

“POWER AFRICA” & PARTNER COUNTRY ENERGY IN THE NEWS

September 7 - 20, 2014

Article Summaries & Full Clips

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IN THE NEWS: Featured “Power Africa” Articles

September 6 - 20, 2014

POWER AFRICA DEVELOPMENTS

[NEPAD signs MoU with USAID to support Power Africa](#)

September 17 | African Review

The African Union’s New Partnership for Africa’s Development Agency NEPAD has signed an MoU with USAID to support its Power Africa initiative. USAID’s Power Africa initiative aims to provide electricity to 600mn homes and businesses over the next five years, and is primarily focused on projects in Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria and Liberia.

[How The U.S. Aims to Aid Climate Change in Africa](#)

September 12 | AFKInsider

At the August 5 business forum, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry told reporters that the U.S. would be putting an additional \$10 million towards the efforts of the U.S.-Africa Clean Energy Finance Initiative —the main reasoning being that 600 million in Africa live without access to electricity. Aside from promoting business in Africa, recognizing the harsh effects of climate was a big topic; here’s why.

IN THE NEWS: Featured Partner Country Energy News

September 6 – September 20, 2014

AFRICA & REGIONAL NEWS

[Africa: Reliable Energy Critical to Sustainable Development in Africa - UN](#)

September 15 | Daily Independent (Lagos)

Special Representative and Chief Executive of the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative of the United Nations, said reliable energy was critical to sustainable development in Africa.

ETHIOPIA

[Ethiopia Exporting 170MW Power to Neighboring Countries](#)

September 17 | Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency (Addis Ababa)

The Ethiopian Electric Service (EES), a company leading the service delivery, said the

nation is currently exporting 170MW power to neighboring countries. Sudan, Djibouti and Kenya are the three countries being provided with 100MW, 60MW and 10MW of electricity respectively

[Ethiopia’s Grand Renaissance - Steady Economic Growth](#)

September 17 | The National Law Review

As Ethiopia’s economy grows, so too do its energy demands. Fortunately, Ethiopia is also blessed with some of the world’s greatest renewable energy resources. As of 2010, nearly 90 percent of installed energy capacity came from hydroelectric power, and some estimates of the country’s total hydropower potential exceed 45,000MW, second in Africa only to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Despite this potential, Ethiopia has remained a net energy importer. That may be set to change.

[Geothermal Plant to Be Operational in April - Ministry](#)

September 14 | Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency (Addis Ababa)

Ethiopia is striving for the operation of the Aluto-Langano geothermal power plant with installed capacity of 70mw power in this fiscal year. Over 78 percent of construction of the geothermal plant has so far been finalized.

[GIZ plans major off-grid electricity project in Ethiopia](#)

September 8 | Turkish Weekly
As Ethiopia is constructing a multi-billion dollar dam project on the Nile among several

power-generation projects, European partners are chipping in with an off-grid electrification project that aims to bring electricity to the country's rural areas.

GHANA

[Kpone thermal project to add more electricity to national grid](#)

September 20 | *Daily Graphic*

The Kpone Thermal Power Project (KTPP), near Tema, is to add 220 megawatts of electricity to the national grid by the first quarter of 2015. On completion of the project, the two gas turbines of the \$220-million plant will each produce 110 megawatts of electricity. The dual-fuel turbines could use natural gas from the West African Gas Pipeline (WAGPI) and diesel to operate.

[Mainstream Renewable Power signs deal to build and operate first utility-scale wind farm](#)

September 16 | *Business & Financial Times Online*

Global wind and solar company, Mainstream Renewable Power has announced the signing of an agreement with Swiss wind farm developer NEK Umwelttechnik to purchase the 225 megawatt (MW) Ayitepa Wind Farm, located 40 kilometres from Accra on the east coast of Ghana. The project, which represents a total investment of US\$525 million, is expected to reach financial close next year and start generating power early in 2016.

[Power system faces imminent collapse if... - GRIDco CEO fears](#)

September 19 | *Myjoyonline.com*

The Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Grid Company (GRIDco), William Amuna, says the country's power system may collapse entirely if the current power rationing is not managed properly.

[WB Pledges More Support to Ghana Power Sector](#)

September 8 | *CAJ News*

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a private sector arm of the World Bank Group, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Volta River Authority (VRA) to support private sector investment in Ghana's power sector.

KENYA

[Barclays Lights Up Kenya in Sh26 Million Solar Initiative](#)

September 12 | *Capital FM*

Barclays Bank of Kenya (BBK) has invested Sh26 million in "Light up Kenya" an initiative aimed at moving more than 100,000 rural establishments to solar energy.

[Kenya aims to add 1,200 MW to creaking power grid](#)

September 16 | *Reuters*

- Kenya plans to add 500 megawatts (MW) of electricity to the national grid from natural gas deposits, the energy minister said on Tuesday, taking steps to address chronic power shortages that critics say have discouraged investments.

[Kenya Power Says E-Billing to Save Millions](#)

September 16 | *The Star*

Kenya Power will shift at least one million postpaid customers into the electronic billing system to this month, a move the it expects will save up to Sh420 million its uses to post them bills annually.

[Kenya Scaling Up Power Generation With Geothermal Energy](#)

September 17 | *Ventures Africa*

Kenya's power output is expected to get a further boost with the addition of a further 70MW to the national grid, as part of the 280MW target placed by Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen).

[Mumias Sugar Reviewing Electricity Deal With Kenya Power](#)

September 13 | *The Star*

NSE-listed sugar miller Mumias is renegotiating its co-generation electricity purchase agreement with Kenya Power, citing capacity and pricing issues that have skewed the deal against it.

LIBERIA

No related articles identified

NIGERIA

[Lagos Considers Nuclear Energy for Power Generation](#)

September 17 | *CAJ News*

The Lagos State Government is exploring nuclear energy as an

alternative power generation source to boost its power supply.

[Nigeria to Sell TCN Assets for U.S.\\$20 Billion](#)

September 16 | Vanguard

Nigeria will earn more than \$20 billion from the sale of the assets of its national electricity transmission company, TCN, as it struggles to provide adequate power to Africa's largest economy. The sale of state-owned Transmission Company of Nigeria may start "in a few years."

[Total Targets 1,000MW Solar Power Project in Nigeria](#)

September 9 | This Day

French oil giant, Total targets to build solar power plants that will generate 1,000 megawatts in Nigeria as part of the company's efforts to address the power supply challenges in the country.

TANZANIA

[Hired Power Plants for Shutdown](#)

September 17 | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

The (Tanzania) government has announced a move to retire all the emergency power generation plants by January, next year and save 1.6trn/- annually which is spent to hire the plants.

[Rural Communities Turn to Biogas to Save Trees](#)

September 12 | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

Rural communities in Karagwe District, Kagera Region are quickly embracing the use of biogas as a way of cutting the cost of fuel for cooking and lighting. Karagwe District, with a population of 332,020 people has seen several households install biogas digesters to take advantage of abundant animal waste to produce clean energy. Biogas is a clean combustible, renewable gas produced from organic waste such as cow dung.

[Sea Wave Power On Horizon](#)

September 18 | Tanzania Daily News

TANZANIA and Finland have formed an economic partnership in renewable energy particularly sea wave energy with a view to addressing electricity shortages.

IN THE NEWS - Full Clips

September 6 - 20, 2014

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Power Africa: How The U.S. Aims to Aid Climate Change in Africa | September 12 | AFKInsider

<http://afkinsider.com/68094/why-climate-was-a-big-deal-at-the-us-africa-leaders-summit/>

Last month at the Bloomberg Philanthropies hosted U.S.-Africa Business Forum, a package of economic and socially impactful deals to benefit Africa were announced. The event — part of the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit — summed up how \$33 billion would be invested in Africa.

According to The White House, a total of \$26 Billion — \$12 billion from the summit — will now be allocated to Obama’s Power Africa initiative, while \$7 billion will be directed towards U.S.-Africa exports. In addition, American companies including GE, Coca Cola and Marriott will inject \$14 billion into commercial investments.

Two years ago it was announced that the U.S.-Africa Clean Energy Finance Initiative would be launched to help sustain Africa’s power resources while encouraging development.

At the August 5 business forum, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry told reporters that the U.S. would be putting an additional \$10 billion towards the efforts of the U.S.-Africa Clean Energy Finance Initiative —the main reasoning being that 600 million in Africa live without access to electricity. Aside from promoting business in Africa, recognizing the harsh effects of climate was a big topic; here’s why:

“Climate change is a crisis that waits for no one and it respects no border. It’s not a challenge of the future, it’s here now. We’re witnessing it in country after country, in various ways whether it’s water supplies, drought, food agriculture, food security, fisheries — you name it,” Kerry said.

“There isn’t a part of the world where they aren’t having some consequences as a result of what is happening. And it’s also happening at a pace that is particularly alarming to people.”

Africa’s Climate Change and the Link to Food Security

On the day of the summit’s kickoff, August 4, a panel discussion titled “Resilience and Food Security in a Changing Climate” was held. African and U.S. leaders said that the continent’s agricultural resources suffered most from floods and droughts.

According to the United Nations, 65 percent of Africans rely on agriculture to sustain their livelihoods. In addition, 94 percent of agriculture is reliant on adequate rainfall. These facts create problems for the future of Africa as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that by 2020 up to 250 million people on the continent will face water stress. An IPCC report also mentions that up to 50 percent of rain-dependent agriculture could be lost by 2020.

“We need to change those numbers and replace them with a partnership that benefits all sides,” Kerry said at the forum about similar statistics.

He also mentioned speaking to African leaders prior to the summit and learning about their ideas for partnerships and solutions.

“All of them talked to me about their desire to leapfrog the mistakes. [They want] to go quickly into clean and alternative and renewable energy, rather than the exploitation of fossil fuel, carbon and all

of the problems that come with it,” he said. “The United States wants to support countries across Africa that make that transition to clean energy more rapidly.”

Leading Youth to Agriculture

Nkosazana Clarice Dlamini-Zuma, chairperson of the African Union, spoke at the resilience and food security panel and suggested that in conjunction with funds to support the reversal of climate change, the continent’s youth can help as well.

“What I think is important for our partners and our leaders is to assure that you are able to attract young people into agriculture. If we don’t attract young people, before we know there’ll be nobody in agriculture,” Dlamini-Zuma said. “We have to look at agriculture as a way of investing in people.”

During the same event, Second Lady of the United States Jill Biden spoke about women and the contribution that they make to agriculture, often passing down skills and farming as a whole to their families. Without the necessary protection against climate change, this will be a harder task to accomplish.

Ending Emergency Assistance Through Policy

“The goal is simple; create the conditions where emergency assistance and intervention is no longer needed. That ultimately is how we will prevent the kind of suffering that I saw in Somalia three years ago,” Biden said sharing a story from her personal journey to Africa.

“African nations have made impressive progress in farming techniques and growing food. But through no fault of their own, were hit by the worst drought in 60 years.”

For months this drought, which hit Somalia, Kenya, Djibouti and Ethiopia in 2011 caused more than 10 million people to face the worst famine situation in 20 years, according to NASA.

The following year The World Bank reported that 17 million West Africans dealt with the same food insecurity impacts — a result of drought, which was linked to climate.

While climate change cannot easily be controlled, transitioning to clean energy and a solid energy policy, Kerry said, is what will help balance out and hopefully eradicate Africa’s pressing climate effects.

“The fact is that good energy solutions are climate solutions. The solution to climate change is energy policy,” he said. “Africa can be a clean energy beacon for the world. Energy prosperity can actually replace energy policy.”

Power Africa: NEPAD signs MoU with USAID to support Power Africa | September 17 | African Review

Source URL: <http://www.africanreview.com/energy-a-power/power-generation/nepad-signs-mou-with-usaid-to-support-power-africa>

Wednesday, 17 September 2014 09:27



The African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development Agency NEPAD has signed an MoU with USAID to support its Power Africa initiative

USAID's Power Africa initiative aims to provide electricity to 600mn homes and businesses over the next five years, and is primarily focused on projects in Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria and Liberia.

According to the terms of the MoU, Power Africa will support NEPAD's process to finalize energy projects on a priority basis. These projects are under the Africa Power Vision (APV).

NEPAD officials said they will seek opportunities for collaboration between Power Africa transaction advisors and NEPAD officials in order to choose priority APV energy projects and provide support to NEPAD from Power Africa's senior advisory group.

"Energy availability, accessibility, affordability and security are fundamental pre-requisites for any meaningful socio-economic development in Africa. Through the MoU, the expertise, resources and outreach available to both NEPAD and Power Africa will play an important role in achieving this goal for the majority of the African population," said Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of NEPAD.

This MoU was finalized after Barack Obama, President of USA announced that Power Africa seeks to provide energy to more than 600mn homes and businesses over the next five years.

Africa: Reliable Energy Critical to Sustainable Development in Africa - UN September 15 | Daily Independent (Lagos)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409160452.html>

Dr Kandeh Yumkela, Special Representative and Chief Executive of the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative of the United Nations, said reliable energy was critical to sustainable development in Africa.

Yumkela said this on Monday in Abuja at the Bamanga Tukur International Legacy lecture series.

According to him, the value of energy on the African continent cannot be underestimated.

He said that cheap, affordable and sustainable energy was critical to drive the economy of the African continent.

Yumkela stressed the need for good political leadership that would evolve policies to reform energy system across the continent.

This, he added, would evolve the right institutions and investment in infrastructure that would be long lasting.

He said Africa had lots of energy resources which could be effectively utilized if the right political leadership was in place to evolve corresponding policies.

Yumkela emphasized the need for Africa to have a stake in the climate change discussion because its worse impact was on the continent.

"The worse impact of the climate change is on Africa more than any other region in the world.

"When we talk about 5.3 per cent increase in temperature globally, each degree rise will be about 1.5 per cent in Africa.

"So Africa must care about how others use and produce energy; Africa must care about climate change because we will suffer the most for what we did not create," he said.

According to him, the continent has become hotter, losing 50 per cent of its crop yields.

"The country is now experiencing more flood and more draught, while it only accounts for less than three per cent of cooking house gas," he said.

Yumkela said it was in the interest of Africa that others were producing and using energy perfectly, the continent should take advantage of the new and existing technology to ensure energy access.

"This has become necessary to grow economy and eradicate poverty on the continent because over 600 million Africans do not have access to electricity.

He expressed optimism that Nigeria could become the Brazil of Africa if its enormous mineral recourses were effectively utilised.

"There is no other country in Africa that has the same potential like Brazil than Nigeria," he said.

He explained that an effective synergy between government and the private sector was critical to evolve sustainable energy development in the continent.

Earlier, Alhaji Bamanga Tukur, a former National Chairman of the PDP who just turned 79, said that the essence of the lecture was to build capacity for sustainable development and trade.

He said it was regrettable that in spite of the enormous resources in Africa, the continent was still battling with energy challenge.

Tukur expressed the hope that discussions from the lecture would generate issues that would lead to evolving solutions to energy challenge in the region.

The lecture, held under the auspices of the Bamanga Tukur Africa Institution for International Trade and Development, is expected to hold in China, United Kingdom and Ghana at a later date.

The lecture is expected to examine in details, issues surrounding energy generation in Sub Saharan Africa with a view to addressing them.

Present at the lecture were some members of the African Roundtable, Ms Babra Borogie of the African Development Bank, some foreign dignitaries and members of the National Assembly

Ethiopia: Ethiopia Exporting 170MW Power to Neighboring Countries | September 17 | Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency (Addis Ababa)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409180240.html>

By Nesru Jemal

The Ethiopian Electric Service (EES), a company leading the service delivery, said the nation is currently exporting 170MW power to neighboring countries.

Sudan, Djibouti and Kenya are the three countries being provided with 100MW, 60MW and 10MW of electricity respectively, EES Executive Officer, Biteweded Gebrealif, told Walta Information Center.

Ethiopia's current cumulative power generation capacity stands at 2370MW, which according to the officer is enough to meet the national demand.

The power disconnection that occurs in the country is not because of power shortage but due to problems in the installation of power carrying grids, he said.

The power is being exported at night, a time with no peak power requirements, and on the basis of a program designed not to jeopardize local consumption, he indicated.

In addition to generating foreign currency, the power export would further cement Ethiopia's economic ties with neighboring countries, according to Biteweded.

Ethiopia began export of energy to Djibouti in May 2011 and Sudan in November 2012.

Ethiopia: Ethiopia's Grand Renaissance - Steady Economic Growth | September 17 | The National Law Review

Source URL: <http://www.natlawreview.com/article/ethiopia-s-grand-renaissance-steady-economic-growth>

posted on: Wednesday, September 17, 2014

By any measure Ethiopia is experiencing impressive economic growth. According to IMF data, GDP grew 8.7 percent in 2012, the country's weakest year since 2009. In 2010, GDP grew a blistering 12.6 percent, higher than all but a handful of countries worldwide. Going forward, the IMF estimates Ethiopia's economy will grow at 8.0 to 8.5 percent in the upcoming fiscal years. Ethiopia's Finance Ministry is even more bullish, predicting 11 and 11.4 percent growth in the next two fiscal years.

As Ethiopia's economy grows, so too do its energy demands. Fortunately, Ethiopia is also blessed with some of the world's greatest renewable energy resources. As of 2010, nearly 90 percent of installed energy capacity came from hydroelectric power, and some estimates of the country's total hydropower potential exceed 45,000MW, second in Africa only to the Democratic Republic of the

Congo. Despite this potential, Ethiopia has remained a net energy importer. That may be set to change.

In Ethiopia's northernmost region, close to the border with Sudan, a new structure is rising on the Blue Nile river that will shape Ethiopia's — and East Africa's — energy future: the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. Its name is not modest, but neither is its potential impact. Currently about 30 percent complete, the dam will become Africa's largest, producing an estimated 6,000MW of electricity. Ethiopia is largely funding the \$4.7 billion project itself, through a combination of bonds and taxes.

There is no doubt that Ethiopia's stunning growth is fueling its energy ambitions, including the ambitious Renaissance Dam project. But it is not unreasonable to think that the Renaissance Dam itself will further drive Ethiopia's growth. The project has already created more than 10,000 jobs. Moreover, a recent study of East Africa energy experts concluded that hydroelectric power provided the greatest potential to close the region's energy gap — nearly two thirds of Africans have no access to electricity — and recommended greater investment.

To be sure, the project has not been without controversy. Egypt and Sudan have expressed concern that the dam will have detrimental downstream effects, including to agriculture. While relations have been icy since Ethiopia started construction in May 2013, the parties are continuing to work through the outstanding issues: a fourth round of tripartite was held last month in Khartoum.

Ethiopia's torrid growth cannot continue forever, but if the Renaissance Dam is as successful as predicted, it is hard to see how the view from Addis Ababa will not be bright.

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Ethiopia: Geothermal Plant to Be Operational in April - Ministry | September 14 | Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency (Addis Ababa)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409150555.html>

By Zerihun Getachew

Ethiopia is striving for the operation of the Aluto-Langano geothermal power plant with installed capacity of 70mw power in this fiscal year, the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy said.

Energy Study and Development Follow-up Director, Gosaye Mengistie said over 78 percent of construction of the geothermal plant has so far been finalized.

It is expected that the plant will commence operation in April.

Launched in 2013, the expansion of the Aluto-Langano geothermal power plant will increase the country's generation capacity from geothermal to 70mw power from the current 7mw.

The expansion project is financed by assistance from a 12 million dollar grant from the government of Japan, a 13 million dollar loan from the World Bank and 10 million dollars from the Ethiopian government.

Located in the Rift Valley Lakes Region, the Aluto Langano Geothermal Power Plant is the first geothermal power plant in Ethiopia.

The plant was established in 1998 as a pilot project to test the geothermal resources in the area.

The nation has set target to generate 1,000mw power from two geothermal plants, Tendaho and Corbeti geothermal plants, in the coming few years, he added.

The Tendaho power plant due to be undertaken in Afar regional state, north eastern part of the country, will have a capacity to generate 100mw power.

The nation has also signed agreement with a US- Icelandic private developer Reykjavik Geothermal (RG) to construct Africa's largest geothermal plant.

The Corbeti geothermal project the country due to build with 4 billion USD will be Africa's largest geothermal plant, with 1,000mw installed power.

Construction of this plant, which will be undertaken in two phases, each with 500mw installed capacity will be completed with an 8 to 10 year period, it was stated.

These projects are part of the government's plan to raise power output to 10,000mw by 2015, in order to meet the growing demand.

It is estimated that Ethiopia has a potential to generate up to 5,000mw power from only geothermal.

Twenty two power generator sites, with huge geothermal potential have identified so far in the rift valley system, it is noted.

Dalol, Tendaho, Abi, Tiye, Meleka, Dafan, Fentale, Gedemesa, Tulu, Moye, Aloto Langano, Corbeti, and Abaya are among the places identified with huge geothermal potential in Ethiopia.

These projects will help the nation realize the vision to build green economy by 2025, the director noted.

It is estimated that the country's demand for electricity increases by 25 to 30 percent annually.

Ethiopia: GIZ plans major off-grid electricity project in Ethiopia | September 8 | Turkish Weekly

Source URL: <http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/171498/giz-plans-major-off-grid-electricity-project-in-ethiopia.html>

As Ethiopia is constructing a multi-billion dollar dam project on the Nile among several power-generation projects, European partners are chipping in with an off-grid electrification project that aims to bring electricity to the country's rural areas. "In the next three years, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) plans to facilitate electricity access for further 1.3 million people in rural areas of Ethiopia," Hannes Utescher, head of GIZ Corporate Communications in Ethiopia, told Anadolu Agency. The project, he said, falls under the Energizing Development Program – a joint global initiative by Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Australia, United Kingdom and Switzerland,

he said. The venture aims to help low-income households in off-grid areas gain sustainable access to modern energy services, which would also enable them to access education, communication and refrigeration among others, the GIZ official added. The program is being implemented in the rural areas of the Amhara, Tigray, Oromia and Southern Ethiopian Peoples regions. "To date, photovoltaic solar systems have been installed in more than 120 public-sector health centers and eight community centers which had no connection to the electricity grid," Utescher said. "They now provide access to modern energy services for more than three million people." Moreover, GIZ coordinated and trained more than 600 producers of energy-efficient cook stoves on marketing and production techniques. They have sold almost 750,000 stoves and more than 1.8 million people have benefited from these stoves. "Using the [energy-efficient] stoves, an average household saves around 575 kilograms of firewood every year," he said. "Also, four pilot micro-hydropower plants have been constructed in three villages in southern Ethiopia, which can provide up to 23,000 residents with electricity." The total budget expenditure of the German agency for off-grid electricity projects has amounted to 11.7 million euro since 2010, Utescher said. All activities are implemented in collaboration with the Ethiopian Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy, he added. By Abebech Tamene

Ghana: Kpone thermal project to add more electricity to national grid | September 20 | Daily Graphic

Source URL: <http://gbcghana.com/1.1846871>

Sep 20, 2014 at 10:04am

The Kpone Thermal Power Project (KTPP), near Tema, is to add 220 megawatts of electricity to the national grid by the first quarter of 2015. On completion of the project, the two gas turbines of the \$220-million plant will each produce 110 megawatts of electricity. The dual-fuel turbines could use natural gas from the West African Gas Pipeline (WAGPI) and diesel to operate. The project is being jointly funded by the government and the Volta River Authority (VRA), with each providing \$110 million. The Project Manager of the project, Mr Francis Y. Agbenyo, said the project started in October 2012 and was expected to be completed in September, this year.

He, however, stated that lack of funds had slowed down work on the plant and the VRA, as of August 2014, needed \$57 million to complete the project. He said originally the VRA had intended to use its internally generated funds to execute the project but an accident on the West African Pipeline wiped out the company's profit made in the previous year, thus delaying the project. He added that the company had so far used \$20 million of its internally generated funds and a \$90 million credit facility from the Fidelity Bank to finance the project. The project manager said the authority would undertake a test running on the first gas turbine on December 25, 2014 and carry out the same exercise on the second turbine in January the following year.

This is to ensure harmony among all the air, water, fuel and firefighting and detection systems of the turbines to make sure that they function properly before we enter into a commercial operation declaration and inauguration of the plant," he stated. The project manager said the unreliable supply of gas from the West African Gas Pipeline had made the VRA sign agreements with other private gas companies in Nigeria to supply gas to the plant. "We may be buying more expensive gas from private entities but it is far cheaper and better than our plants running on crude oil," Mr Agbenyo said. He said the country needed about 200 megawatts of power each year to boost the economy

and to meet the demand of the growing population. “Luckily, we have a lot of space for expansion to ensure adequate power generation at the Kpone Thermal Power Plant,” he said. The Corporate Communications Manager of the VRA, Mr Samuel Fleisher, said the consumption of every megawatt cost the country \$1 million and called on the public to conserve energy. “We cannot continue wasting 20 to 30 per cent of electricity that comes to our homes and offices. It is time we thought of serious conservation of energy,” he said. SOURCE: Daily Graphic

Ghana: Mainstream Renewable Power signs deal to build and operate first utility-scale wind farm | September 16 | Business & Financial Times Online

Source URL: <http://thebftonline.com/content/mainstream-renewable-power-signs-deal-build-and-operate-first-utility-scale-wind-farm>

Global wind and solar company, Mainstream Renewable Power has announced the signing of an agreement with Swiss wind farm developer NEK Umwelttechnik to purchase the 225 megawatt (MW) Ayitepa Wind Farm, located 40 kilometres from Accra on the east coast of Ghana.

The project, which represents a total investment of US\$525 million, is expected to reach financial close next year and start generating power early in 2016.

The companies will co-develop the wind farm until financial close. Mainstream will manage the construction as well as the operations and maintenance of the wind farm for its lifecycle. The project is currently in the latter stages of development with all major permits secured. Grid and offtake agreements are being finalised.

When fully operational the wind farm will generate approximately 10% of Ghana’s total electricity generation capacity which currently stands at 2,000MW.

Commenting on this initiative, Mr. Wisdom Ahiataku-Togobo the Director of Renewable Energy at the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Ghana says: “It is my hope that this agreement between NEK and Mainstream will accelerate the process towards the realisation of wind farms in Ghana and they can be assured of the full support of the Ministry of Energy & Petroleum.

The project is consistent with government policy to increase the contribution of renewable energy in the electricity generation mix. The Renewable Energy Act 2011 (Act) provides the necessary legal and fiscal incentives including feed-in-tariff (sufficient security) to ensure return on investment by Independent Power Producers.

The government has more than two years of bankable wind energy data along the south eastern corridor of the country where wind energy prospects are very encouraging.”

Commenting on the deal, Mainstream’s Chief Executive Eddie O’Connor said: “This wind farm is the ideal solution for Ghana because the country needs large quantities of electricity and it needs it fast. Wind and solar power are the only proven technologies in the world today which can achieve the dual objectives of speed of deployment and scale.

From initial concept to operation Mainstream has delivered utility-scale projects into operation in just over three years. The Ayitepa Wind Farm is well advanced and can be generating electricity in less than 18 months from now. No other generation technology can match that in terms of speed of delivery.”

He continued: “Mainstream is delighted to further strengthen our position as the leading wind and solar developer on the continent of Africa. We have already developed and built the continent’s largest operating wind farm at Jeffreys Bay.

In South Africa, Mainstream has three wind and solar farms already operational and an additional three large-scale wind farms ready to go into construction this year.”

On signing the agreement, Dr. Christoph Kapp NEK’s Chief Executive commented: “After more than fifteen years of presence in Ghana, NEK is very pleased to announce that with Mainstream Renewable Power we have found a very experienced and professional partner with whom we will implement this first large scale wind project in West Africa.

This project will not only contribute to a sustainable, clean and independent production of electricity, but will also be accompanied by a lot of social benefits and improvements for the local population such as labour, better education, water supply and electrification for nearby villages and towns.”

Ghana: Power system faces imminent collapse if... - GRIDco CEO fears | September 19 | Myjoyonline.com

Source URL: <http://www.myjoyonline.com/news/2014/september-18th/power-system-faces-imminent-collapse-if-gridco-ceo-fears.php>

Ghana | Myjoyonline.com | Jerry Tsatro Mordy | jerry.mordy@myjoyonline.com

The Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Grid Company (GRIDco), William Amuna, says the country’s power system may collapse entirely if the current power rationing is not managed properly.

GRIDco, the power transmitter, has announced it will shut down all thermal plants by close of day (Thursday) due to unavailability of gas supply from Nigeria. The thermal plants -Asogli plant, Mines Reserve Plant, Finesse plant all in Tema and T3 in Aboadze- produce a total of 300 megawatts of electricity.

They solely depend on gas to generate power but an industrial action in Nigeria means Ghana will not have the gas to power its plants.

Compelled by the development, the Electricity Company of Ghana, the distributor announced Wednesday, it will shed about 500 megawatts of electricity supplied to consumers until things normalise. A detailed schedule for the load shedding which is deemed unprecedented, is expected to be published Friday.

Speaking on Joy FM's Super Morning Show, Mr. Amuna said the power crisis could get worse if the ECG fails to properly manage the exercise.

“What is going to happen is that if ECG is not able to do that, we could collapse the power system,” the GRIDco Chief dreaded.

He however, said the situation could improve if the labour unrest in the exporting country is resolved in the shortest possible time for the supply to be restored.

“We are also hoping that this [shortage] will be a short-lived problem from Nigeria and if they are able to restore the gas supply then things will improve significantly,” he stated.

Mr. Amuna has requested the public to “practice proper demand side management” to save more power. “If we do this we could save between 60-100 megawatts through demand side management”.

The Executive Director of Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP), Mohammed Amin Adams, says the country’s energy problems have become persistent “because most of the plants are undergoing maintenance and repairs”.

But he believes the challenge could be minimized significantly if the Atuabo Gas Plant fully comes on stream.

"If we have the Atuabo gas, it will not solve the problem completely but it will reduce the hardship significantly," Mr. Amin Adams said.

Ghana: WB Pledges More Support to Ghana Power Sector | September 8 | CAJ News

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409082104.html>

By Masahudu Kunateh

Accra — THE International Finance Corporation (IFC), a private sector arm of the World Bank Group, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Volta River Authority (VRA) to support private sector investment in Ghana's power sector.

"IFC is committed to supporting the goals of the Ghana National Energy Policy to increase installed generation capacity over the next few years to meet the growing energy needs of Ghanaians," said Richard Arkutu, IFC Manager: Africa Special Initiative for Infrastructure.

"By partnering with the Volta River Authority, we are able to identify the correct entry points for the private sector to have an impact on the country's development goals in the electricity sector."

According to him, IFC's potential investments will be provided via a number of instruments including early stage project development funding under IFC's InfraVentures project development fund; equity and senior loan participations; mezzanine and quasi equity participations; and mobilizing risk mitigation instruments such as World Bank Group partial risk guarantees and, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), a member of the World Bank Group political insurance.

Chief Executive of VRA, Kirk Cofie said the deal would go a long way to improve the financial position of the Authority to help improve power generation in the country.

The Government of Ghana, as outlined in the Ghana National Energy Policy, has prioritized the increase of installed generation capacity in the country to 5 000 MW by 2016, in order to drive the country's economic growth.

The Government is encouraging private sector investment in the Ghanaian power sector in order to help achieve this objective.

IFC and VRA have identified a number of generation opportunities to contribute to domestic power supply in line with the National Energy Policy, and will co-operate with respect to the development and financing of VRA's generation opportunities.

These proposed projects will be developed in partnership with internationally reputable and experienced power generation developers.

The power plants that are being jointly developed are expected to operate on a lower cost basis to ensure delivery of the affordable electricity to Ghanaians.

These plants are also expected to support alternative fuel projects such as liquefied natural gas import solution, and renewable energy projects.

Kenya: Barclays Lights Up Kenya in Sh26 Million Solar Initiative | September 12 | Capital FM

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409121238.html>

By Kennedy Kangethe

Nairobi — Barclays Bank of Kenya (BBK) has invested Sh26 million in "Light up Kenya" an initiative aimed at moving more than 100,000 rural establishments to solar energy.

The first phase of this initiative will be implemented in partnership with the Kenya Girl Guides Association.

The project is benchmarked on statistics that indicate that only 32 percent of the Kenyan population is connected to the national power grid.

The remaining 68 percent rely on environmentally harmful and expensive sources of fuel such as kerosene for energy.

Speaking when launching Light Up Kenya, BBK Chief Executive Officer, Jeremy Awori said the bank is committed to support the government to provide universal access to clean energy sources.

"One of the unique selling points of the Light Up Kenya initiative is the implementation model which is anchored on economic empowerment. 2500 youth and women drawn from 12 counties will be equipped with financial and employability skills to enable them set up sustainable businesses through which they will resell the solar kits," said Awori.

"This is in line with our commitment to transform the lives of 5 million youth by the year 2015," he added.

On her part, First Lady Margaret Kenyatta, who is also the patron of the Kenya Girl Guides Association called for more environmental conservation efforts to build on the country's forest cover.

"We are looking to plant 5 million trees in 3 years, I call upon various stakeholders to join the Guiding movement in environmental conservation efforts, to discourage desertification," urged the First Lady.

The Light Up Kenya initiative is part of the wider Barclays energy agenda which the bank partner with Kenya Energy Generating company and Kenya Power in their quest to provide clean energy.

The bank has also invested Sh13.4 billion to increase the capacity of the Thika Power plant by 60 Megawatts.

The bank has so far raised Sh7 million towards this initiative through its calendar activities ranging from employee programs, customer events as well as support from the Barclays golf circuits.

Kenya: Kenya aims to add 1,200 MW to creaking power grid | September 16 | Reuters

Source URL: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/16/kenya-energy-idUSL6N0RH3JA20140916>

NAIROBI, Sept 16 (Reuters) - Kenya plans to add 500 megawatts (MW) of electricity to the national grid from natural gas deposits, the energy minister said on Tuesday, taking steps to address chronic power shortages that critics say have discouraged investments.

Davis Chirchir said the government was also considering a second attempt to seek bids for the construction of a 700 MW liquefied natural gas power plant near the port city of Mombasa.

Firms who tendered last year for the LNG plant, initially estimated to cost \$500 million, failed to meet the government's requirements for the project, and the tender process collapsed in August.

East Africa's largest economy is struggling with ageing energy infrastructure and the government has said that, in all, it plans to add 5,000 MW to the existing 1,664 MW of generation capacity by 2017.

The country's main power producer KenGen plans to add 70 MW in November by tapping underground steam from the Rift Valley, Chirchir said.

The 500 MW project will harness natural gas deposits discovered in July in north-east Kenya near the frontier with Somalia.

Kenya relies heavily on renewable energy such as hydro power and geothermals for its electricity. Its sole power distribution company serves about 2.8 million customers out of a population of 40 million.

(\$1 = 89.0000 Kenyan shillings) (Writing by James Macharia, editing by John Stonestreet)

Kenya: Kenya Power Says E-Billing to Save Millions | September 16 | The Star

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409170374.html>

By Richard Mungai

KENYA Power will shift at least one million postpaid customers into the electronic billing system to this month, a move the it expects will save up to Sh420 million its uses to post them bills annually.

The management said the programme announced a year ago will be rolled out to those who provided their mobile telephone and email contacts.

"We have in total 2.8 million customers and collecting contact information from all of them in an year is a difficult task," managing director, Ben Chumo told the Star yesterday on phone.

Out of the 2.8 million customers, Chumo said 600,000 are on prepaid adding that having one million more on technology services will ease pressure on the billing structure.

He said paper bills to each of the 2.2 million postpaid customers per month via postal services, has been a costly affair for Kenya Power since each bill costs Sh35. "Apart from the huge cost, there are a lot of delays in sending bills via postal services," he said.

A fortnight ago, the firm started a media campaign dubbed 'power on the go' for more customers to enroll in the new system. "You can now enjoy the luxury of your monthly power bill and power alerts delivered to you via sms and email," it says in the adverts.

Chumo said the new system will be save consumers from disconnections associated with late delivery of bills.

He said there will be no extra charge for thee-billing service.

Kenya: Kenya Scaling Up Power Generation With Geothermal Energy | September 17 | Ventures Africa

Source URL: <http://www.ventures-africa.com/2014/09/kenya-scaling-up-power-generation-with-geothermal-energy/>

VENTURES AFRICA – Kenya's power output is expected to get a further boost with the addition of a further 70MW to the national grid, as part of the 280MW target placed by Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen).

"We added today (Tuesday) at 9am an additional 70MW from Olkaria. This will displace diesel power plants and the fuel cost component in electricity bills will come down," Business Daily quoted KenGen managing director Albert Mugo, as saying.

Kenya has been working on scaling up its power, exploring multiple sources of power generation, including solar and nuclear power. The East African economic powerhouse had drilled one of World's biggest geothermal wells at Olkaria, south of Lake Naivasha in the Great Rift Valley region, with the capacity to produce 280 MW of electricity.

An initial 70 MW had been added to the national for testing earlier in the year, followed by a further 70 MW in April. 70MW out of the remaining 140MW has now been added to the national grid, with the remaining to be added in November. Kenya's total installed electricity capacity is expected to stand at 1,880 MW after the 280 MW has been added.

Energy secretary Davies Chirchir said the country was hoping to save "about Sh28 billion per year in fuel cost charges when the final 70MW comes online in November."

Mugo had earlier in the year said generating power from geo-thermal steam can make it possible for power to cost as low as two cents. This he said will make it possible for Kenyans to access cheaper electricity, which will in turn foster economic growth and development.

Kenya is one of two countries (including Ethiopia) that produce geothermal energy in Africa.

Kenya: Mumias Sugar Reviewing Electricity Deal With Kenya Power | September 13 | The Star

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409150441.html>

By James Waithaka

NSE-listed sugar miller Mumias is renegotiating its co-generation electricity purchase agreement with Kenya Power, citing capacity and pricing issues that have skewed the deal against it.

Mumias Sugar said it earned Sh230 million from sale of electricity in the year ended June 30, a 49.8 per cent decrease from the Sh458 million earned in the previous year.

It attributed the decline to "a decreasing supply to the national grid and penalties levied on low plant capacity utilisation" as stipulated in the existing power purchase agreement.

It said co-generation was lower due to the poor quality of cane supplied. Electricity supplied to the national grid dropped by 22 per cent to 55,935 megawatt-hours compared to 71,710MWh exported a year earlier.

The firm said that while it earns \$0.06 (Sh5.33) per unit sold, Kenya Power in turn charges it three-fold or more - between \$0.18 and \$0.20 (Sh15.98-17.76) per unit - when it buys back electricity.

It has commenced negotiations with Kenya Power and Lighting Company targeted at increasing tariffs on exports to the grid, it said Thursday.

"That's why we need to renegotiate. We are in consultation to change a lot of terms," said Coutts Otolu, acting managing director.

The firm's stock price dropped to Sh2.00 per share on Thursday at the Nairobi Securities Exchange following a wider after-tax loss of Sh2.71 billion. The stock bounced back 2.5 per cent on Friday to Sh2.50 a piece.

Nigeria: Lagos Considers Nuclear Energy for Power Generation | September 17 | CAJ News

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409180679.html>

By Henry Ifeanyi

Lagos — THE Lagos State Government is exploring nuclear energy as an alternative power generation source to boost its power supply.

Speaking during a business forum at the Lekki Free Trade Zone, Governor Babatunde Fashola, said government was aware of the significance of power supply to economic development in the state and was thus determined to explore all possibilities to addressing the challenge.

He stated that the decision to explore the option of nuclear energy was arrived at during the recent Lagos Economic Summit.

The governor noted that at a State Executive Council Meeting, earlier this week, members of the cabinet spent some time deliberating on the nuclear energy option and how it could be deployed to into use within the next 15 to 24 months.

"That shows you how we intend to address issues of power in the state.

We sat down with one of the foremost practitioners, who is a Nigerian and he took us through all the protocols that is needed for the establishing because in less than three years, especially when we need not do distribution but places like the Lekki Free Zone can have the nuclear power between 15 and 24 months," Fashola said.

Fashola also disclosed that in pursuance of its commitment to the policy focus on Power, Agriculture, Transportation and Housing (PATH), his administration was exploring the possibility of establishing Nuclear Power in the Lekki Free Zone as an alternative energy source to power manufacturing and other businesses in the zone.

Arguing that without power, the nation is going nowhere, the Governor expressed the hope that the level of government that has primary responsibilities for energy would push to make it possible to move closer to Power actualization.

He added that as a sub-national government, his administration is working on the fulfillment of the commitment it made at the Ehingbeti Summit 2014 about energizing the state.

Nigeria: Nigeria to Sell TCN Assets for U.S.\$20 Billion | September 16 | Vanguard

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409160893.html>

By Sebastine Obasi, With Agency Reports

ABUJA--Nigeria will earn more than \$20 billion from the sale of the assets of its national electricity transmission company, TCN, as it struggles to provide adequate power to Africa's largest economy, Minister of Power Chinedu Nebo said.

The sale of state-owned Transmission Company of Nigeria may start "in a few years," Nebo said in an interview with Bloomberg Television Africa in Abuja, the capital. The government will also focus on developing renewable energy projects to diversify its supply of electricity. The interest now for transmission is over \$20 billion. People are coming from everywhere," he said.

The current transmission capacity of Abuja-based TCN is 5,500 megawatts compared with an installed generation capacity of 8,000 megawatts, Nebo said. This means that if generation companies were operating at full capacity, the grid would be unable to transmit all of the power to homes. According to him, the government wants transmission capacity to exceed 6,000 megawatts by 2016.

Transmission is the only segment of the power industry that the government still controls as it seeks to curb regular blackouts in the country. The country generates about a 10th of the power that South Africa does even though its population of about 170 million is more than three times larger.

The government of President Goodluck Jonathan is said to be spending \$3.5 billion to boost transmission capacity by 50 percent. Nigeria sold 15 state-owned generation and distribution companies to raise funds.

Power generation is significantly lower than capacity, partially due to problems of transporting gas to power plants.

"Gas supply has been a limiting factor," said Nebo, who is working with Minister of Petroleum Resources Diezani Alison-Madueke to make enough gas available to generation companies to match the transmission capacity by the end of next year.

"Nigeria is moving in the direction of trying to have a robust energy mix," he said.

Coal is another resource that could generate 3,000 to 5,000 megawatts of power "in the next several years" after government reclaims unused coal blocks. We are working on making sure those coal blocks are taken away from those who have refused to develop them over the decades and are given to those who can actually develop them," he said.

Officials are deciding which model to adopt for the company's sale.

Manitoba Hydro-Electric Board of Canada's three-year management contract ends next year. "The process could take the form of a public-private partnership, a concession or a build-operate-transfer. While divesting from most other parts of the power industry, the government is planning to invest more in renewable energy such as solar and hydro power, Nebo said.

"The government is very intent on making sure that the renewable energies kick off because we cannot continue to depend on only one or two means to continue giving electricity to our people," the minister said, citing the planned 700-megawatt and 3,050-megawatt hydropower plants in Zungeru and Mambila. Both plants are in central Nigeria.

Nigeria: Total Targets 1,000MW Solar Power Project in Nigeria | September 9 | This Day

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409090384.html>

By Ejiofor Alike

French oil giant, Total targets to build solar power plants that will generate 1,000 megawatts in Nigeria as part of the company's efforts to address the power supply challenges in the country.

The Managing Director of Total Upstream Companies in Nigeria, Mrs. Elisabeth Proust told THISDAY in a recent interview that Total had decided to focus on one type of alternative energy in Nigeria, which is Solar.

According to her, the company started in many countries in West Africa, Asia and the Middle East by providing energy to the people with no electricity.

"We also bought one of the leading developers of solar panels, called Sun Power. It is good to see that CSR can lead to an industry change. Total has developed what we call the Awango solar lamp for personal use where electricity supply is not constant. We sell this through Total filling stations in

Nigeria but hope to also move it into commercial stores. There are two types of solar energy depending on how electricity is generated from the sun. The first type are photovoltaic cells. This has special cells which capture the sun radiation even where you have clouds. This was the case in Indonesia and it is also the case for Nigeria - you need to use photovoltaic cells," she explained.

"The second one uses a system of direct mirrors. We used this in Abu Dhabi because we have constant direct radiation from the sun. But for Nigeria, if you want everyday electricity, the photovoltaic system is the right technology to use as it works even in a rainy country though it is obviously more effective if it gets direct sunlight," she added.

Proust said Total had developed industrial solar plants in several countries, adding that similar projects were started in Nigeria three years ago.

According to her, the company identified five projects, which it could execute in collaboration with other companies and some institutions that provide funds to assist in the creation of such projects.

She further clarified that the funds are not from Total but from the company's partners. "At the present, we are planning to launch one of the projects in 2015. This requires a lot of measures because you need to effectively identify the best location with high intensity of radiation. The North of Nigeria is the best place because it has the most sun. We have a project in Katsina because it is an ideal position with a lot of sunlight and less clouds and rains. We work with authorities to achieve our objective. We are targeting plants of about 200 to 300 megawatts so we can reach something around 1,000 megawatts," she said.

"So, this is really an industrial development. We have a big organization on solar energy in Total in Nigeria and we have a special team that is ready to assist on the special technical side to address any challenges," she added.

Tanzania: Hired Power Plants for Shutdown | September 17 | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409170654.html>

By Nelly Mtema

THE government has announced a move to retire all the emergency power generation plants by January, next year and save 1.6trn/- annually which is spent to hire the plants.

The announcement was made in the city on Tuesday by the Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Mr Eliakim Maswi, during a development partners and ambassadors tour of Kinyerezi electricity and natural gas power plants.

He said that they will retire the hired power plants and focus on the use of their own sources under the national power utility firm, Tanesco, to generate electricity though the natural gas.

"The commissioning of the power plant that uses gas turbines will start in January and we will have more than 200MW remaining idle. In this case we will retire all emergency power plants," said Maswi.

He said that they have started the initiative by retiring the plants in Dodoma and Arusha. In November, this year, they will retire another plant. The retired plants will be replaced by Kinyerezi One Electricity plant and Kinyerezi power pipeline projects.

Maswi said the Kinyerezi One electricity plant will be handed over officially to the government in March, next year, while commissioning trials are planned for December, this year. The natural gas pipeline project will be submitted in April, next year.

He was optimistic that once the commissioning operates fully, Tanesco will be in a position to operate at its highest efficiency. "We want to ensure that we have reliable and available power supply at the lowest cost so that the public can enjoy lower tariff and we call upon development partners to assist us so that we reach the target," he said.

He added that Tanesco and Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) have been given a milestone which they will have to meet as the government wants to boost the country's economy.

Maswi was impressed by the pace at which the construction is going on, attributing it to fast tracking the shipment of the equipment needed.

The World Bank Country Director for Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda, Mr Philippe Dongier, was impressed by the construction speed. He said that its completion will be a solution to power problems in Tanzania.

Tanzania: Rural Communities Turn to Biogas to Save Trees | September 12 | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409120136.html>

By Meddy Mulisa

Bukoba — RURAL communities in Karagwe District, Kagera Region are quickly embracing the use of biogas as a way of cutting the cost of fuel for cooking and lighting.

Karagwe District, with a population of 332,020 people has seen several households install biogas digesters to take advantage of abundant animal waste to produce clean energy. Biogas is a clean combustible, renewable gas produced from organic waste such as cow dung.

It has provided rural women with cleaner and a more sustainable resource of energy for cooking all year round. Power generated by biogas is also used to light homes, enabling school-going children to read after sunset. Above all, it has freed women from the hard task of looking for firewood allowing them time to embark on other economic activities.

And thanks to biogas fuel, rural kitchens are now free from smoke and ash, creating a cleaner domestic environment. Clement Nsherenguzi (79) a farmer in Kishao village of Bugene ward notes that because biogas is environmentally friendly, and relatively cheap, it would become the "fuel for the poor" in the near future.

"Everyday I take heaps of cow dung and mix them with water. The mixture is then channeled into the fermentation pits. The pit must be properly constructed, using concrete and cement to make sure they are airtight. The residue from cow dung is then used as fertilizer.

This is great because it has allowed us to grow vegetables," he said. The family grows different types of vegetables in the backyard, in what is known as kitchen gardens. The refugee influx of 1994 had a negative impact on Kagera region's economy.

The environment was severely impacted due to random tree-felling in search of poles for constructing makeshift camps and firewood for cooking. Some of the refugees entered the country carrying firearms which were used to commit robberies and kill innocent people.

One of the camps is Chabalisa in Bushangaro ward. The camp hosted over 200,000 refugees causing a big environmental damage to the surrounding villages. This has negatively affected the environment increasing carbon dioxide.

In a troubling new study that underscores the growing threat of global warming to the environment and international economy, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), said that heat-trapping carbon dioxide hit record levels in 2013.

The volume of carbon dioxide, the principal greenhouse gas that is emitted by industry, automobiles and other man-made activities, was 396.0 parts per million in 2013 - or 2.9 parts per million higher than in 2012. It was the largest year-over-year increase since 1984, when dependable global records first began.

Scientists have long warned about the dangers of an unabated buildup in the atmosphere of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and other greenhouse gases in terms of mounting temperatures and the threats of rising sea levels, drought and powerful storms.

The latest figures from the WMO's monitoring network "are considered particularly significant" because of unprecedented buildup or concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere that are immune to natural dissipation.

In the past, about half of the human-generated pollution has been absorbed by the oceans and by terrestrial plants - a natural phenomenon that kept temperatures "from rising as quickly as they otherwise would."

Oksana Tarasova, a scientist and chief of WMO's Global Atmospheric Watch Programme said:"If the oceans and the biosphere cannot absorb as much carbon, the effect on the atmosphere could be much worse."

The new carbon dioxide figures are considered highly reliable because they're based on air samples collected near the North and South Poles, over the oceans and in other areas far from cities and other areas that generate high levels of carbon emissions.

Tanzania: Sea Wave Power On Horizon | September 18 | Tanzania Daily News

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409180191.html>

By Maureen Odunga

TANZANIA and Finland have formed an economic partnership in renewable energy particularly sea wave energy with a view to addressing electricity shortages.

The agreement between the two countries was signed in Finland by the Minister of Energy and Minerals, Prof Sospeter Muhongo, the Finnish Minister for International Development, Mr Pekka Haavisto and the Minister for European Affairs and Foreign Trade, Ms Lenita Toivakka.

Prof Muhongo told the 'Daily News' by phone from Finland that the move to tap sea wave energy from the Indian Ocean was already underway and that a Finnish firm would come to Tanzania to carry out a feasibility study.

"A Finnish company, Waveroller, has agreed to carry out a feasibility study on generating electricity from the Indian Ocean waves on the shorelines of Dar es Salaam, Tanga and Zanzibar," he said.

Prof Muhongo pointed out that once the project goes through, it is expected that between 500 and 1,000MW of electricity will be generated. "The company is welcomed in the country to conduct feasibility study and by October 16 we will assess the viability of this project," he said.

The agreement between the two parties also touched on other areas including other forms of renewable energy, mining and postgraduate training for Tanzanian students in Finland.

He said that the two parties have given each other up to October 16 to know the exact projects that will be implemented under the agreement.

"I have asked for 10 scholarships for our youths for next year and I will know the outcome of this request and other projects by October 16," said Prof Muhongo.

The minister said that Tanzania still had room for more investors in various sectors. "There is no giving up. We will strive to make sure that Tanzania ranks among countries that have robust economy," said Prof Muhongo.

According to a statement posted on the website of the Finnish government, other issues which will be discussed during Minister Muhongo's visit, apart from development of the renewable energy, mining and education, include sustainable use of natural resources and trade opportunities between the two nations.

According to the statement, Minister Muhongo is scheduled also to meet representatives of businesses and industry as well as researchers and scientists.

He will also be exposed to the operations of the Geological Survey of Finland and will visit a gold mine in Kittilä.

A cooperation document between the geological survey institutions of Tanzania and Finland will be signed during the minister's visit.

Finland supports the efforts of the Tanzanian government to reduce poverty and to meet the objectives of the development vision. This year Finland's support to Tanzania amounts to 29 million Euros (about 60.9bn/-).