

“POWER AFRICA” & PARTNER COUNTRY ENERGY IN THE NEWS

March 08, 2015 – April 02, 2015

Article Summaries & Full Clips

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IN THE NEWS: Featured Partner Country Energy News

March 08 – April 02, 2015

POWER AFRICA, AFRICA & REGIONAL NEWS

[Burundi Moving Towards Solar](#)

March 31 | DomesticFuel.com
Burundi is moving towards solar. Via the Power Africa and Power Africa's Beyond the Grid sub-initiative, Gigawatt Global has been awarded two grants to bring solar to the country, where only four percent of the population has access to residential power. The proposed project, a 7.5 Megawatt (MW) solar field, will increase the country's generation capacity by 15 percent.

[Gambia: 'Gambia Registers Giant Steps in Meeting Sustainable Energy'](#)

The Point | March 16
The Minister of Energy, Dr Edward Saja Sanneh, has said The Gambia in recognition of the importance of the energy sector, has fulfilled the United Nations sustainable energy for all requirements and targets.

[Transition To A Green Economy In Africa](#)

March 9 | Clean Technia
Responding to a strong perceived demand from governments for current information about a green economy Africa, the United Nations Environment Program reported Thursday from Nairobi on the power of green investments in the nations of Africa. Says one international

expert in green economics, "The list of successful examples of green investments in Africa is far greater than what is generally imagined. The potential is enormous."

[Video - Rwanda steps up electricity generation](#)

March 31 | CNBC Africa
As the region steps up its efforts in ensuring electricity generated within the member countries is sustainable, Rwanda continues to fast-track development within the sector. The government and European Union signed a financing agreement worth 17 billion Rwandan franc that will go towards improving the infrastructure, and curbing power losses that have been faced in the past. According to the minister of finance, Rwanda's current energy capacity stands at 155 megawatts and is expected to rise to 563 megawatts by 2017.

[Zambia: Renewable Energy Tariff Policy Developed](#)

March 17 | The Times of Zambia
THE Government in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has developed the Renewable Energy Feed-In-Tariff (REFIT) policy for Zambia. This is aimed at creating an enabling environment for both public and private investors to effectively participate in the

development of the renewable energy sector.

ETHIOPIA

[Ethiopia's Largest Hydro Plant to Produce Power This Year](#)

March 19 | Bloomberg
Ethiopia's government plans to start generating electricity from its largest hydropower plant, Gibe III, in the second half of the year if annual rains sufficiently fill its reservoir, Water and Energy Minister Alemayehu Tegenu said.

[Adama II Wind Farm Project Due to Be Completed in Three Months](#)

March 9 | The Ethiopian Herald (Addis Ababa)
The Adama II Wind Farm, a power generating project which has been jointly implemented by two Chinese companies, namely HYDROCHINA and CGCOC, since July 2013 is nearing completion.

[Generating Power to Transform Ethiopia](#)

March 8 | East African Business Week (Kampala)
In the government's Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), there is a high emphasis on hydropower resource development, but with an eye also on renewable sources such as solar, wind and geothermal given their cost competitiveness.

Power generation improved by around 230% between 2008 and 2012, with six hydroelectric and wind power projects coming online.

[German Firm Conducts Study for Off-Grid Power Generation in Ethiopia](#)

March 23 | Addis Fortune (Addis Ababa)

The Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MoWIE) is conducting a study for an off-grid investment plan which will allow the private sector to become involved in the production and sale of electricity. The study that is being conducted by Fechtner GmbH Co. & KG, is intended to allow both local and foreign companies to invest in renewable energy provision such as solar home systems and institutional solar systems, which are being supplied by the government.

GHANA

[China to build \\$1 billion solar power plant in Ghana](#)

March 20 | GhanaWeb.com

China is to help build a 400-megawatt solar power plant in Ghana aimed at easing the energy crisis.

According to the Charge d'Affaires at the Chinese Embassy in Accra, Zhou Youbin, the Chinese Hanergy Group will be at the forefront of the \$1-billion project.

[More Companies Queue for Power Projects in Ghana](#)

March 23 | Ghanaian Chronicle (Accra)

A shortfall of about 500 megawatts of power and the projections for additional power demand in Ghana has attracted more than 20 proposals from the US, Germany, Denmark, India, China, South Africa, Turkey, Brazil and others to invest in the country's power sector.

[Video - Ghana's power shortages take their toll](#)

March 13 | BBC

Power outages are a fact of life across much of Africa, with almost daily black-outs affecting rich and poor countries alike. South Africa's power utility top officials have been suspended over power shortages - and early this year more more than half of Kenya suffered a power outage after a major transmission line failed. Meanwhile Ghana is in the midst of the longest power crisis the country has ever known. The BBC's Sammy Darko reports from Accra.

KENYA

[Dumpsite to Produce Energy](#)

March 31 | The Star (Nairobi)

Nakuru county government will partner with environmentalists to rehabilitate the Gioto dumpsite. "The initiative will turn the waste into an energy producer," Governor Kinuthia Mbugua said. Speaking to the Star in his office, the county boss said the initiative will generate electricity, bio diesel,

raw material for tissue paper.

[Power Costs to Remain Low, Says Chirchir](#)

March 17 | Capital FM (Nairobi)

The cost of electricity in the country is not expected to increase in the next one year even with the dry weather being experienced. Energy Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir says this is due to the injection of the 280 megawatts of geothermal power at Olkaria into the national grid.

[Toyota Tsusho to Invest Billions in Kenya's Energy Sector](#)

March 15 | Capital FM (Nairobi)

Toyota Tsusho Corporation said on Sunday it wanted to invest billions of dollars in Kenya's energy sector after it successfully build the 280-megawatt Olkaria plants that have significantly enhanced Kenya's "green" credentials.

[Western Kenya Power Deal Signed](#)

March 15 | East African Business Week (Kampala)

Two contracts have been signed by the Kenya Electricity Transmission Company Limited (KETRACO) for the implementation of the Olkaria-Lessos-Kisumu electricity transmission project. The new 400kV line will bring geothermal energy from the increased capacity at Olkaria to western Kenya.

LIBERIA

[PIU Returns to Resume Work On Mount Coffee Hydro](#)

March 14 | Liberia News Agency (Monrovia)

The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) has returned to Liberia to resume rehabilitation work on the Mount Coffee Hydro Plant in Harrisburg, Montserrado County.

NIGERIA

[FG Cuts Electricity Tariff By Over 50 Percent](#)

March 18 | Vanguard (Lagos)

Following recent complaints of high electricity tariff by consumers and its grave impact on the nation's economy, the Federal Government has announced reduction of electricity tariff by over 50 percent in some places.

[FG, Local Firm Partner to Develop Solar Power Projects](#)

March 24 | Daily Independent (Lagos)

Federal Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ezektech Limited for the provision of solar powered plants ranging from 250kw to 1mw across the country.

[IFC Powers Rural Communities With Lighting Africa Project](#)

March 11 | The Guardian (Lagos)

To help the about 30 percent of Nigeria's population living in rural communities have access to affordable, clean and safer

lighting outside the national grid, the International Finance Corporation, (IFC) in Lagos launched the Lighting Africa Programme in Nigeria.

[Lagos Govt Set to Power 172 Schools With Solar](#)

March 12 | Vanguard (Lagos)

Gov. Babatunde Fashola of Lagos State on Thursday said the state government had commenced a process to connect 172 public schools in the state to the solar power.

[Majority wants government to address electricity woes](#)

March 31 | New 24 Nigeria

The majority of Nigerians has cited the electricity crisis as the topmost issue the incoming government must address. According to NOI Polls, 68 percent of adult Nigerians surveyed want the government to address electricity shortages within the next 6 months.

TANZANIA

[Church Invests Heavily in Biogas to Mitigate Effects of Climate Change](#)

March 15 | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) has joined the fight against global warming through investing heavily in alternative and clean energy, especially biogas, to offset effects of climate change. The church has so far invested over 800m/- to execute the 'green-oriented' programme of installing biogas plants in more than 1,140 homes nationwide through

projects that will cover five years.

[Huge Agro-Waste Potential Is Wasted](#)

March 25 | Tanzania Daily News

Agro-waste conversion to generate energy for productive applications remains largely untapped area that could contribute immensely in addressing insufficient electricity.

[Mega Wind Power Project Pencilled for Singida](#)

March 9 | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

The government is planning to spend more than 132 million US dollars for the construction of wind power project in Singida, expected to produce 50-megawatts.

[More Villages Connected to Solar Power Project](#)

March 13 | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

A total of 10 villages in Kongwa, Mlele and Uyui Districts have been connected to a new government run container solar power project, intended to bring electricity to off-grid areas of rural Tanzania. The project aims to reach people in remote villages not covered by the country's Rural Energy Agency (REA) projects. After the end of pilot phase scheduled in July this year, the government plans to install 600 more solar generators in villages around the country.

IN THE NEWS - Full Clips

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Africa: Burundi Moving Towards Solar | March 31 | DomesticFuel.com

Source URL: <http://domesticfuel.com/2015/03/31/burundi-moving-towards-solar/>

Burundi is moving towards solar. Via the Power Africa and Power Africa's Beyond the Grid sub-initiative, [Gigawatt Global](#) has been awarded two grants to bring solar to the country, where only four percent of the population has access to residential power. The proposed project, a 7.5 Megawatt (MW) solar field, will increase the country's generation capacity by 15 percent. Currently, Burundi experiences a high frequency of blackouts, with downtime in electrical access an average of two days a week. Burundi has a total of only 52 MW of installed electrical capacity, including 15.5 MW of diesel-generated power.

The effort in Burundi is being supported by two grants totaling nearly \$1 million, from Power Africa via the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) and the Energy and Environment Partnership (EEP), a coalition representing the British, Finnish, and Austrian governments. Gigawatt Global plans to develop and manage a 7.5 MW solar PV field on a 15-hectare site in the Gitega region, 65 miles from the capital of Bujumbura. The facility will produce electricity needed for 60,000 households. The total cost of the project is estimated to be approximately \$20 million.

"Our impact investment model is to strengthen developing nations, both economically and environmentally, by providing renewable energy sources where they are most needed," said Yosef Abramowitz, President of Gigawatt Global, an American-owned Dutch developer. This announcement follows [Gigawatt Global's launch last month](#) of East Africa's largest utility-scale solar field, which added 6 percent to Rwanda's electricity generation capacity and for which it was nominated for the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize. "We plan to build 1,000 solar megawatts in Africa by 2020, thereby providing electricity to millions of households and institutions that are currently without the most basic of human needs."

USTDA's grant will fund a feasibility study that will address key technical and economic aspects of the solar project, conduct environmental and social impact assessments, and provide the necessary analysis for the project to secure financing. The grant funds awarded by EEP will be used for pre-development works and legal costs.

"USTDA is pleased to provide Gigawatt Global Burundi S.A. this grant for a feasibility study, which will utilize U.S. industry expertise to advance this important project," said USTDA Director Leocadia I. Zak. "This activity supports Power Africa's objectives of increasing access to power and promoting greater private investment in Africa's energy sector."

Africa: Gambia: 'Gambia Registers Giant Steps in Meeting Sustainable Energy' | The Point | March 16

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201503161957.html>

By Abdoulie Nyockeh

The Minister of Energy, Dr Edward Saja Sanneh, has said The Gambia in recognition of the importance of the energy sector, has fulfilled the United Nations sustainable energy for all requirements and targets.

Briefing the media on the outcome of the recent validation of the United Nations Sustainable Energy for All Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus, at the Sheraton Hotel, Minister Sanneh said this achievement had been registered through hard work from the Ministry of Energy and its line agencies, NAWEC and especially with the support of the President of the nation.

"The Gambia, chosen as a pilot study, is the first country to validate the United Nations sustainable energy for all action agenda and investment prospectus," the minister said.

"This was achieved due to the dynamic leadership of the Gambian leader and through his encouragement, hard work and love for the country in ensuring that The Gambia has reliable and stable energy sources."

The Energy minister said further that The Gambia was the first country to validate the United Nations sustainable energy for all action agenda and investment prospectus.

In an effort at ensuring sustainable energy for the nation, The Gambia would look for sources of energy that would meet the needs of the present generation of Gambians, as well as future generations, he added.

"We have all seen that since the inception of the power system in the country it has been mostly heavy fuel oil," Dr Sanneh said, adding that the situation has posed a challenge to the country considering the scarcity of heavy fuel oil globally, which could have a severe impact on the country's economy.

With such scarcity, there would be unreliable and unsteady supply of electricity, which could impede socio-economic activity and bring businesses such as IT-based systems to a standstill.

"The Gambia as a nation has taken up this bold initiative to take the lead not only within Africa, but the entire world to show the viability or the visibility of using different types of sources of energy which are sustainable," the Energy minister said.

It was already proven that solar energy and wind energy could generate reliable electricity in The Gambia, he added, he continued, adding the Energy ministry is working very hard to get these energy sources widely applied in The Gambia.

This was in line with The Gambia's 50th Independence anniversary celebrations, Minister Sanneh noted, adding that Africans should take their destinies into their own hands.

"The current system or infrastructure of power generation was built since colonial times, and now it is our role and responsibility as Africans, after going through 50 years, to come up with our own innovative means of harnessing energy," he said.

Dr Sanneh added that wind energy and solar power "will contribute to the energy stability of our country."

Africa: Transition To A Green Economy In Africa | March 9 | Clean Technia

Source URL: <http://cleantechnica.com/2015/03/09/transition-green-economy-africa/>

March 9th, 2015 by [Sandy Dechert](#)

Responding to a strong perceived demand from governments for current information about a green economy Africa, the United Nations Environment Program reported Thursday from Nairobi on the [power of green investments](#) in the nations of Africa. Says one international expert in green economics, “The list of successful examples of green investments in Africa is far greater than what is generally imagined. The potential is enormous.”

UNEP undertook the new *Green Economy Africa Synthesis Report* to help policymakers better understand the opportunities for, challenges to, and wide and powerful consequences of making green economy transitions. The study collates the results of a look at green development in about 20% of the continent’s 50-some countries. UNEP has just presented the report at the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, which is now taking place in Nairobi, Kenya.

Africa is a continent of contradictions. Incredibly wealthy in sustainable, renewable, and unexploited mineral and fuel resources, it also harbors some of the least habitable conditions for people. Real gross domestic product has increased across Africa at just over 5%/year during the past decade—yet half of sub-Saharan Africans live in extreme poverty. About three-quarters of households have no access to improved sanitation and the same number are not connected to an electric power grid.

The official French foreign policy website, [France Diplomatie](#), looks at the African dilemma from a poignant overall historical perspective.

“Africa is the continent that has contributed least to greenhouse gas emissions, but it’s also one of the continents that are suffering most from the consequences, notably in terms of desertification, rising sea levels, and deforestation.”

Less developed regions like this seek both sustainable and equitable growth. They have seen rapid industrialization compromise the natural environment in most areas that are highly developed. Many African countries have thus begun to expand their investments in renewable energy. In many cases, its use is a real no-brainer: the sun shines 325 days per year; the continent possesses huge hydroelectric potential and is using less than 7% of it; and less than 2% of its geothermal capacity is being captured.

Measuring progress to date in agriculture, energy, water, fisheries, buildings, manufacturing, transport, and tourism, the UNEP finds that greening economies are boosting both GDP and life expectancy, creating more and better jobs, and rapidly reducing the poverty gap. Speaking at the ongoing AMCEN, UNEP Executive Director and UN Under-Secretary-General Achim Steiner has made clear his belief that the transition to a green economy Africa has begun and is already reaping sustainable dividends across the continent.

“This report makes clear that green investments can not only drive economic growth faster than business as usual investments, but represent a valuable opportunity for Africa to conserve the

natural wealth on which economies, lives, and livelihoods depend. Many African countries are beginning to tap into this potential.”

And innovations that change the game in developing countries do not have to be expensive, the report says. For example, one small solar light-emitting diode can save a family more than US \$1 per week on kerosene, an expensive and nonrenewable fuel. That small LED also enables families to use evening time constructively without incurring the negative effects of burning kerosene on their health.

Across Africa, governments have initiated green economic growth and are beginning to incorporate it into national development planning. Steiner cites renewable energy development in Burkina Faso, which is expected to increase electricity generation from renewables 180% more than business as usual investments, and the new Green Economy Accord in South Africa, which will create 300,000 green jobs by 2020.

Some other examples of the report’s conclusions:

- **Burkina Faso** – Burkina Faso has also pioneered a National Investment Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development to increase funding in environmental sustainability.
- **Egypt** – Energy efficiency measures in Egypt could cut energy consumption by a third (33 billion kW). Egypt’s Electricity Transmission Company has already installed 225 MW of wind energy capacity.
- **Kenya** – GDP in Kenya is projected to grow 12% higher by 2030 under the green economy scenario. A shift in investment to green sectors would lift an additional 3.1 million people in Kenya out of poverty by that date, compared to investments in business as usual.
- **Senegal** – In Senegal, green investments in sustainable agriculture technologies and techniques can facilitate an increase in arable land. Total available agricultural land is projected to decrease there without green investments.
- **South Africa** – As well as increasing green jobs through the new Green Economy Accord, South African investments in natural resource management—particularly in land restoration—are projected to save billions of tons of water.
- Also **Rwanda, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Ghana** are all developing strategies through intergovernmental processes. Macroeconomic studies support each of these as well.

Steiner looks to the AMCEN conference to identify the right mix of policy, incentives, capacity development, and informational tools to scale up renewable investments, identify the best means of achieving the mix, and bring “the enormous potential of these green investments to scale.”

Africa: Video - Rwanda steps up electricity generation | March 31 | CNBC Africa

Source URL: <http://www.cnbc africa.com/video/?bctid=4144772281001>

Tue, 31 Mar 2015 14:45:26 GMT

As the region steps up its efforts in ensuring electricity generated within the member countries is sustainable, Rwanda continues to fast-track development within the sector. The government and European Union signed a financing agreement worth 17 billion Rwandan franc, that will go towards improving the infrastructure, and curbing power losses that have been faced in the past. According to the minister of finance, Rwanda's current energy capacity stands at 155 megawatts and is expected to rise to 563 megawatts by 2017. CNBC Africa reports.

Africa: Zambia: Renewable Energy Tariff Policy Developed | March 17 | The Times of Zambia

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201503180200.html>

By Maimbolwa Mulikelela

THE Government in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has developed the Renewable Energy Feed-In-Tariff (REFIT) policy for Zambia.

This is aimed at creating an enabling environment for both public and private investors to effectively participate in the development of the renewable energy sector.

Mines, Energy and Water Development deputy Minister Charles Zulu said the development of the REFIT policy would assist countries like Zambia to upscale the utilisation of renewable energy technologies.

"It is therefore, my Government's decision to develop the REFIT policy in order to create the much needed conducive environment for the effective thriving as well as fulfilment of the needs of the renewable energy industry," he said.

He said the use of renewable energy was increasingly becoming important in the energy mix of many countries including Zambia.

"It should be noted that in the back drop of the abundance of energy resources the country was endowed with, the energy sector has continued to face a number of challenges such as lack of adequate power supply to drive the economic development of the country.

"None existence of enabling policy to unlock renewable energy technologies and high cost of equipment for renewable energy technology development," he said.

Mr Zulu said these challenges have contributed to low levels of access to electricity especially in the rural areas which currently stands at about four per cent. USAID Zambia economic growth team

leader Anna Toness said REFIT had the power to transform the energy landscape of the country by incentivising greater production of renewable energy in ways that most efficiently used.

"It is a mechanism that reduces price volatility in the sector and will significantly increase the development of renewable energy," she said

Ethiopia - Ethiopia's Largest Hydro Plant to Produce Power This Year | March 19 | Bloomberg

Source URL: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-03-18/ethiopia-s-largest-hydro-plant-to-produce-electricity-this-year>

[William Davison](#)

12:00 AM EAT March 19, 2015

(Bloomberg) -- Ethiopia's government plans to start generating electricity from its largest hydropower plant, Gibe III, in the second half of the year if annual rains sufficiently fill its reservoir, Water and Energy Minister Alemayehu Tegen said.

The wet season from June through August should allow the state-owned Ethiopian Electric Power Office, or EEPO, to begin producing 187 megawatts of electricity from one of the 10 turbines installed at Africa's tallest dam, he said by phone on Tuesday from Addis Ababa, the capital. The dam is 243 meters (797 feet) high.

"Gibe III will start power generation after the rainy season," Alemayehu said. "It will be this year."

The 1,870-megawatt capacity Gibe III is the latest of four large-scale Ethiopian dams built by the government since 2004 to supply nascent manufacturing industries and produce surplus electricity to sell to neighboring countries. Ethiopia is seeking to capitalize on its hydropower-generating capacity of 45,000 megawatts, which the World Bank ranks as Africa's second-largest after the Democratic Republic of Congo.

EEPO plans to bring a turbine online every month after the plant starts generation, though that will depend on the amount of rainfall in the Gibe-Omo river basin, Alemayehu said.

"If there is sufficient water in the reservoir it will be possible to generate the maximum," he said. "If there's no water, you will limit the number of turbines."

Regulated Flow

The dam will store 11.8 billion cubic meters (3.1 trillion gallons) of water that can be released downstream for power generation or other purposes, according to the project's website. The Three Gorges Dam in China, the world's largest hydropower dam, holds 39.3 billion cubic meters.

Ethiopian officials say that in addition to power generation, Gibe III will regulate water flows to end annual flooding in the southwestern South Omo region and provide a year-round supply for downstream irrigation projects.

The flow into Lake Turkana, which is mostly in neighboring Kenya, will be reduced by about two-thirds for an estimated three years while the reservoir is being filled, International Rivers, a Berkeley-based non-profit organization that campaigns against large dams, said last month.

The group also says that the approximately 28 percent of the river's annual flow drawn off for 150,000 hectares (370,658 acres) of Ethiopian state-owned sugar plantations in the South Omo region will exacerbate shortages at Lake Turkana and threaten the livelihood of as many as 300,000 people.

Conflict Risk

The rapid construction of plantations and the arrival of "hundreds of thousands" of migrant laborers "may significantly increase the risk of conflict" in ethnically diverse South Omo, the Development Assistance Group of donors to Ethiopia, said this month.

Gibe III's electro-mechanical works were built by China's Chengdu-based Dongfang Electric Corp. using a \$470 million loan from the government's Industrial and Commercial Bank of China. An electricity-transmission line from Ethiopia to Kenya may be finished in 2018, Alemayehu said. The entire project cost 1.47 billion euros (\$1.6 billion), according to the Gibe III website.

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Ethiopia: Adama II Wind Farm Project Due to Be Completed in Three Months | March 9 | The Ethiopian Herald (Addis Ababa)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201503092431.html>

By Webheraldpressh*

The Adama II Wind Farm, a power generating project which has been jointly implemented by two Chinese companies, namely HYDROCHINA and CGCOC, since July 2013 is nearing completion.

Liu Jianquan, HYDROCHINA Procurement and Programme Manager told The Ethiopian Herald yesterday that 78 of the total 102 wind turbines, each having a power generating capacity of 1.53 megawatt of electricity, have already been erected.

The Project has now reached 83 per cent of completion and the entire Project work is expected to be finalized next June, according to Jianquan.

The 345 million USD power project will have the capacity to generate a total of 153 megawatt of electricity upon going fully operational which makes it the largest ever in the country and three times the capacity of the previously completed Adama I Project.

Among the 78 erected, the number of turbines that are already generating electricity has reached 30 since the first turbine started generating electricity in October last year, according to Liu Jianquan.

Apart from the installation of wind turbines the Adama II Project includes construction of transmission sub-stations that receive the electricity generated from the wind turbines and connect it to the national grid, a 2.6-km asphalt road, 56 maintenance roads and ditches.

"Now, transportation of all the materials needed for the installation of wind turbines and sub stations is completed, and what remains is erection of 14 turbines, and completion of 30 per cent of the maintenance roads as well as ditches," said Jianquan.

According to the Project Manager, the Adama II Wind Farm Project is also making positive contribution to technology transfer. In order to help facilitate the technology transfer, 22 Ethiopians were sent to Beijing for a one month training.

Leulseged Taddese and Izudin Mehammed, two of the 22 Ethiopians who attended the training and now doing monitoring work in the operation plant of the Project site, say that the Project is providing them with opportunities to learn new skills and technologies although the fact that some computer and software languages use only Chinese language makes it difficult for them to learn new skills as quickly as possible.

The Adama II Wind Farm Project has employed 900 Ethiopians who are working as technicians, secretaries and daily labourers, and 200 Chinese who have different expertise. Delays related to the settlement of land related issues during the early stages of the Project implementation and high wind at the Project site were the main challenges faced so far according to the Manager.

Ethiopia: Generating Power to Transform Ethiopia | March 8 | East African Business Week (Kampala)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201503100770.html>

The basis of any country's economic prospects is energy. Does it have adequate power supplies to fuel growth?

In the case of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, no effort is being spared to slash the current electricity deficit and ensure a surplus that will sustain investment and domestic consumer demand long into the future. The present 2000MW supply does not reflect the vast bounty available. Only 35% of the population has access to grid power.

In the government's Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), there is a high emphasis on hydropower resource development, but with an eye also on renewable sources such as solar, wind and geothermal given their cost competitiveness.

Power generation improved by around 230% between 2008 and 2012, with six hydroelectric and wind power projects coming online. These were Tekeze (2009, hydroelectric, 300 MW), Gibe II (2010, hydroelectric, 420 MW), Tana Beles (2010, hydroelectric, 460 MW), Amerti Nesha (2011, hydroelectric, 97 MW), Ashegoda (2012, wind, 30 MW), and Adama I (2012, wind, 51 MW).

It cannot be repeated enough, but Ethiopia has enormous potential for hydro-power and geothermal energy generation. This is crucial for industrialization of the country. Several studies have so far been carried out to estimate Ethiopia's potential and to develop short, medium and long-term investment plans for the power sector. The government is in the process of implementation.

According to the five-year GTP, the country's installed electricity generating capacity is expected to reach 10,000MW 2014/15 financial year. By this time, electricity coverage is expected to reach 75%.

The centerpiece today is the \$4.7 billion Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) which is being paid for by Ethiopians themselves. Formerly known as the Millennium Dam, it is being constructed in the Benishangul-Gumuz region of Ethiopia, on the Blue Nile River, about 40km east of Sudan. The project is owned by Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCO) and ultimately will deliver 6000MW.

GERD is expected to be completed by July 2017 and will not only serve Ethiopia, but Sudan and Egypt as well. Both countries depend on the Nile River for their water although 85% of the river flows in Ethiopia.

The dam's construction is expected to create up to 12,000 jobs. Approximately 20,000 people will be resettled during the course of the project.

The reservoir and dam will offer major benefits to Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan. Egypt has for a long time held the major ownership of the water from the Nile River and prevented Ethiopia from constructing a dam. Egypt depends on the Nile for 90% of its water needs.

The main and saddle dams will also create reservoirs with an impounding capacity of 74 billion cubic metres. The regulated flow of water from the dam will improve agriculture and the impact from evaporation of water from the dam will be minimal compared with other dams in Ethiopia, which will help in water conservation.

A tripartite committee was formed in January 2012 to promote understanding and look into the benefits and impacts the project would have on the three countries.

Abundance of water resources, means that Ethiopia will become the top regional power distributor within the next the 15 years or so.

Potential hydro-power generation is estimated at 45,000MW while geothermal sources will add another 5000MW. The country is also suitable for exploiting renewable alternatives like solar and wind, particularly in the rural areas.

Closely associated with electricity, is the need to guarantee safe water supplies.

Ethiopia has huge run-off and ground water potential. However, it currently utilizes only a small portion.

Access to safe potable water in urban areas was 81.3% in 2012/13. Access in the rural areas was about 66.5% during the safe period. The overall average of access to potable water supply was 68.45% in 2013/13.

A huge project deemed to satisfy safe water demand in the towns and rural areas was launched by the country's first five year development plan. Accordingly, the national access to potable water supply is expected to be 98% by the end of 2014/15.

Ethiopia: German Firm Conducts Study for Off-Grid Power Generation in Ethiopia | March 23 | Addis Fortune (Addis Ababa)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201503241682.html>

By Brook Abdu

Government recommends expanding range of renewable energy options

The Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MoWIE) is conducting a study for an off-grid investment plan which will allow the private sector to become involved in the production and sale of electricity.

The Ministry has received the first draft of the inception report which is intended to indicate the general problems in the sector and show different alternatives that can be used.

The study that is being conducted by Fechtner GmbH Co. & KG, is intended to allow both local and foreign companies to invest in renewable energy provision such as solar home systems and institutional solar systems, which are being supplied by the government.

Fechtner won the international competitive bid announced in February 2014 from 14 bidders and six shortlisted companies. After Fechtner was awarded the contract to conduct the study, it conducted a meeting with the Ministry on March 6, 2015, and discussed the inception report, which indicated that the availability of solar home systems, solar lanterns, institutional solar systems and cook stoves, vital for the project, is very limited.

The Ministry recommended the inclusion in the study of alternative technologies like mini hydropower and solar water pumps, according to Yisihak Seboka, rural electrification head at the MoWIE. The study was initiated because most of the country's people live in rural areas that cannot be reached by the national grid only.

"The demand is very high for electricity in rural areas and in order to address this demand, there needs to be integration among the stakeholders which is now a challenge; creating access to the grid electricity in rural regions cannot be feasible," Yisihak told Fortune.

The stakeholders considered in the sector are the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, Microfinance institutions, Ethiopian Energy Authority, Ministry of Education, and regional energy authority offices, according to Yisihak.

"Till now the farmers have been using diesel generators to pump water but this needs to be changed to solar to save hard currency and fit the green economy policy of the country that is the Climate Resilient Green Economy," he said.

The next stage of the study is travelling to the regions and assessing the cases on the spot and meeting the stakeholders that were contacted through phone and email for discussion of the inception report, added Yisihak.

"The major goal of the study is to decentralize the country's energy centers and liberalize it," says Yisihak. "This should not be made through integration of the regional and federal bureaus and offices."

The completion of the study is expected to lead to a plan to involve local and international private sector investments in providing alternative energy.

The study is financed by the Norwegian government under Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) that has been implemented in the country since 2010. CRGE is an initiative under the leadership of the Prime Minister's Office, the Environmental Protection Authority, and the Ethiopian Development Research Institute that developed a strategy to build a green economy in Ethiopia since February 2011.

Fechtner, which won the bid for two million Br will complete the study within six months and the Ministry will receive the full report after four months with two months already taken to produce the inception report.

"The study will be completed within the time frame as we are following up the progress of the process and we will also have reports every time," said Yisihak.

Ethiopia plans to generate 10,000MW of electricity thorough the grid line by the end of its five-year Growth & Transformation plan (GTP) that will end this fiscal year with a power supply that stands at 2,268MW. Ethiopia is said to have the capacity of generating 45,000MW of hydropower, 1,000MW of geothermal energy, and 10,000MW of wind and solar energy, according to the Ethiopian Electric Power website.

"This will surely create a good opportunity for the private sector to engage in such investments as it is an issue that we have been advocating for long," says Dereje Walelign (Eng.) managing director of Lydetco Plc, a company engaged in solar energy production. "But the study should have engaged the private sector in the process."

Dereje also comments that prospective private sector investors are insecure unless a legal framework is provided to shield their investments from the expansion of provision by the national grid.

"There should also be some kind of protection to local investors as only foreign investors will dominate if there is going to be a requirement of minimum generation capacity of the investments," explained Dereje.

The study is not intended for short term solution, but will provide a roadmap for private sector investment in the industry, says Yisihak.

Ghana: China to build \$1 billion solar power plant in Ghana | March 20 | GhanaWeb.com

Source URL: <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=351203>

China is to help build a 400-megawatt solar power plant in Ghana aimed at easing the energy crisis.

According to the Charge d'Affaires at the Chinese Embassy in Accra, Zhou Youbin, the Chinese Hanergy Group will be at the forefront of the \$1-billion project.

“China, as a traditional friend and an important development partner over the years, has spared no efforts in supporting the development and construction of Ghana,” Youbin said at a natural resource conference.

According to Xinhua, Zhou listed numerous projects the Chinese government had undertaken in Ghana such as the western corridor gas infrastructure development project, construction of the 400-megawatts Bui Dam, and the Kpong Water Supply Expansion Project.

“In 2014, statistics about China-Ghana cooperation is inspiring. Ghana's export to China and Chinese Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows to Ghana has both surpassed one billion dollars, making China the biggest investor of Ghana in the past year,” he said.

“The most important thing is to balance the interests of the stakeholders, mainly the government, mining communities and the investors. Policies to ensure the healthy and sustainable development of the mining sector should be designed as soon as possible,” Zhou added.

Ghana: More Companies Queue for Power Projects in Ghana | March 23 | Ghanaian Chronicle (Accra)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201503241124.html>

A shortfall of about 500 megawatts of power and the projections for additional power demand in Ghana has attracted more than 20 proposals from the US, Germany, Denmark, India, China, South Africa, Turkey, Brazil and others to invest in the country's power sector.

The Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr. Ekwow Spio-Garbrah, disclosed this when he joined seasoned investment and development experts to discuss the topic -'Turning Challenges into opportunities', at the just-ended Africa CEO Forum held in Geneva, Switzerland.

The annual forum of the CEOs of major African enterprises and top executives from global companies interested in Africa was organized by the Paris-based publishing firm, Groupe Jeune Afrique, and African Development Bank (AfDB) attracted over 8,00 participants.

Dr. Spio-Garbrah, who led the Ghanaian delegation to the summit, noted that these projects were from all sources of energy, including gas, coal, wind, solar, biomass, waste-to-energy, mini-hydro and even sea wave.

Despite the current energy crises which have plunged 30 African countries, including Ghana, South Africa and Nigeria into darkness, he appealed to investors to take advantage of the situation.

According to him, Ghana has the second-highest penetration of power to the general population, at 76% of the population, second only to South Africa in sub-Saharan Africa, 80% of whose population had access to electricity.

Dr. Spio-Garbrah attributed the feat chalked by the country to the rural electrification programme embarked by present and successive governments. He, therefore, urged companies to set up industries in the rural areas to help stem rural-urban migration in the West African country.

Dr. Spio-Garbrah observed that while rapid urbanization and the growing slums in some African cities were a cause for concern and needed better planning and management, the urbanization also offered numerous investment opportunities.

He stated that; "if investors considered the human life cycle, from birth to death or from cradle to grave", or even the average person's daily needs, opportunities for investment in the urban communities of a country, such as Ghana, ranged from housing to transportation, to shopping centres, food supply, building and office equipment and supplies and utilities.

Increasingly, for major public investments in utilities such as water, sewerage, sanitation and water treatment, and waste disposal and management involved various models of public-private partnerships".

But Dr. Christopher J. Kirubi, a Director of Centum Investment Group, a leading investment company in East Africa blamed Africa's slums on the various governments for doing nothing to improve slum dwellers' lives.

He added that African governments lack planning and urged them to improve the lives of the people living shanty areas. Dr. Kirubi also added his voice to call on investors to come and invest in Africa, saying "Africa has a lot of space which you can invest in."

Ghana: Video - Ghana's power shortages take their toll | March 13 | BBC

Source URL: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-31880032>

13 March 2015 Last updated at 20:14 GMT

Power outages are a fact of life across much of Africa, with almost daily black-outs affecting rich and poor countries alike.

South Africa's power utility top officials have been suspended over power shortages - and early this year more more than half of Kenya suffered a power outage after a major transmission line failed.

Meanwhile Ghana is in the midst of the longest power crisis the country has ever known.

The BBC's Sammy Darko reports from Accra.

Kenya: Dumpsite to Produce Energy | March 31 | The Star (Nairobi)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201503311259.html>

By Joyce Kimani

Nakuru county government will partner with environmentalists to rehabilitate the Gioto dumpsite.

"The initiative will turn the waste into an energy producer," Governor Kinuthia Mbugua said.

Speaking to the Star in his office, the county boss said the initiative will generate electricity, bio diesel, raw material for tissue paper.

Mbugua said the dumpsite will also tap methane gas for domestic use. He said the county will acquire an energy production and waste management plant from Finland.

The technology will pave the way for production of high quality green electricity and a waste recycling plant. "Over 3000 tonnes of garbage produced in Nakuru town could support a power generation plant," he said.

He said his administration plans to convert used quarries into dumping sites.

The Governor said the people of Nakuru are in need of energy so that they can be more productive and be able to feed their families.

Kenya: Power Costs to Remain Low, Says Chirchir | March 17 | Capital FM (Nairobi)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201503180314.html>

By Kennedy Kangethe

Nairobi — The cost of electricity in the country is not expected to increase in the next one year even with the dry weather being experienced.

Energy Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir says this is due to the injection of the 280 megawatts of geothermal power at Olkaria into the national grid.

Chirchir also attributed steady supply to the stock of heavy fuel oil used in thermal generators bought in April and was not used up due to the geothermal generation.

He says thermal power accounts for 10 percent of the national generation mix down from 38 percent in August 2014, geothermal accounts for 51 percent.

"The fuel cost charge, the single major cost item on the power bills has reduced by 65 percent nearly threefold to Sh2.57 per kwh in February down from Sh7.22 per kwh in August last year," said Chirchir.

He says this will spur the economy and is a great incentive to the ease of doing business.

He said the government is also planning to build a low voltage electricity distribution system throughout the country to reach counties with low penetration rates.

He said this will see counties with low penetration rates close enough to connect to a low-voltage line at a relatively small cost.

"The most important barrier to grid connectivity has been the high price of an electricity connection. The low voltage network will see the country introduce a flat rate power connection cost which will be much lower than what is there currently," he added.

Chirchir was speaking during a forum for Cabinet Secretaries on the ease of doing business.

On his part, Industrialisation Cabinet Secretary Adan Mohammed said while there is more work to be done, the process of registering a business in Kenya now takes 12 days down from 32 days while it takes about 75 days to connect electricity for business premises down from 158 days.

"One of the remedies to reduce business processes has been simplifying procedures automating processes to enable small businesses obtain single permits by allowing self-declaration by applicants while eliminating the requirement for a declaration of compliance," he added.

Kenya improved by one position in the World Bank Doing Business Report 2015, where it ranks at position 136 out of 189 nations globally compared to the 2014 report where it ranked 137 in the ease of doing business.

The country dropped nine places in starting a business factor from position 134 in the World Bank Doing Business 2014 report to position 143 but improved 44 places in the paying taxes category from position 146 in the previous report to position 102 in the Doing Business Report 2015 Rankings.

Kenya: Toyota Tsusho to Invest Billions in Kenya's Energy Sector | March 15 | Capital FM (Nairobi)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201503161601.html>

Tokyo — Toyota Tsusho Corporation said on Sunday it wanted to invest billions of dollars in Kenya's energy sector after it successfully build the 280-megawatt Olkaria plants that have significantly enhanced Kenya's "green" credentials.

At a meeting in Tokyo with President Uhuru Kenyatta, who is on a five-day official visit, senior Toyota Tsusho executives said they had set their eyes on a number of geothermal projects the government is due to put to tender in the coming weeks.

The projects include a unit of Olkaria I and V, and Olkaria VI. Other fields of interest included Menengai, Akiira, Longonot, Baringo-Silali and Suswa power projects, Toyota Tsusho CEO Jun Karube told the President.

It signalled a significant rise in interest in investing in Kenya by the Japanese government and companies, and followed Friday's watershed meeting between President Kenyatta and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the Prime Minister's official residence in Tokyo.

Toyota Tsusho, which carried out a feasibility study on the building of an oil refinery from Lamu port through to Kampala and Kigali, also expressed interest in bidding for the project itself when it became available.

"Kenya is a showcase for geothermal production in Africa. We are now ready to take further steps in the forthcoming projects," Karube said.

President Kenyatta welcomed Toyota Tsusho's interest in the Kenyan and regional projects, but added that the interest would only be pursued within the framework of existing rules and procedures.

"We are keen that we develop these resources. We have clear procedures and are looking forward to the processes being carried out in line with our laws and procedures," the President said.

Karube also said Toyota Tsusho was implementing a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Mombasa County two years ago to build a multi-billion shilling water desalination plant to alleviate the second city's perennial shortages.

Toyota Tsusho was now awaiting a Letter of Intent, which usually offers the green-light for a project to proceed, from Mombasa before embarking on the \$162 million project.

"Mombasa is a critical town and the project will ensure that it is adequately supplied with this important commodity," President Kenyatta said.

Under the project, 100,000 cubic meters of water will be desalinated from the Indian Ocean to the county's 1.7 million people daily.

He asked the National Treasury Cabinet Secretary Henry Rotich to work with the County Government of Mombasa in ensuring the implementation of the water project.

Karube said Toyota Tsusho has set 2017 as the water project's commercial operation date.

Karube said his investment-hungry group has a keen interest in the container terminal at the Port of Mombasa, and would participate in the tender process with other contenders.

Toyota Tsusho Corporation opened its human resources training centre - Toyota Kenya Academy - at the Toyota Kenya Business Park in Nairobi last year July.

Cabinet Secretaries Amb. Amina Mohammed and Eng. Michael Kamau also attended the meeting. Toyota Kenya Chairman Dennis Awori was also present.

Kenya: Western Kenya Power Deal Signed | March 15 | East African Business Week (Kampala)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201503162119.html>

Nairobi — *Two contracts have been signed by the Kenya Electricity Transmission Company Limited (KETRACO) for the implementation of the Olkaria-Lessos-Kisumu electricity transmission project writes JOSEPH BURITE.*

The new 400kV line will bring geothermal energy from the increased capacity at Olkaria to western Kenya.

This is expected to substantially improve customer services. The project will also serve as the backbone for regional power interconnection among the countries in the region.

The planned network involves connecting to the Ethiopia-Kenya interconnector which terminates at Suswa substation, via the Olkaria-Suswa project. The line will run from Olkaria to Lessos (near

Eldoret), connecting to Tororo in Uganda via the Kenya Uganda interconnector and further to Rwanda.

The Olkaria - Lessos - Kisumu project shall consist of three lots, whose tenders were awarded to: Kalpataru Power Transmission Company Limited (India) in joint venture with Kinden Corporation (Japan) for Lot 1; NARI Group Corporation (NARI) and China Construction Civil Engineering Limited Consortium (China) for Lot 2; and SIEYUAN Electric Co. Limited (China) for Lot 3.

Lot 1 involves the construction of an approximately 213 km, 400kV transmission line from the Olkaria substation to the Lessos substation. The line is designed for 400kV use, but will initially be operated as a 220kV link.

The scope of Lot 2 is to construct approximately 100km of 220kV double circuit line from Lessos to Kisumu. This lot also includes the interconnection line of approximately 3.5 km of 132kV double circuit line between the new 220kV Kisumu East substation in Kibos and the existing 132kV Kisumu substation in Mamboleo.

Lot 3 shall involve the expansion of the existing Olkaria-II substation, works at the Lessos substation, the expansion of the existing Mamboleo substation and construction of the new 150 MVA 220/132/33 kV Kibos substation.

Liberia: PIU Returns to Resume Work On Mount Coffee Hydro | March 14 | Liberia News Agency (Monrovia)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201503171068.html>

By Hilary Vasco Wiagbe

The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) has returned to Liberia to resume rehabilitation work on the Mount Coffee Hydro Plant in Harrisburg, Montserrado County.

Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) Chief Executive Officer Joseph Mayah told the Information Ministry regular press briefing Friday that the PIU is currently

preparing to begin work in full swing shortly.

Mayah noted that the implementation of the project will put the LEC in a better position to provide improved and affordable electricity services to its customers.

Rehabilitation work began January, 2014 following a ground breaking ceremony by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

The project, which is co-financed by the Governments of Norway and Germany, the World Bank and European Investment Bank as well as the Government of Liberia, was halted last year as a result of the Ebola outbreak, forcing the contractors to leave the country.

The target date for the completion of the project was the end of 2016.

LINA

Nigeria: FG Cuts Electricity Tariff By Over 50 Percent | March 18 | Vanguard (Lagos)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201503180622.html>

By Chris Ochayi

ABUJA-- Following recent complaints of high electricity tariff by consumers and its grave impact on the nation's economy, the Federal Government has announced reduction of electricity tariff by over 50 percent in some places.

The Chairman of Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission, Dr. Sam Amadi who announced the reduction in a statement issued yesterday in Abuja, said however that the reduction does not affect the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, facility and its payment.

Dr. Amadi explained that the reduction was arrived at after the Commission had reviewed the technical and financial assumption of MYTO 2.1.

He said "The review shows that the major underlying cause of the skyrocketing increase in the tariff is the huge Aggregate Technical, Commercial and Collection (ATC&C) losses, which are passed through to consumers. In some DISCOs ATC&C losses raised tariff by as much as 80-103%.

"The Commission has been listening to consumers and taking full account of the impact of high tariff on consumers and the Nigerian economy, has therefore reviewed the basis of the MYTO 2.1 assumptions and has determined that it is inappropriate to transfer to consumers collection losses that are controllable by DISCOs.

"It is the responsibility of the DISCOs to collect their revenue from their customers. Failure to do so should not be a penalty to customers who pay their bills. It is clear that removing the collection losses will lead to lower tariffs for consumers.

"The removal of collection losses from customer tariff has reduced tariff by more than 50 percent in some places. Please note that the reduction does not affect the CBN facility and its repayment," he said.

The Chairman said further, "Therefore, On Monday, March 9, 2015 the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) issued a new order to the effect that henceforth collection loss, which is defined as the 'amount billed but not collected', will not be automatically passed on to consumers of electricity.

"Consequently, the collection loss for all DISCOs is set at zero. It is now the responsibility of DISCOs to convince the regulator of any exceptional circumstances for such loss to be passed to the consumers.

"This new direction comes as part of the commencement of the Transitional Electricity Market (TEM). TEM is built on bilateral trading between parties and is geared towards ensuring an efficient market where cost reflectivity will lead to more affordable electric services for consumers.

"As part of preparing for TEM the Commission has issued a tariff review regulation that requires the utilities to consult with relevant consumer classes before presenting a tariff review application to the commission to approve.

"It is now the responsibility of the DISCOs to prepare and present to the Commission a tariff that will ensure that they recover their costs and ensure efficient operations.

"This new order now amends the MYTO 2.1 and has reduced the tariff to be paid by all class of consumers. In the review MYTO 2.1 the Commission followed due process and the regulatory principles. The EPSR commits the Commission to ensuring full recovery of prudent costs for efficient operators.

"The Commission is obligated to make sure that only prudent and efficient costs are passed to consumers. The principle is to ensure that the distribution company operates efficiently and provide quality and affordable services to consumers.

"NERC remains committed to the principle of cost- reflective pricing and to the development of an efficient and financially viable electricity market. These are important to support the investment that is needed to ensure the electricity supply industry meets the needs of the Nigerian economy.

"The decision to review tariff is completely compatible with the terms of the privatization and has been reviewed with the Bureau for Public Enterprises (BPE). NERC and BPE are working together to advocate for series of fiscal policies that will foster easier access to investible capital to further increase capacity and enhance reliability in the sector."

Amadi recalled that, Since January 1, 2015 when the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) approved the MYTO 2.1 we have received several complaints against the increase in tariff of different consumer classes.

"Industrial and commercial consumers under the auspices of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) petitioned the commission asking for a review of the MYTO 2.1 and requested drastic reduction of their tariff. They claimed that such astronomical increase in tariff would kill their business and lead to massive job losses.

"The Electric Power Sector Reform Act and the Business Rules of the Commission mandate the Commission to review its decision at the petition of an interested party who complains within 60 days of the decision.

"Pursuant to these rules, the Commission organized public hearing and received evidence from consumer classes on the affordability of the new tariff.

"The Commission also invited the Chief executive Officers of the distribution companies to the hearing to respond to the case of the consumer groups. Furthermore, the Commission reviewed the technical and financial assumption of MYTO 2.1."

Nigeria: FG, Local Firm Partner to Develop Solar Power Projects | March 24 | Daily Independent (Lagos)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201503240252.html>

Federal Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ezektech Limited for the provision of solar powered plants ranging from 250kw to 1mw across the country.

Minister of Power, Chinedu Nebo who signed on behalf of the Government described the initiative as the right thing to do, stressing : "the project should not be put in the archives".

Nebo noted that Government is determined to see "action, because these things are do-able".

The Minister who described the provision of electricity in smaller ranges as laudable, disclosed that it would be devoid of licensing bottlenecks as stipulated by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), which would make the delivery of power to the people easier and quicker.

According to him, the power generated by the venture could be distributed to larger industrial clusters and agrarian communities, adding that government on its part had already embraced a similar initiative as could be seen from its Operation Light-Up Rural Nigeria (OLRN) project.

The project, though small, would gradually lead to improvement in access to power by such recipients as this will further increase their performance, and thereby further enhance their contribution to the economic well-being of the people, he said.

Earlier, the Managing Director of the Company, Ezekiel Adeyemi stated that the Consortium had earlier produced a proto-type of the venture, a 7.5kw solar-powered farm settlement in Ondo and 10kw in Ijebu Ode, assuring that the company would show-case its expertise through the introduction of global standard technology in solar-powered energy source.

Nigeria: IFC Powers Rural Communities With Lighting Africa Project | March 11 | The Guardian (Lagos)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201503121586.html>

By Gbenga Salau

TO help the about 30 percent of Nigeria's population living in rural communities have access to affordable, clean and safer lighting outside the national grid, the International Finance Corporation, (IFC) yesterday in Lagos launched the Lighting Africa Programme in Nigeria.

The project, according to the IFC, hopes to mobilize private sector to build and develop markets that enable access to clean, affordable, quality lighting products by fostering partnerships among local and global manufacturers and creating new channels through local distribution companies that will help build robust supply chains for off-grid lighting products.

The Programme Manager for Lighting Africa, Itotia Njagi, said that the project is about helping to build a market to bring off-grid lighting and energy services across Africa by establishing quality standards, investing in consumer education, creating a favourable investment climate and supporting innovative business models.

"As we foster these partnerships among all parties in the industry, various opportunities would be explored and our goal of inclusive electrification would be achieved in Nigeria."

According to Njagi, Nigeria is the 13th country such a project would be launched disclosing that the expansion of the Lighting Africa programme to Nigeria supports the World Bank group's Energy Business Plan,

He further said that under the Energy Business Plan, each World Bank Group institution would leverage its competencies and products to provide solutions to projects that encourage their viability and contribute to the sustainability of Nigeria's power sector to underpin the government's ambitious privatization and reform programme.

At the launch, companies involved in the production and distribution of solar energy products displayed various types of products at the exhibition stand. Some of the products could provide energy for lights, to charge phones and basic home appliances like television.

Nigeria: Lagos Govt Set to Power 172 Schools With Solar | March 12 | Vanguard (Lagos)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201503130300.html>

Lagos — Gov. Babatunde Fashola of Lagos State on Thursday said the state government had commenced a process to connect 172 public schools in the state to the solar power.

Fashola made the remark at the presentation of corporate social responsibility awards to 424 individuals, civil society groups and corporate bodies, for their contributions to primary and secondary schools in the state.

"One of the things that have failed primary and secondary schools in Lagos state is regular and uninterrupted electricity supply.

"We have engaged another strategic partnership with the Dfid Engineering Company; we are putting solar panel packs in 172 schools in the first phase.

"When we successfully complete that phase, we will continue school by school.

"We will ensure that each school has its own power.

"About 20 of those schools have been completed.

"Government Secondary School, Meiran, has commissioned its own power, the power serves the school dormitory and hostels," he said.

Fashola said the "support a school project" became necessary because government now has more schools to manage, than they had in the past, when government was doing more of regulation.

He said the state had also increased that education budget to 16.8 per cent in 2015, but still needs more support from its partners.

"Today is a day to say thank you.

"Some of you I never met, but you have supported our schools. It is not because of me that you have supported our schools, but because of our children.

"The state budget increases year in year out; we have increased education budget from 15 per cent in 2014 to 16.8 in 2015.

"The 2015 budget is facing revenue funding challenges because it is no longer a secret that our oil resources have reduced.

"Many states cannot pay salaries; Lagos is not one of those states that cannot pay salaries," he said.

Fashola said the public confidence in public schools had also increased.

"An independent polls commission shows that as at December 2014, 52 per cent of Lagos residents enrolled their children in public primary schools.

"Sixty-one per cent have their children in public secondary schools. We have similar indices in our health system."

The News Agency of Nigeria reports that Access Bank Plc, Julius Berger Nig. Plc, Budhrani Charitable Trust, Lion's club, Nigerian Bottling Company, OANDO Foundation, MTN Nigeria and CAPL Plc. were among the awardees.

Mr Akinwale Goodluck, Corporate Service Executive, MTN Communications Ltd., said Lagos State had distinguished itself in receiving corporate social responsibility.

Goodluck said Lagos was a key market for MTN thus, the need to do a lot of corporate social responsibility for the state.

"Lagos is not the only place where we do business; but in other states, we are unable to do anything because there is a complete absence of structure.

"We found that the Lagos environment is conducive, and we thank the state government for providing the enabling environment for our company to operate," he said.

Mrs Olayinka Oladunjoye, Lagos State Commissioner for Education, said the ministry would focus more on primary and technical education in 2015.

Oladunjoye said the support our school initiative is aimed at revamping the state educational system through the active participation of individuals, organisations and civil society groups.

She said 1,009 primary schools, 348 junior secondary and 327 senior secondary schools and five technical colleges had benefited from the support our school project.

Mr Olawunmi Gasper, Chairman, Lagos State Technical and Vocational Education Board, said there was increase in the enrolment in technical colleges, in the past five years.

Gasper said eight years ago, nobody was interested in technical education, but through the support of MTN, things had changed.

"Technical education has made a real difference in lives of countless young people nationwide; it builds self confidence and leadership skills by allowing students to be self employed," he said.

He called for more support in the area of youth innovation and enterprise, to drive entrepreneurship and reduce unemployment.

NAN

Nigeria: Majority wants government to address electricity woes | March 31 | New 24 Nigeria

Source URL: <http://www.news24.com.ng/National/News/Majority-wants-government-to-address-electricity-woes-20150331>

Okoro Chinedu

Lagos - The majority of Nigerians has cited the electricity crisis as the topmost issue the incoming government must address.

This is according to a survey a regional polling agency conducted.

According to NOIPolls, 68 percent of adult Nigerians surveyed want the government to address electricity shortages within the next 6 months.

Other issues which Nigerians want the government to address in the next six months in order of priority include Security (58 percent), Job Creation (55 percent), Roads (49 percent), Education (42 percent), Healthcare (31 percent), Agriculture/food security (29 percent), Potable Water' (26 percent), Transportation (24 percent), and Corruption with 21 percent.

Also Read: [Imo market receives generator to boost power](#)

Furthermore, 'poor electricity supply' has been identified as the most critical factor impeding growth of Nigerian businesses. Consequently, more than 6 in 10 Nigerians (63 percent) were of the opinion that the Federal government should be responsible for creating an enabling environment for businesses to thrive in the country.

The poll involved telephone interviews of a random nationwide sample. A total of 1 500 randomly selected phone-owning Nigerians aged 18 years and above, representing the six geopolitical zones in the country, were interviewed.

"With a sample of this size, we can say with 95 percent confidence that the results obtained are statistically precise - within a range of plus or minus 2.5 percent," NOIPolls stated on Tuesday.

It is estimated only 40 million Nigerians, out of a population of more than 173 million, currently have access to electricity.

- CAJ News

Tanzania: Church Invests Heavily in Biogas to Mitigate Effects of Climate Change | March 15 | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201503160644.html>

By Marc Nkwame

Arusha — THE Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) has joined the fight against global warming through investing heavily in alternative and clean energy, especially biogas, to offset effects of climate change.

Deputy ELCT Secretary General, Mr Bryton Killewa, stated here over the weekend that the church has so far invested over 800m/- to execute the 'green-oriented' programme of installing biogas plants in more than 1,140 homes nationwide through projects that will cover five years.

He was speaking at the family home of Mr and Mrs William Kivuyo in Kivulul village, Enaboishu ward in Arumeru District where the latest biogas plant was fitted to mark the 2015 annual ELCT environment day.

It is reported that Arusha, whose native residents are mostly nomadic Maasai pastoralists, is home to over 12 million livestock, mostly cattle and this makes the region to have 30 per cent of the country's total livestock stable.

Tanzania with about 21.3 million cattle, 15.2 million goats and 6.4 million sheep or about 43 million livestock, is third in Africa after Sudan and Ethiopia in having the highest number of kept animals on the continent.

Waste products from the animals are adequate to produce enough biogas to run many homes around the year. During the occasion, Mr Killewa also distributed 100 Neem tree seedlings to Loruvan Primary School pupils.

The pupils wanted to plant the Neem tree seedlings in nurseries within their school environment because their scent is known to "keep away harmful insects" such as mosquitoes and flies.

ELCT Coordinator for Life and Environment Programme, Ms Patricia Mwaikenda, said the church has also spent 2.4m/- to buy tree seedlings and distribute them to the community in effort to replenish the country with green cover and help to arrest carbon emissions.

"We have bought and distributed 1,681 tree seedlings among them 352 fruit trees and assorted 1,329 others," she said. "We figured that planting trees, in addition to saving the environment can also improve our diet through fruits and health from herbal medicine," said Ms Mwaikenda, reminding that tree-planting was still an important thing even though people take this for granted nowadays.

The ELCT Life and Environment programme is also working to train people in formation of 'kitchen gardens' to supplement domestic diets, proper ways of farming and livestock keeping in respect to the environment, prevention of soil erosion and irrigation.

Tanzania: Huge Agro-Waste Potential Is Wasted | March 25 | Tanzania Daily News

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201503251680.html>

By Daily News Reporter

AGRO-WASTE conversion to generate energy for productive applications remains largely untapped area that could contribute immensely in addressing insufficient electricity.

The Director of Environment in the Vice-President's Office, Dr Julius Ningu, said this in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday at the launch of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)/Global Environmental Facility-5 project) on promotion of waste to energy for industrial application.

"Energy from agricultural waste is one of the clean, renewable and efficient energy technologies abundantly available in the country; however its share to the national grid is about 2 per cent only," he said.

For example, an annual rice production is about 1.3 tons producing waste by-products such as rice straw, leaves and stems, rice husk, dust and other wastes that could generate up to 40 megawatts of electricity but goes untapped, he said.

Studies reveal further that a total of 22 million tons of timber produced annually of which 25 per cent are wastes could generate up to 300 megawatts.

Also manure produced from various ranches across the country can generate around 20 megawatts, he said. "All these are cost efficient energy sources preferably for supporting rural communities and agro-processing activities, thus contributing immensely in poverty alleviation," he said.

Statistics show that around 11 per cent of rural people have access to electricity where around 70 per cent of the 45 million country's population lives.

Also that 50 per cent of the population living in poverty spend more than 35 per cent of their household income to meet energy needs like kerosine, charcoal and dry cells.

UNIDO national project coordinator Mr Emmanuel Michael said it has been established that agriculture wastes could generate up to 650 megawatts but currently less than 40 megawatts are exploited.

"Our energy policy is good, thus resting for the state and non state actors to capitalise on the opportunity," he said, adding that the project aims at promoting biomass waste to energy application in agroindustries to enable them utilise waste produced in their facilities to generate energy.

Tanzania: Mega Wind Power Project Pencilled for Singida | March 9 | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201503090946.html>

THE government is planning to spend more than 132 million US dollars for the construction of wind power project in Singida, expected to produce 50-megawatts.

National Development Corporation (NDC) Head of Energy and Infrastructure development, Pascal Malesa said the project is expected to start production of power by next year.

Briefing the Parliamentary Committee on Energy and Minerals, Malesa said plans are at an advanced stage ready for the implementation.

The project which is a joint venture dubbed Geo Wind Power Tanzania Limited (Geo Wind) signed in 2011, with NDC owning 60 per cent, Tanesco 20 per cent and Power Pool East Africa Limited 20 per cent.

Magesa said the costs are for the implementation of the first phase of the project whose 50 megawatt will be connected to the national grid.

He said the funds for the implementation of the project will come from a loan from Exim Bank of China. Malesa said after thorough investigations and study about the project, the Exim Bank of China agreed to give a soft loan in September last year for the project to take off.

He said the government through NDC is making a close follow up to ensure that agreement for that effect is signed soon for the proper and timely implementation of the project.

The project, Malesa said, will improve performance of the national grid power supply especially during droughts. "It will be a relief to the government as it will not have to spend money to buy fuel for the turbines during power shortages," he said.

He said they will also empower local experts through exchange programmes so that they can be able to handle and run the project. Malesa said more than 2,200 people will be employed by the project and it will generate 23.2 million dollars annually.

Tanzania: More Villages Connected to Solar Power Project | March 13 | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201503131350.html>

Dodoma — A TOTAL of 10 villages in Kongwa, Mlele and Uyui Districts have been connected to a new government run container solar power project, intended to bring electricity to off-grid areas of rural Tanzania.

The project aims to reach people in remote villages not covered by the country's Rural Energy Agency (REA) projects. After the end of pilot phase scheduled in July this year, the government plans to install 600 more solar generators in villages around the country.

Ministries of Energy and Minerals and Natural Resources and Tourism signed an agreement of the completion of the first phase with Austria firm Elektro- Merl which brought 14 solar panels feed batteries housed in shipping containers to the mentioned villages.

Speaking after the signing ceremony, representative from the Ministry, Engineer Styden Rwebangira, said the solar energy will be provided free of charge for two years, though arrangements were being made to ensure users contribute something to cover the project's ongoing costs.

He said that after two years villagers will commence to contribute, in which the money will be used for purchasing maintenance and repair equipment such as batteries and panels.

"The equipment are sold at high price, so we need to have proper arrangements to collect funds for purchasing new equipment whenever needed thus after two years community members will start contributing," he said.

In the project, households are connected to solar panels feed batteries put in shipping containers, with the power then carried out to the community on distribution lines similar to those used by Tanesco.

Expert at Elektro Merl, Engineer Hannes Merl, said that the signed agreement also involved installation of wires, lights, switches and sockets in each house.

Eng Merl said that each container has a capacity to produce 13.75 kWp in which each house and business places will be provided with 250W and civil society organization 500W.

He added that villagers can also connect their small sawmill, grilling, planning and other business from the containers.

The Engineer said the project had provided refrigerator for each dispensaries and health centres in the villages, adding they have also installed street lights for each village which have benefited from the project.

Some of the beneficiaries said the solar generator in their village simplifies their work and get enough power for drilling and electric saws.

Salum Maulid, who runs a small sawmill in Tura village, said the solar generator in his village which sits a stone's throw away from his home is now powering the machines he uses in his work.