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The ECOWAS region is now very well positioned to make the most of major developments in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

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ECREEE's activities and achievements in the sustainable energy sector have proved a success story for other sub-regions on the continent to emulate.

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The Vice- Minister President and Minister of Economy, Energy, Climate Protection and Territorial Planning of Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany, Ms Eveline Lemke

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The conference also provided a platform for the exchange of information between developed and developing regions on wind energy

ECOWAS PRESIDENT VISITS THE ECREEE SECRETARIAT



ECREEE RECEIVES AWARD AT VIENNA ENERGY FORUM



ECOWAS VALIDATES REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FRAMEWORK ON CLEAN COOKING

Besides validating the action plan framework, this regional workshop provided valuable insight into the latest on best practice and information exchange focused on issues such as the challenges regarding the proliferation of clean cooking technologies and services, ways of addressing these challenges from a regional and international perspective, as well as and policy and planning tools that promote clean, safe and efficient cooking as a driver for economic growth and improvement of environmental and social conditions.

AUSTRIA DEEPENS PARTNERSHIP WITH ECREEE

The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) reinforced its existing collaboration with ECREEE, with the award of a further 2m EUR to support the implementation of the centre's second operational phase in line with its Business Plan which ends in 2016.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to present our latest newsletter which comes against the backdrop of the Vienna Energy Forum (VEF 2013), in late May 2013. ECREEE had a strong presence at this forum and we commend the Government of Austria, UNIDO and IASA for organising this very important event. It provided a platform for collaborative action on improving energy access and alleviating energy poverty globally, using renewable and sustainable sources of energy. This is particularly important for us given that the ECOWAS region continues to face significant challenges in terms of energy delivery.

At the margins of VEF 2013, we deepened our partnerships. The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) extended its support to ECREEE to cover the Second Operational Phase, ending 2016. We also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Joint Research Council (JRC) of the European Commission agreed to facilitate the development of common tools (e.g. country specific maps with renewable energy based electricity costs), validation

of results and publication. This will greatly expand the network between the JRC and regional partners for African-related research activities in the field of renewable energies and energy efficiency.

Still at VEF 13, we organised a side event: Regional Sustainable Energy Centres in Africa: Creating Regional Markets to Support the Decade of Sustainable Energy For All (SE4ALL). This side event had the participation of high-level representatives from the African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and discussed the added value and possible actions of a south south cooperation network between the existing and planned regional sustainable energy centres in Africa.

There's also been more action on our framework action plan for WACCA – the West African Clean Cooking Alliance. As you know, clean cooking is a high-priority matter in our region. So we are pleased to be making progress on this. Within the framework of the ECOWAS Small Scale Hydro Power Program (SSHP), ECREEE, in collaboration with UNIDO, organised a small-scale hydro power training and study tour to Austria for a group of African experts.

We were also happy to participate in the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) Capacity Building workshop in Brasilia, Brazil, back in March 2013. And in May 2013, we hosted a high-level German delegation, with discussions ongoing regarding German support for Cape Verde's renewable energy programme.

Last, we were honoured to receive the President of the ECOWAS Commission, H.E. Kadré Désiré Ouedraogo, who took time to visit the ECREEE Secretariat and see first-hand ECREEE's various programmes and projects.

Of course, all of this is highly positive. We are extremely honoured that ECREEE has become a model institution, which other regional economic communities such as the EAC and SADC seek to replicate. This reflects, I believe, our good work, so I extend my thanks to all our partners and of course to the staff at ECREEE.

We hope you find this edition both interesting and informative.

Thank you.

Mahama Kappiah
Executive Director, ECREEE

ECOWAS PRESIDENT VISITS THE ECREEE



Group picture of ECREEE staff with H.E. Kadré Désiré Quedraogo, President of the ECOWAS Commission and members of the presidential delegation

The President of the ECOWAS Commission, His Excellency Kadré Désiré Ouédraogo, visited the Cape Verde-based ECOWAS Centre for Renewal Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECEEE) on March 21, 2013, to meet with the management and staff of the centre.

Briefing the President during the visit, the Executive Director of ECREEE, Mr. Mahama Kappiah, said that about 52% of West Africa's estimated 300 million population lacked access to electricity supply despite the region's huge bio-energy, hydro, solar and wind power potentials. The ECREEE Director noted that the centre was working with stakeholders to improve access to energy in the region and helping to address the twin issues of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

In his response, President Ouédraogo praised the centre for its achievements since its official inauguration in July 2010. He enjoined it to become a centre of excellence for the region while

collaborating with the host government, which relies significantly on renewable sources to meet its energy needs. He also commended the centre for its visible leadership in the promotion of sustainable energy solutions in the region and its recent nomination by the ECOWAS Energy Ministers as the implementation agency for the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) Initiative in West Africa.

The President later undertook a visit to the first and largest solar photovoltaic plant built in Cape Verde and Africa in general. It is spread over 13 hectares with a capacity of 4.4MW and is producing 20 MWh of electricity a day.

He also visited West Africa's largest wind farm, located on Santiago Island. This farm accounts for 9.4 MW of the country's energy generation, part of a 25.5 MW wind project distributed across three of the country's islands: Sal, Sao Vicente, and Boavista under a Public Private Partnership (PPP).

The President was informed that, based on these projects, Cape Verde

has already attained its target of generating 25% of its overall electricity mix from renewable energy and was on track to reach 50% by 2020, consistent with the Government's desire to reduce the country's dependence on imported fossil fuels through increased energy production from renewable energy resources.



From L - R: Mr. Mahama Kappiah, Executive Director of ECREEE and H.E. Kadré Désiré Quedraogo, President of the ECOWAS Commission

GFSE SIDE EVENT – VEF SUMMARY

The Vienna Energy Forum (VEF), held at the city's historic Hofburg on 29 May 2013, included an important side event on Sustainable Energy Solutions for All (SE4ALL). Under SE4ALL's Global Action Agenda, the sectoral and enabling action areas provide a framework for multi-stakeholder activity across all relevant economic sectors on a national and international level. The SE4ALL process poses challenges but also opens exciting opportunities for many players in the energy field.

The side event presented Austrian expertise and engagement in energy for sustainable development. To illustrate the country's potential contribution to the achievement of SE4ALL's objectives, examples of technologies, know-how and support instruments in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency were given.

The event also highlighted the substantial opportunities available in developing countries for actors that decide to engage in the SE4ALL process. In this context, West Africa and the activities of the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) were presented as a prominent example. In addition, the event participants explored future opportunities for cooperation between Austrian and developing country players in the energy and development cooperation fields.

Successful sustainable energy solutions include appropriate technologies, well-targeted policies, and sound involvement of local and regional players, institutional strengthening, solid business models, and adequate financial support. Austrian players can contribute by developing and interlinking these solutions. And the country's Global Forum on Sustainable Energy, in its turn, has a catalytic role, involving relevant players to facilitate the development of concrete SE4ALL opportunities.

ECREEE RECEIVES AWARD AT VEF



The Vienna Energy Forum (VEF), a high-level platform to facilitate multi-stakeholder discussion on issues that relate to sustainable energy policy, market and technology development, took place from 28–30 May 2013, in Vienna, Austria. The discussion focused on ways of implementing the United Nations (UN) SE4ALL initiative and widening access to clean energy for the 2.7 billion people who rely on traditional biomass for their

energy needs.

The forum, which brought together over 1,500 participants, including high level dignitaries from ministries as well as the private sector, also provided an opportunity for development agencies, policymakers and stakeholders to share results on their work in ending energy poverty.

ECREEE was one of the institutions awarded for its outstanding work in pro-



ECREEE AT VIENNA

AUSTRIA DEEPENS PARTNERSHIP WITH ECREEE

The Austrian Development Agency (ADA), at the margins of VEF 2013, reinforced its existing collaboration with ECREEE, with the award of a further 2m EUR to support the implementation of the centre's second operational phase in line with its Business Plan which ends in 2016.

Speaking at the event, the Managing Director of ADA, H.E. Amb. Brigitte Öppinger-Walchshofer, reiterated the Austrian government's strong commitment to supporting ECREEE's activities. She also congratulated Mr. Mahama Kappiah, ECREEE's Executive Director, and the ECREEE team, highlighting the major achievements that had been recorded within the relatively short history of the centre.

These include, amongst others:

- adoption of the regional policies on renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- establishment of the ECOWAS

Small Scale Hydro Power Programme;

- creation of the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Facility;
- setting up of a RETScreen train the trainers network,
- and the launch of several energy efficiency initiatives and programmes.

Mr Kappiah, in his remarks, expressed appreciation to ADA for its continued support to the centre and also thanked UNIDO for its technical support throughout the first operational phase.

Also present at the ceremony were Mr Robert Zeiner, Head of International Programmes and Projects, ADA; Ms Ursula Steller, Deputy Head of International Programmes and Projects, ADA; and Mr Hannes Bauer, Sustainable Energy Expert at ADA. Representing UNIDO was Mr Martin Lugmayr, a renewable energy expert, formerly with ADA and seconded by UNIDO as chief technical advisor to the centre.

moting sustainable energy development.

While presenting ECREEE's award, Ambassador Christine Stix-Hackl, speaking on behalf of the Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister of Austria, Mr Michael Spindelegger, noted that as a result of ECREEE's activities there has been an improvement in access to modern, reliable and affordable energy services in West Africa, and therefore an improvement in energy security and environmental protection.

The West African region is faced with interrelated challenges of energy

access, energy security and climate change mitigation. About 60% of electricity used in the sub-region is generated through high-cost diesel fuels. Emissions and environmental pollution associated with fossil fuels and the dependence on oil and the volatility of its prices increases the vulnerability of the region's economy. ECREEE's activities to upscale the deployment of sustainable energy infrastructures are therefore critical to the achievement of the sub-region's sustainable economic, social and environmental goals.



A ENERGY FORUM



ECREEE SIGNS MOU WITH THE JRC

At a side event at the Vienna Energy Forum in May 2013, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission and ECREEE signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance their collaboration.

Both institutions share a common interest on assessing renewable energy potential for the sustainable social, economic and the environmental development of the sub-region and continent. This MoU establishes a formal framework of collaboration in data exchange, joint development and validation of methodologies.

ECREEE being an organization which the objective to foster the implementation and use of renewable energy while promoting the efficiency on its use, stands to benefit from this partnership as this will set the basis for a continuous exchange of data and methodologies between both institutions on RE potential assessment in the West African region.

More specifically, it is envisaged that this cooperation will result in the elaboration of RE Resources assessment and the development of country-specific GIS maps on RE based electricity production and costs.

This cooperation is certainly a significant step towards one of the core objectives of ECREEE which is knowledge management through the dissemination of relevant information on RE and EE.



ECREEE AS MODEL FOR OTHER AFRICAN ENERGY CENTRES

Following a request in 2012 from the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to have the ECREEE model replicated in both Southern and Eastern Africa, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on 28 May 2013, in Vienna, Austria, between the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, UNIDO, and the EAC, on the establishment of the East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE).

ECREEE's activities and output in West Africa's sustainable energy sector have proved to be a success story for other sub-regions in the continent to emulate. The centre, in the short years of its operation, has seen the development and adoption of a regional policy on renewable energy and energy efficiency, and the execution of programmes on capacity development, knowledge management and awareness, as well as investment and business promotion.

It is expected that the East African Energy Centre will become fully operational in 2014, and contribute towards the sustainable development of the Eastern African sub-region by creating an enabling environment for the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency markets. Like its predecessor, ECREEE, the Energy Centre will work to improve the policy, capacity and investment conditions in Eastern Africa. In his statement, Dr Kandeh Yumkella, the Director General of UNIDO, noted that the network of centres being established on the continent would be useful partners for the achievement of the SE4ALL goals on the continent.

SMALL-SCALE HYDRO POWER TRAINING FOR AFRICAN EXPERTS



In conjunction with the Vienna Energy Forum, ECREEE and UNIDO organized training sessions on small-scale hydro power (SSHP) development for 20 experts from the West African region and other parts of sub-Saharan Africa. The training was held in different parts of Austria, from 22–27 May 2013.

The training was undertaken under the umbrella of the ECOWAS SSHP Programme, developed by ECREEE in partnership with UNIDO. The programme was adopted by the ECOWAS Ministers of Energy during the High Level Energy Conference which took place from 29–31 October 2012 in Accra, Ghana.

This regional programme aims to contribute towards increased access to modern, affordable and reliable energy services, energy security and mitigation of climate change by establishing an enabling environment for SSHP investments in West Africa. It supports capac-

ity development, knowledge management and exchange, and business and investment promotion activities. North-South and South-South knowledge and technology transfer are also important components of the programme.

ECOWAS, comprising 15 countries with a population of more than 300 million, offers vast untapped investment and business opportunities in the area of hydro power. However, the ECOWAS countries have yet to take full advantage of their technically and economically feasible small-scale hydro potential.

It is estimated that the SSHP potential (up to 30 MW as defined by ECOWAS) ranges between 1900 MW to 5700 MW. Only a small fraction of this potential has been exploited so far. The lack of technical capacity is a major barrier to the dissemination and successful transfer of feasible technologies within the West African states.

The training sessions included theoretical lessons, hydro site visits and meetings with financiers, consultants, utilities, independent power producers, plant operators and manufacturers in Vienna, Lower and Upper Austria.

The sessions aimed to strengthen capacities of various project development and implementation issues ranging from policy, incentive mechanisms, regulatory frameworks, economics, financing, management, maintenance and environmental sustainability. The training ended with a business-to-business meeting with Austrian companies, held on 27 May at the Ministry for European and International Affairs.

The training was supported financially and technically by ADA, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), and the Austrian Energy Agency (AEA). Further information on ECOWAS' SSHP programme: <http://hydro.ecreee.org>.

WIND TURBINE GIANT, GOLDWIND, PAYS AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO ECREEE

ECREEE continues to be recognized by RE promoters and organizations all over the world. On 29 April 2013, two officials from Goldwind, Mr Jackie Yuan Qiao and Mr Ma Xiaohui, made an official visit to ECREEE.

On behalf of the Executive Director, Mr Delgado, a RE Expert, welcomed the team and gave a presentation on

ECREEE and its activities. Mr Delgado mentioned, among other factors, the lack of adequate technology transfer as a main barrier to the deployment of RE technologies in the West Africa sub-region.

Mr Ma Xiaohui, in response, expressed his admiration for the work being done by ECREEE in promoting RE technologies.

He noted that the company was willing to collaborate with ECREEE in its activities. Goldwind is a wind turbine manufacturing company headquartered in Urumqi, Xinjiang, China. The company has been in operation for the past 15 years and has installed over 13 GW of wind power with more than 13,000 turbines worldwide.

VIENNA HIGH LEVEL FORUM IN PICTURES



ECREEE AND ICSHP DISCUSS AREAS FOR COLLABORATION

On 11 April 2013, delegates from ECREEE visited the International Centre on Small Hydro Power (ICSHP), in Hangzhou, China. The objective of this was to strengthen the already established relationship between the two institutions and explore new areas for collaboration.

The delegates were received by the Director General of the Centre, Professor Liu Heng, Chief of Project Development, Mr Wei Jianghui, Chief of International Liaison, Ms Huang Yan and Chief of Multilateral Development, Ms Xiaobo Hu.

Professor Heng noted that a joint effort between the ICSHP and ECREEE is a necessary step towards promoting the development of the small hydro resources in the ECOWAS region, as well as renewable energy in general. He added that through the resources and long-standing experience of the ICSHP in renewable energy, the Centre is well positioned to contribute gainfully to the achievement of ECREEE's objectives.

The ICSHP is a public and non-profit institution directly under the auspices of UNIDO, China's Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Commerce. The activities of the Centre include consultancy, training, research and equipment supply.

As agreed in the meeting, ECREEE and the ICSHP will work together towards the realization of the pipeline renewable energy projects under ECOWAS Renewable Energy Investment (EREI) portfolio and the implementation of small hydro power projects in the West African region.

After the meeting, delegates from ECREEE were taken to visit, and liaise with, manufacturers of small hydro power equipment in the Hangzhou locality.

SEVENTH EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING OF ECREEE



ECREEE Board Members

ECREEE's Seventh Executive Board meeting was held on 31 May 2013 at the Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs, Vienna, Austria. The meeting was the first of its kind, being held the day after the prestigious Vienna Energy Forum (VEF). The main objective of the meeting was to adopt the ECREEE 2012 Work Plan Implementation Report and the Status Report on the implementation of the first call of the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Facility (EREF).

The meeting began with opening remarks from high-level members of the Board including the ECOWAS Commissioner for Infrastructure and Board Chairman; Mr Ebrima Njie, the Spanish Ambassador to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); HE Ms Carmen Buján Freire, the UNIDO Director for Energy and Climate Change; Dr Pradeep Monga, the Director of International Programs and Projects of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA); and Mr Robert Zeiner.

In his address, the ECOWAS Commissioner for infrastructure expressed profound gratitude to the Government of Austria, the Kingdom of Spain and UNIDO for their invaluable support to ECREEE, and integration efforts for the ECOWAS region. The commissioner reiterated the importance of energy for the ECOWAS region's socio-economic development, noting that he was encouraged that one of the key recommendations of the VEF was for energy to be fully integrated into the universal post-2015 development agenda.

Director for International Programs and Projects, Robert Zeiner, representing the ADA, expressed his pleasure at hosting the meeting in Vienna. He noted that ADA had signed a new funding agreement with ECREEE for the second operational phase, following completion of the

first one. Mr Zeiner also welcomed new partners to the board and thanked Spain and UNIDO for their financial and technical support to ECREEE, while urging them to extend similar support to the new centres being established in the Eastern and Southern African regions. Mr Zeiner also took the opportunity to congratulate the Commissioner for Infrastructure and the Executive Director on their award from the Director General of UNIDO during the Vienna Energy Forum.

ECREEE Executive Director Mahama Kappiah stated during the meeting that the main focus for ECREEE in the second operational phase includes providing support to ECOWAS Member States towards the attainment of the RE&EE Policy targets; conducting project preparatory activities for RE projects (grid connected and mini-grids); and establishing south-south cooperation with India and China for technology transfer to the ECOWAS region. Mr Kappiah also stated that support for the establishment of RE&EE Centres in the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) regions will be provided by ECREEE.

As part of the meeting's agenda, the centre's mid-term evaluation results were also discussed. The evaluation covered the period December 2009 to December 2012, the first operational phase of ECREEE. Members of the Executive Board expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the exercise, noting that the result of the evaluation was positive. In general, the evaluation proved that ECREEE was a relevant and active institution and a model for best practice. However, more needs to be done, as revealed by the evaluation results, which usefully identified areas requiring urgent attention that would lead to the strengthening of the institution's capacity.

HIGH LEVEL GERMAN DELEGATION VISITS ECREEE

On 9 May 2013, ECREEE had the great honour of receiving a high level German delegation at its headquarters in Praia, Cape Verde. The delegation included Ms Eveline Lemke, Minister of Economy, Energy, Climate Protection and Territorial Planning of Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany; Mrs Corinna Fricke, Business Attaché at the German Embassy and other high ranking officials. They were accompanied by representatives of the Cape Verdean Government - Ambassador Cristina Pereira; Mr Antonio Batista, Director General for Energy; Mrs Sonia Andrade, Desk Officer for Germany at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Cape Verde.

The visit aimed to explore a partnership between Germany and Cape Verde, which would support the archipelago in creating the infrastructure to become a country with 100% renewable energy penetration.

In a brief speech, Mr Kappiah, Executive Director, highlighted Cape Verde as a good example for the other countries of the ECOWAS region: "Since starting to promote renewables in 2008, Cape Verde has already reached 25% RE penetration in the electricity system," he



Visit of the German Delegation to ECREEE, from L,R: Mr Mahama Kappiah, Executive Director of ECREEE, H.E. Eveline Lemke; Minister of Economy, Energy, Climate Protection and Territorial Planning of Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany

said. He also stressed the importance of identifying the RE potential in each country, as well as the need to conduct capacity building initiatives and to promote different financing mechanisms. Other key components: development of an adequate policy framework and promotion of suitable RE technologies.

Mr Kappiah noted that there was now increased awareness on the importance of renewables, with several countries

currently developing various RE projects - Burkina Faso, a total of 40 MW of solar PV capacity is to be installed; Ghana, 20 MW PV and 100 MW wind power; in Senegal, around 150 MW PV is being discussed. Mr. Kappiah underscored the role of European public and private sectors in the financing and provision of technology and expertise. A follow-up meeting is scheduled with a view to progressing on the proposed cooperation.

ECREEE PARTICIPATES IN CWEE7 IN SHANGHAI

At the invitation of the organizer, Mr Zhong Mao Deray, ECREEE, represented by the Executive Director, Mr Mahama Kappiah, participated in the 7th China International Wind Energy Exhibition and Conference (CWEE7), which took place in Shanghai, China, from 8–10 April 2013.

Sponsored by the Chinese Wind Energy Equipment Association, Wind and Tidal Power Special Committee of the Chinese Society for Electrical Engineering, World Wind Energy Association (WWEA) and Shanghai International Sourcing Promotion Centre, the CWEE was organized with the objective to showcase state-of-the-art

wind energy technologies, discuss the status of wind energy development in China and barriers and ways of addressing the challenges hindering the development of the wind energy sector. The conference also provided a platform for the exchange of information between developed and developing regions on wind energy. The conference brought together wind experts from academia, wind technology manufacturers, policymakers, etc.

The three-day event featured presentations on: Wind Power Industry Development; Wind Power Market, New Technology and Certification; Small-medium Wind Power Market; Testing

of Small-medium Wind Turbines; Off-shore Wind Power and Intertidal Wind Power; Distributed Wind Power; the Promotion and Implementation of Wind Power Grid-Connection and Testing Standards and Wind Power International Market.

While delivering his presentation on 'Advantages of West African Renewable Energy', Mr Kappiah elaborated on the RE resource potential in the sub-region, the barriers to the development of the sector, the progress made towards alleviating these barriers and opportunities for South-South cooperation in developing RE, particularly wind, in the ECOWAS region.

ECREEE PARTICIPATES IN THE GBEP BIOENERGY WEEK IN BRAZIL



A group pictures of participants at the GBEP Bioenergy week

The Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) Capacity Building workshop in Brasilia, Brazil, dubbed the 'GBEP Bioenergy Week' was held between 18 and 23 March 2013. The activities were very educative and inspiring for all regions of the world in respect of development and utilization of bioenergy.

The opening session was chaired by GBEP Co-chair on Sustainability Indicators, Ambassador Mariangela Rebuá of Brazil. Welcome speeches were delivered by Maria Michela Morese, Executive Secretary, GBEP, Raffi Balian. GBEP Co-chair of the working group on Capacity Building, and Mauricio Lopez, a representative of the Brazilian government.

On behalf of GBEP, Ambassador Mariangela Rebuá, thanked Embrapa – the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation - for hosting Bioenergy Week, and she reiterated the successful efforts by GBEP to show that bioenergy could play a bigger role in the sustainable development of rural areas, through the so-called "agro energy systems".

She also noted that bioenergy is likely to bring concrete results of sustainable development policies to the populations in areas of production such as lower energy imports and higher quality of life. In support, Ms Michela Morese stated that Bioenergy Week represented the concrete willingness of

effort to enable the Partnership to face the challenge of strengthening the role of bioenergy under the three sustainable development pillars, as contemplated in the 24 bioenergy sustainability indicators discussed and agreed upon by GBEP partners.

The opening speeches stressed the linkages between the environment, demand for energy and the economic challenges of land use. The programme of activities, reflecting the main presentation overviews, was therefore placed on the environmental, social and economic pillars of bioenergy development.

On the state-of-the-art in feedstock production and bioenergy conversion processes, five presentations were given on sharing pioneer experiences on bioenergy production in Brazil, especially on biodiesel production. Agricultural and technological practices and policies on bioenergy production were shared during these presentations.

The ECOWAS region was represented by GBEP focal contacts and the main partner, ECREEE. The regional presentation on the topic "Africa Perspective on Bioenergy" was delivered by ECREEE. The presentation highlighted the need for development of policy and regulatory frameworks on bioenergy and emphasized the recent development of ECOWAS' Bioenergy

Strategy which was adopted by ECOWAS Energy Ministers at the High Level Energy Forum (HLF) in October 2012 in Accra, Ghana.

The presentation also demonstrated ECOWAS' commitment to guaranteeing sustainable bioenergy production by tackling both the demand and supply chains of bioenergy. In view of this, it was noted that ECREEE has begun engagement in Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) activities to support sustainable wood fuel production in the region, as well as activities to enhance efficient charcoal production and marketing.

The presentation reiterated that, as part of the Bioenergy Strategy, one of the bioenergy initiatives, WACCA, established to promote the introduction and use of clean cooking fuels and stoves, has begun its operations with the first workshop in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 22–25 April 2013. During the workshop, the Regional Bioenergy Action plan was validated to pave the way for various national strategies and actions. The activities of the Bioenergy Week were interspersed with field tours to bioenergy research centres and a biodiesel production plant. In conclusion, the meeting agreed to hold another Bioenergy Week in Africa in 2014 so as to give educational and technical support for African bioenergy.

ECOWAS VALIDATES REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FRAMEWORK ON COOKING ENERGY

ECREEE organized the first regional stakeholder workshop of the West African Clean Cooking Alliance (WACCA), on 23–25 April 2013 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. It was held with the support of the Ministry of Energy of Burkina Faso, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, the EU Energy Facility, the Global Alliance for Clean Cook Stoves, the Governments of Austria and Spain, UNIDO, UNDP and the French Agency for Environment and Energy Management (ADEME).

The workshop provided a platform for sharing best practices and facilitated information exchange. Deliberations focused on:

- the challenges regarding the proliferation of clean cooking technologies and services;
- the possible ways of addressing these challenges from a regional and international perspective;
- integration of clean cooking objectives into national energy strategies;
- and policy and planning tools that promote clean, safe and efficient cooking as a driver for economic growth and improvement of environmental and social conditions.

The workshop was attended by over 200 high-level experts including participants from the Ministries of Energy and Forestry of all ECOWAS Member States, the private sector, testing and standards bodies, development agencies and international organizations.

In his opening address, the Hon. Salif Lamoussa Kabore, Minister for Mines and Energy of Burkina Faso, represented by Mr Mabourlaye Nombre, Technical Advisor to the Hon. Minister, highlighted



L- R: Mr: Johnson Boanuh – Director of Environment at the ECOWAS Commission; Mr. Mabourlaye Nombre - technical adviser - Ministry for Mines and Energy of Burkina Faso; Mahama Kappiah - Executive Director of ECREEE; Ms Marlis Kees of GIZ-HERA

the prevailing low access rates to modern energy services, especially cooking energy. He urged the participants to come up with an action plan for clean, safe and efficient cooking.

Mr Mahama Kappiah, Executive Director of ECREEE, in his welcoming remarks, reiterated the responsibilities entrusted to the participants to develop appropriate policies to improve the livelihood of the ECOWAS population through clean cooking solutions.

Delivering the keynote speech, Dr Johnson Boanuh, Director of Environment at the ECOWAS Commission, recounted the various interventions undertaken by the Commission since the early 2000s to increase access to sustainable energy for the ECOWAS population. He expressed the gratitude of the ECOWAS Commission to the Partners for their financial and technical support and expressed his desire that the workshop would come up with a document that reflects the aspiration of the population

for cooking solutions, given the negative impact of the current inefficient cooking practices on health and the environment.

Ms Marlis Kees of GIZ-HERA, also speaking at the opening session, highlighted the negative consequences of inefficient cooking and the interventions of GIZ in this area.

Participants stressed the importance of cooperation at the regional level and the need to move from planning to action. They discussed the draft action plan framework, and provided valuable comments. The document was validated.

In adopting the draft WACCA action plan framework, the participants called for the elaboration of a detailed ECOWAS cooking energy action plan with a time frame for implementation, activities and budget to be undertaken at the regional and national levels. The action plan would consider the main recommendations and outcomes of the Working Group discussions in this first WACCA stakeholder workshop.

Also, within the framework of the stakeholder workshop, an exhibition was organized with over 20 exhibitors showcasing practical and innovative products, technologies and services from West Africa and other regions.



CONTACT US:

ADDRESS: ACHADA SANTO ANTONIO, ELECTRA BUILDING,

2ND FLOOR C.P. 288, PRAIA, CAPE VERDE

TEL.: (+238) 260 4630

FAX: (+238) 262 4614

E-MAIL: INFO@ECREEE.ORG

WWW.ECREEE.ORG

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2013

September 9th – 13th & 16th - 20th

Regional Training Workshop on Promotion of national RE policies and incentive schemes in the ECOWAS member States

October 1 - 3

Validation of Institutional framework assessment on Standards & labeling -Cotonou, Benin

25 to 29 of November

Wind Energy Workshop - Praia, Cape Verde.

September

RETSscreen training - Guinea Bissau

8 - 10 October

Renewable Energy Investment Week - Accra, Ghana

December 2013

Regional Workshop on the development of the National Renewable Energy Action Plans

ECREEE

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TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE ENERGY