism, Entrepreneurial Development and Energy Leonesa Fortes commented on the vision for CERMI. She indicated it could position itself as an international centre serving West Africa and building capacities in the different renewable energy technologies. "The fight against poverty in Cabo Verde implies a strong investment in strategic sectors for the development of the country such as renewable energy," she said.

She also drew attention to the Cabo Verde government's work towards quality, efficiency and competitiveness. "This is only achievable by allocating resources to invest in tourism and renewable energy - key sectors of development," she pointed out. Fortes also reiterated Cabo Verde's strong commitment through hard work to achieving the 100% renewable energy penetration target for 2020, which is part of the country's transformational agenda.

"Steps are being taken to transform Cabo Verde into an engine



From L - R: H.E. Ms. Francine Closener - State Secretary for Economic Affairs of Luxembourg; His Royal Highness Mr. Henri Albert G.E.M. Guillaume - The Grand Duke of Luxembourg; H.E. Mr. Jorge Carlos de Almeida Fonseca, President of Cabo Verde; H.E. Mrs. Leonesa Fortes - Minister for Tourism, Entrepreneurial Development and Energy of Cabo Verde

for development by creating opportunities for the private sector on the energy field," she said, explaining that the ministry is working towards the creation of an energy cluster.

Anildo Costa, energy consultant working with Cabo Verde's clean energy coordination group, gave a presentation on Cabo Verde's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Action Plan. He focused on how the country can achieve the 100% target by 2020. Discussing the country's renewable energy strategy, he showed how the renewable energy rate could rise in three steps: 30-35% by 2016, 50% by 2018 and 100% by 2020.

Discussing the energy efficiency strategy, he said: "A huge effort is required in order to reduce grid losses, improve grid management and improve public lighting efficiency." The strategic goals can be reached by promoting energy efficiency in buildings, in appliances and equipment and for intensive consumers. He expressed strong confidence in reaching the

targets, indicating that though not easy, they were perfectly achievable.

Other people attending the event included Cabo Verde Minister for Youth and Human Resource Development Janira Hoffer Almada and representatives from the Luxembourg Cooperation based in Cabo Verde.

CERMI ACTIVITIES

CERMI was set up to build capacities in a range of renewable energy technologies such as solar thermal, solar photovoltaic and wind as well as in maintenance and energy efficiency. ECREEE will work closely with CERMI. The two will combine forces to build capacities not only in Cabo Verde but throughout the ECOWAS region.

ECREEE TO POSITION ITSELF FOR SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN GREEN CLIMATE FUND

ECREEE is working to position itself as the implementing entity for the Green Climate Fund (GCF). This role would grant ECREEE greater responsibility to design and promote concerted regional emissions reduction and economic development action in West Africa.

Largest single climate fund

Launched in 2011 by the United Nations, the GCF fosters investment in clean and sustainable low carbon technologies. It is at present the single largest fund mobilised by the global community to manage climate change, and aims to promote a paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways. Fund allocations cover both mitigation and adaptation.

This ECREEE role would fit very well with its activities within ECOWAS' Climate Change Mitigation Programme (ECCMP), whose remit is to catalyse further finance. The ECREEE mandate promotes renewable energy and energy efficiency in the region but also extends to reducing energy externalities like greenhouse gas emissions, local pollution and improving ECOWAS' climate resilience.

However, African countries acting alone cannot usually afford investments of the size and duration required for climate change mitigation. Thus new sources of finance would make a major difference, targeting low carbon development to scale up renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in the region and increase regional energy access.

ECREEE fund actuation

Under the ECMMP umbrella, ECREEE is to design and put in place regional activities improving the knowledge and networking capacities to improve peer group learn-

ing on climate change mitigation in ECOWAS member countries. The programme supports the creation of an enabling environment for climate change mitigation at the institutional level, and enhances the capacity of relevant actors to identify, select, plan, develop and implement climate change mitigation projects in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors. It also promotes technology transfer to maximise climate change mitigation actions. Finally, ECREEE is also to actuate funds for implementing regional and replicable Nationally Appropriate Climate Mitigation Action (NAMAs) in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The regional approach has proved a useful tool in facilitating the adoption and implementation of favourable legal and regulatory frameworks for national sustainable energy development. It can also be effective in guiding West African countries building resilience to climate change as well as joining the global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while overcoming developmental challenges.

West African countries experience unique conditions. They accounted for only 0.34% of global carbon dioxide emissions in 2010 but are finding climate change impacts a more common experience interwoven with the region's economic concerns. The region is the site of some of the world's most vulnerable countries. For example, 11 of the 15 are designated as "least developed countries". Their adaptive capacities for dealing with climate change impacts are limited.

The GCF role would therefore act as an important conduit for further project development. However, the fund's governing body needs to accredit this role against the fund's investments criteria before giving ECREEE the go ahead.

ECREEE LAUNCHES NEW SOLAR THERMAL PROGRAMME: SOLtrain

ECREEE has launched the new ECOWAS Solar Thermal Energy Training and Demonstration Programme known as SOLtrain West Africa. The programme kicked off in April 2015 at the new Centre for Renewable Energy and Industrial Maintenance (CERMI) in Praia, Cabo Verde.

SOLtrain West Africa is one of ECREEE's flagship projects, created following the adoption of ECOWAS' Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policies in 2013. ECOWAS' renewable energy policy sets targets for solar thermal energy for water heating in schools, hospitals, hotels and other buildings and even industrial processes. SOLtrain West Africa's objective is to exploit solar thermal technologies as part of the switch from fossil fuel energy.

The programme has a strong focus on capacity building and training existing institutions already working on solar thermal energy in West Africa. Existing institutions are targeted to ensure the programme is sustained in the long term. The first regional technical training course in the programme took place immediately after the launch event and attracted representatives from selected partner universities and polytechnic schools in five West African countries. These include Cabo Verde, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal.

Also present at the launch were representatives from CERMI, the Cabo Verde Ministry of Energy, German International Development organisation GIZ, the Luxembourg Development Cooperation and other technical partners and stakeholders.

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ECREEE is currently carrying out 16 programs

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REGIONAL HUB FOR THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL (SE4ALL) INITIATIVE
-  **PROGRAM 3**
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY POLICY & ENABLING ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM
-  **PROGRAM 4**
ECOWAS RE & EE CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM
-  **PROGRAM 5**
ECOWAS OBSERVATORY FOR RE & EE (ECOWREX)
-  **PROGRAM 6**
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & FINANCING
-  **PROGRAM 7**
ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM
-  **PROGRAM 8**
ECOWAS INTENERGY PROGRAM
-  **PROGRAM 9**
GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN ENERGY ACCESS (ECOW-GEN)
-  **PROGRAM 10**
ECOWAS SOLAR THERMAL TRAINING & DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM (SOLtrain West Africa)
-  **PROGRAM 11**
WEST AFRICAN CLEAN COOKING ALLIANCE (WACCA)
-  **PROGRAM 12**
GEF PROJECTS
-  **PROGRAM 13**
RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM
-  **PROGRAM 14**
ECOWAS SMALL HYDROPOWER PROGRAM
-  **PROGRAM 15: PISTACHIO GREEN**
CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION PROGRAM
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