

“POWER AFRICA” & PARTNER COUNTRY ENERGY IN THE NEWS

August 24 – September 6, 2014

Article Summaries & Full Clips

The following are articles written by third-party news outlets. The links to this information are provided for your convenience. The U.S. Agency for International Development does not endorse the views or positions stated by the authors of these articles and their media organizations.

IN THE NEWS: Featured “Power Africa” Articles

August 24 – September 6, 2014

POWER AFRICA DEVELOPMENTS

[Power Africa: Africa Summit Set the Stage for US Business. Now What?](#)

August 5 | *Frontier Markets News - Emerging & Growth Markets – WSJ*

As the dust settles after the U.S.-Africa Leaders’ Summit that took place in early August in Washington, a clearer picture is emerging of what it achieved.

[Power Africa: Obama's Africa Legacy Will Be Electricity](#)

September 2 | *Foreign Affairs*

Power Africa uses a range of public policy tools -- commercial debt, technical assistance, risk insurance -- to encourage policy reform and private investment in Africa's power sector.

IN THE NEWS: Featured Partner Country Energy News

August 24 – September 6, 2014

AFRICA & REGIONAL NEWS

[Africa: Africa and Belgium Generate the Same Amount of Electricity – But That’s Changing](#)

September 4 | *OilPrice.com*

The statistics of the African Development Bank are terrifying: Africa’s total installed power generation capacity is 147 gigawatts. That’s about the same amount as Belgium’s total capacity, and the equivalent of what China installs every 12 to 24 months.

[Africa's mobile networks drive renewable energy growth](#)

September 3 | *PC Advisor*

Renewable energy technologies are getting a boost in Africa, driven by the need to power base stations for mobile phone operators in rural areas that are unconnected to national power grids.

[Getting the Most Out of Africa's Hydropower](#)

September 2 | *SANews.gov.za (Tshwane)*

With Africa registering the lowest electricity generation in the world and hydropower severely underexplored, calls are mounting for leaders of government and industry alike to step up efforts to change the status quo. This emerged on the third day of the 2014 World Water Week in Stockholm, where one of the sub-themes was Africa Focus Day.

[Investors To Flock Africa Energy Conferences This September](#)

September 3 | *AFKInsider*

If you’re an international energy investor eyeing Africa, you’re going to have a busy month in September nation hopping. Kenya, South Africa, DRC, Rwanda, Ghana and even

China are all hosting major conferences targeting energy and infrastructure investment in Africa.

[Data Centres Relying More On PDUs to Provide Total Energy Consumption](#)

September 2 | *CIO East Africa (Nairobi)*

The Power Distribution Unit (PDU), segment is becoming much more of a focal point as there are many more co-location data centres worldwide. This demand has become more crucial as data centres are now relying more on PDUs to provide the total energy consumption measurements per port. With this, a client can be billed for the power that is used by his equipment, which eliminates many billing-related issues.

[EAC States Could Switch to Cleaner Fuels Effective January 2015](#)

September 2 | *The New Times*
Plans for five countries in East Africa to adopt cleaner fuel standards in 2015 are likely to help absorb excess low-sulphur oil products coming out of Middle East and Indian refineries, where new capacity is being added, industry sources said.

ETHIOPIA

[Ethiopian Electricity Goes Smart With New IT-Plus Meters](#)

August 24 | *Addis Fortune (Addis Ababa)*

Hi-Tech Engineering Industry under Metal & Engineering Corporation (MetEC) has started supplying the Ethiopian Electric Utility (EEU) with locally manufactured smart electric meters, called It-Plus. The meters are centrally controlled to determine the amount of power an individual client get and to selectively turn off the power supply to specific clients on an individual level.

[In Search for Power, Ethiopia Turns to Growing Sugar](#)

August 27 | *Thompson Reuters Foundation*

Eating and drinking in Ethiopia involves a lot of sugar, from the quintessentially Ethiopian buna (coffee) ceremony to the fare in pastry shops. But it's expensive to import. Now the government has embarked on an ambitious project to grow more sugar to meet that demand - but also to boost electrical production and to create sugar-based ethanol

that could help reduce car emissions and cut down on fossil fuel imports.

[Installation of Electric Lines Well in Progress](#)

August 26 | *Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency (Addis Ababa)*

The Ethiopian Electric Power said 80 percent of the ongoing installation of electric transmission lines in western and southern parts of the country has been done. Agency's Public Relations Head, Miskir Negash said that the lines cover 445km in Oromia, Gambella and South Ethiopia Peoples' states.

[Sugar Project Aims to Boost Power Production](#)

August 29 | *Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency (Addis Ababa)*

Ethiopia has embarked on an ambitious project to grow more sugar crop as it would not only allow the government to meeting soaring demand for sugar but also help it boost electricity production and cut carbon emissions.

GHANA

[Energy Commission Ask Consumers To Conserve Energy](#)

September 2 | *SpyGhana.com*

The resilience of Ghana's energy sector depends on the commitment of electricity consumers to energy conservation measures, the Energy Commission said. The country, it noted, was able to save 70 megawatts of electricity during the 2014

World Cup as domestic consumers heeded the Commission's advice to use electricity prudently when the energy situation was critical. That success justified the launch of the nationwide energy conservation drive.

[Erratic power supply to intensify; PURC helpless](#)

September 5 | *GhanaWeb*

Intermittent power outages that have hit the country in the last five months will worsen as almost 300 megawatts of power has been dropped to the electricity supplier – Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG). Cuts in gas supply from Nigeria, repairs on faulty equipment and non-availability of supply from Bui have been blamed for the reduction in the power generation mix.

[Load shedding not over yet, says ECG](#)

September 4 | *GhanaWeb*

The Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) says the power rationing exercise which began in April is still in force. It explained that the effect of the exercise subsided during and after the 2014 FIFA World Cup because of energy-conservation practices adopted in Ghanaian households but the situation has since worsened.

KENYA

[Kenya Power Customers to Get Loans to Fund New Connections](#)

September 1 | *The Star (Kenya)*

Kenya Power is working with various financial institutions to give loans that will assist people to pay for new connections. The firm's managing director Ben Chumo said it already has deals with locals banks such as National Bank, Jamii Bora bank, Equity bank and its own Stima loan for the connections.

[Garden City Installs Mega Solar Project](#)

August 27 | The Star (Kenya)
Developers of Garden City Mall have said they will install large solar panels on its car park canopy with a target to produce 1,246,000 kilowatt of energy annually and cut service charge for tenants.

[Kenya Power Secures Funds for Expansion Project](#)

August 25 | CAJ News Africa
The African Development Bank (AfDB) has committed a US\$150 million loan (approximately Shs13 billion) to finance part of Kenya Power's target of 1 million new electricity connections this year. Principal Secretary for Energy and Petroleum, Eng. Joseph Njoroge, disclosed that the loan was the first phase of the AfDB financing, totalling about Shs.60 billion) that will cover connection costs for approximately 400 000 customers before the end of the year.

[Kenya Pushes for More Steam Power](#)

August 24 | East African Business Week (Kampala)

This financial year Kenya's Geothermal Development Company (GDC) has been given \$142 million to generate more power from the country's natural steam pools. According to the Oxford Group, a research group, Kenya is one of a handful of African countries, including Ethiopia and Zambia, which is exploring geothermal potential.

[Mini Grids Summit Set for Nairobi](#)

August 28 | CAJ News Africa
Major players in the power industry will convene in the country this November to explore the commercial potential of mini grids in Africa. The Africa Mini Grids Summit 2014 will convene from November 18-19 in Nairobi. The summit will provide a high-level strategic platform for all industries plagued by electricity shortages to explore and deploy mini-grids to meet the chronic electricity shortfalls in the African continent.

[Sh11 Billion for Electricity in Rural Schools, Homes](#)

September 2 | The Star (Kenya)
The government will spend Sh11 billion on rural electrification programmes this year. The plan aims to connect more than 1 million households, primary schools, markets and other public facilities to the power grid.

LIBERIA

[The Mt. Coffee Hydro: Despite Ebola, Still Achievable by 2016](#)

September 1 | The Liberian Observer

The Ebola crisis has handed Liberia its most serious medical crisis in its 169 year-history. It came at a time when the nation was poised to mark of the most important achievements in its post-war history, the rebuilding and reinstallation of the Mount Coffee Hydro Electric Plant.

NIGERIA

[FG Pledges Stable Power Supply By October](#)

August 29 | Daily Independent (Lagos)

THE Minister of Mines and Steel Development, Mr. Musa Sada, on Tuesday said that the Federal Government had targeted coal to contribute 30 per cent of power generation in the country by 2015.

[Govt Borrows N300 Billion for Electricity Transmission](#)

Daily Trust | August 26

The Federal Government on Friday said some measures had been put in place to ensure more stabilised power supply in the country by the beginning of October.

[Kashimbila Dam - Generating Electricity for Nigerians](#)

September 3 | Daily Independent (Lagos)

One of the drawbacks to the development of Nigeria is the supply of inadequate electricity to power the industrial development of the country. The Federal Government has disclosed that the multi-billion naira Kashimbila multi purpose

buffer dam in Takum Local Government Area in Taraba State has reached advanced stage of completion and will be ready for commissioning in December this year.

TANZANIA

[Tanzania: Geothermal energy could solve Tanzania's power crisis](#)

August 27 | Hydrogen Fuel News

It has been confirmed by experts that the country, which is located in East Africa, is home to the largest part of

both the Western and Eastern Arm of the East African Rift Valley system, and it is highly suitable for geothermal power production.

[Tanzania: Tanzania to double power supply by 2016, mostly from gas](#)

September 3 | Reuters

Tanzania aims to double its power production to 3,000 megawatts by 2016 at a cost of around \$1.21 billion to meet rising demand by using its vast natural gas supplies.

[Tanzania: U.S.\\$11 Billion Needed for Tanzania Power](#)

August 25 | East African Business Week (Kampala)
Tanzania's Power System Master Plan for the years 2012 to 2017 will require short term financing of \$11.4 billion. The blueprint availed to East African Business Week in Dar es Salaam shows that in short term it requires \$11.4 billion - about \$1.9 billion per annum of which 73.5% is for generation.

IN THE NEWS - Full Clips

August 24 – September 6, 2014

Power Africa: Africa Summit Set the Stage for US Business. Now What? | August 5 | Frontier Markets News - Emerging & Growth Markets - WSJ

Source URL: <http://blogs.wsj.com/frontiers/2014/08/25/africa-summit-set-the-stage-for-us-business-now-what/>

Dan Keeler/The Wall Street Journal

As the dust settles after the U.S.-Africa Leaders' Summit that took place in early August in Washington, a clearer picture is emerging of what it achieved.

Some 45 Africa heads of state showed up as well as hundreds of business leaders from the continent. For several days, the U.S. capital was abuzz with all things Africa. Barely a hotel in central Washington seemed to be without at least one presidential delegation among its guests.

Some had suggested that President Obama's decision not to hold a one-on-one meeting with each of the visiting heads of state would prove to be a diplomatic disaster. It wasn't. There were some street protests but no significant disruption. Even the weather cooperated—it was hot but not stifling—and the anticipated traffic chaos failed to materialize.

Given the aim of the summit was to raise awareness among American businesses of the opportunities available in Africa and to create a forum in which U.S. and African businesses and policymakers could meet, the event could be considered a success.

A flurry of deal announcements during and around the summit demonstrated that at least part of corporate America is taking Africa's potential seriously. Estimates of the value of investments pledged during the summit vary widely and, surprisingly, President Obama's own estimate of \$14 billion is not the highest.

Figures released later by the summit organizers assessed the total value of pledges at around \$33 billion, including loans, credit guarantees, direct investments and joint ventures.

Among many of the participants in the summit, though, there is a clear consensus that the success or otherwise of the event will be measured not by the amount of money pledged during the weeklong blitz of conferences, dinners, breakfast briefings and side-events and but by the strength and durability of the relationships forged.

Alain Ebobisse, the global head of the International Finance Corporation's InfraVentures group, says: "The summit created an unprecedented level of excitement about the business opportunities in sub-Saharan Africa. That's positive—now that has to be translated to real projects on the ground and real financing commitments that could be allocated to projects."



Jim Benintende, president for Middle East and Africa at auto company Ford, says the summit provided unrivaled opportunities to make and build relationships within Africa: “[We] were able to meet with so many different government delegations at a single event. It would have taken months to travel to and arrange the same kind of high level meetings throughout Africa.”

Perhaps more importantly, says Benintende, the unofficial meetings that took place on the fringes of the summit helped attendees make some useful connections.

The deals sealed in D.C., though are not insignificant, as U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, one of the co-organizers of the U.S.-Africa Business Forum—a day-long event that immediately preceded the presidential summit—notes: The forum “was a catalytic event. We announced \$14 billion in deals at the forum, which is a real recognition that there are tremendous opportunities in Africa. This is just the beginning of what we expect will come from bringing together African heads of state and government leaders, and American and African CEOs.”

One of the surprise winners during the summit was Power Africa, President Obama’s year-old initiative to the U.S. private sector to invest in helping six African countries—Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, and Tanzania—make much-needed improvements to their electric power infrastructure. In the year since its inception, Power Africa had attracted as much criticism as praise, with skeptics questioning whether the investments pledged at the launch of the initiative would ever be delivered.

Another key criticism—highlighted in a pair of WSJ Frontiers surveys—is that Power Africa is too limited to enable the U.S. to reap diplomatic and commercial dividends from it.

None of that seems to have dented supporters’ enthusiasm for Power Africa. During his presentation at the U.S.-Africa Business Forum, the World Bank’s president Jim Yong Kim announced, almost as an aside, that the multilateral lender would be committing an additional \$5 billion in loans to Power Africa.

The prior week, London-based emerging market banking giant Standard Chartered [STAN.LN +0.08%](#) revealed that it would be more than doubling its commitment to Power Africa from \$2 billion to \$5 billion.

In this video interview recorded at a BCIU/Heirs Holdings event on the sidelines of the summit, Diana Layfield, Standard Chartered’s Africa CEO, explains both what the bank was hoping to get from the summit and why it decided to significantly ramp up its investment in Power Africa.

Global banking giant Citi also upped its commitment to Power Africa, pledging to “source \$2.5 billion in incremental capital” for the initiative. As well as attracting money to the power sector in Africa, the chief executive of Citi EMEA, Jim Cowles, says: Power Africa “will accelerate the development of the local capital markets.”

Two giant private equity firms, Blackstone [-1.44%](#) and Carlyle, joined the fray with a commitment of up to \$5 billion to invest alongside Africa’s richest man Aliko Dangote in power projects across sub-Saharan Africa.

Eliot Pence, a director at Washington D.C.-based strategy firm McLarty Associates, believes the Dangote deal is symptomatic of a key theme of the summit: the number of big announcements involving African multinationals. Citing Ghanaian financial services firm, Fidelity’s deal with IBM [-0.66%](#) and an announcement

that Transnet, South Africa's state-owned port, rail and pipeline company would be buying new locomotives from General Electric +0.04%, Pence says: "The big story isn't America finds Africa. The big story is Africa finds America."

Mr. Ebobisse agrees, to an extent: "Africans were certainly positively surprised about the increased interest from American business in the continent," he says. "But it was really the American business realizing there are a lot of opportunities there. I saw a lot of American businesses saying, 'OK, we're taking this seriously now.'"

Write to Dan Keeler at dan.keeler@wsj.com.

Power Africa: Obama's Africa Legacy Will Be Electricity | September 2 | Foreign Affairs

Source URL: <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/141945/todd-moss-and-benjamin-leo/let-there-be-light>

In the first week of August, official delegations from 50 African countries came to Washington to attend the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit. The meeting was typical in its extraordinary pageantry, overzealous security, and relative lack of tangible accomplishments. Washington's primary goal seemed to be to demonstrate that it hadn't forgotten entirely about Africa, and most of the policies under discussion were symbolic. In the end, U.S. companies -- including Coca-Cola, General Electric, and IBM -- announced some \$14 billion in new investments; the White House announced modest new security programs to boost cooperation in counterterrorism and peacekeeping. These were admirable steps, but they are transformational for neither Africa nor U.S. policy toward the region.

Yet there was one outcome with the potential to become much more. U.S. President Barack Obama announced an ambitious expansion of the Power Africa initiative that he first launched during a trip to Tanzania last summer. The program aims to help close the massive gaps in electricity generation and access in six African countries: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, and Tanzania. The original goal of the program was to produce 10,000 megawatts of electricity-generating capacity. During the summit, those targets were tripled to 30,000 megawatts. Through this, Power Africa aims to create new power connections for at least 60 million households and businesses. These new goals could mean that up to 300 million people will acquire access to reliable and affordable electricity (assuming a reasonable average household size of five people) for the first time. Put differently, Obama has just committed publicly to help provide power for fully half of those Africans who currently lack it and put Power Africa at the very center of Washington's diplomacy efforts in Africa. That is a good thing. It is also likely to be the Obama administration's last chance to salvage his legacy in Africa.

In his first term, Obama's Africa policy was notable mostly for its apathy and false starts. Officials in African capitals could hardly believe the stark contrast between Asian and European countries' embrace of the continent and the Obama administration's barely disguised neglect, especially given how involved its predecessors had been. In his first term, U.S. President Bill Clinton oversaw historic cuts in financial assistance to Africa and faced sharp criticism for not doing more to prevent the Rwandan genocide, but by



the end of his second term, he was widely praised for emphasizing the importance of trade to Africa. U.S. President George W. Bush, to the surprise of many, was deeply interested in Africa. He launched both a massive effort to fight HIV/AIDS and a whole new agency to provide grants to poor but well-governed countries. Bush also personally engaged in efforts to peacefully end conflicts in Africa, including in Liberia and Sudan. The Clinton and Bush legacies -- the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation -- are still with us today.

Power Africa could rival those initiatives. With its focus on electricity generation, it is a direct response to what African allies have been saying they want from the United States. By contrast, most of Washington's efforts in Obama's first term, such as the repackaging of global health programs and a climate change initiative, were cooked up in the bowels of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington without input from African leaders. It should be no surprise that they quickly fizzled out. But electricity is something everyone agrees on. Every country on the continent has significant electricity shortfalls, and in nearly every economy, this is a leading barrier to future economic growth. Nigeria, for instance, produces only about 4,000 megawatts of power, but estimated demand is more than ten times that amount. In Tanzania and Kenya, fewer than one in five citizens has access to any regular power at all. Overall, some 600 million Africans live every day without access to power. Energy production was such a refrain in African capitals that the White House eventually seized on it as a signature issue.

Power Africa has another thing going for it. It represents exactly the kind of modern public-private effort that is on the cutting edge of development policy. The old aid model of viewing African nations as passive recipients of American generosity is dying in an age of declining budgets for grants, increasingly numerous sources of financing for developing countries, and rising incomes across Africa. Even the poorest countries, such as Liberia, are more eager for private investment in infrastructure than for grant aid for social services. The Obama administration listened to Africans and recognized that the days of ever-higher budget requests were over.

Power Africa uses a range of public policy tools -- commercial debt, technical assistance, risk insurance -- to encourage policy reform and private investment in Africa's power sector. The administration initially committed up to \$7 billion in public or publicly guaranteed funds (although much of this will never materialize) from a host of agencies, including the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the U.S. Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im), the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the U.S. Trade and Development Agency. It also garnered private commitments from U.S. and African investors now totaling more than \$20 billion.

In this case, government involvement has helped to mitigate the long-term commercial and political risks -- and thus unlocked private investment. Power Africa will likely also have spillover foreign policy benefits. At a time when Africa is more important than ever to U.S. national security and economic interests, it is essential that Washington show it can be a reliable partner. Each of the six countries involved in Power Africa are important allies in the fight against terrorism, international criminal cartels, and deadly diseases. By showing that it is responsive to those countries' power needs, Washington can expect greater cooperation in these other areas, as well as more open markets for U.S. companies.

There are, of course, still questions about how Power Africa will work. The bulk of the funding is expected to come from Ex-Im and OPIC, two government agencies that face highly uncertain reauthorization prospects in Congress. OPIC in particular could play a much greater role but remains hamstrung by outdated rules and policies that prevent it from catalyzing even more private investment. It could easily be modernized and expanded without any additional new funding, but so far the White House has shown little appetite to take on that task.

It is also not yet clear how the White House plans to track Power Africa's progress. For those administering public health programs, such as the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, it has been relatively easy to count condoms bought, medicines delivered, and patients treated. With power projects, however, there are many more moving parts. Washington will have the incentive to take credit for all new power generation and access in the relevant African countries. But such claims wouldn't be remotely credible and would be irksome to other actors who are making important contributions. The African Development Bank and France and Japan have been active in Africa's power industry for years. If China builds a hydroelectric dam in Ghana and the United States sends an adviser to discuss tariff reform, it would be suspicious, to say the least, if Power Africa took credit for the whole project.

Congressional buy-in is also essential if the effort is to last beyond the present administration. Yet the White House has not done a good job of securing Congress' support for Power Africa. Fortunately, there is broad bipartisan interest in African energy poverty. The House of Representatives has already passed the Electrify Africa Act, while the Senate is working on a counterpart bill. The key now is joining these pieces together in a way that can live beyond 2016.

A final problem is the unavoidable tension with global environmental goals. Power Africa's new targets for generation and access cannot possibly be achieved through solar and wind power alone. In fact, each of the six focus countries has announced its intention to use domestic natural gas to generate electricity. U.S. environmental groups have been lobbying the Obama administration to ban financing for any such fossil fuel projects. Yet doing so would not only threaten the Power Africa targets but set up the United States for charges of gross hypocrisy. The United States has more than 3,000 power plants running on fossil fuels, whereas Ghana has two and Liberia has none.

Obama was so pleased with the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit that he has announced it will become a recurring event. But that would be senseless unless the major commitment at the first summit is actually delivered. Power Africa can provide a strong foundation for future U.S.-African relations, but only if the White House can follow through on its ambitious promises.

Africa: Africa and Belgium Generate the Same Amount of Electricity – But That's Changing | September 4 | OilPrice.com

Source URL: <http://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/Africa-and-Belgium-Generate-the-Same-Amount-of-Electricity-But-Thats-Changing.html>

By Chris Dalby | Thu, 04 September 2014 01:27 |

Benefit From the Latest Energy Trends and Investment Opportunities ***before the mainstream media and investing public are aware they even exist.*** The Free Oilprice.com Energy Intelligence Report gives you this and much more. [Click here to find out more.](#)

The statistics of the African Development Bank are terrifying: Africa's total installed power generation capacity is 147 gigawatts. That's about the same amount as Belgium's total capacity, and the equivalent of what China installs every 12 to 24 months.

To turn this around by 2030 and ensure universal electricity access, the International Energy Agency assumes a \$30 billion investment would be needed, at minimum.

It would be foolish to envision a future where Africa's energy needs are to be met by expensive conventional fossil fuels. Sadly, few intercontinental efforts to boost installed renewable energy capacity seem to be gaining traction. However, a number of countries have come to this realization. Unfortunately, they are not necessarily Africa's dominant power generators but represent those who have set achievable renewable energy plans in motion. In these countries, the sheer magnitude of investments being made shows how importantly African governments take the challenge of making the continent energy efficient and sustainable.

Certainly, some countries have advantages. Due to the presence of the Blue Nile – one of the two major tributaries of the Nile River -- 96 percent of Ethiopia's energy comes from hydropower, but authorities have not seen this as a reason to ignore the country's potential from other renewable sources. Over the current decade, Ethiopia is seeking to increase its supply fivefold from 2,000 megawatts (MW) to 10,000MW through renewable energy. The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam across the Nile, set to be the biggest dam in Africa when it launches in 2017, will provide the bulk of that with a capacity of 6,000MW. However, Addis-Ababa's renewables plan is remarkably well rounded, and includes wind, solar and geothermal. This is no mere paper pledge either, as leading geothermal expert Reykjavik Geothermal is on the ground to build a 1,000MW power plant, the first stage of which will open in the Rift Valley in 2018.

Kenya is Africa's second biggest renewable energy power producer, behind Ethiopia, and presents a similar model. Hydropower powers half of Kenya and it will likely remain the continent's foremost geothermal producer until Ethiopia opens its Rift Valley plant. Kenya is also planning Africa's largest wind farm -- a 300MW project to be built by the Lake Turkana Wind Power Construction. Should the project come to fruition, it will be Kenya's largest-ever foreign investment, no mean feat for one of Africa's most investment-friendly economies. Kenya also struck out from the pack by understanding the role financial services must play in any steady renewable energy plan and launching Africa's first carbon trading platform in 2011.

Algeria has chosen a different tack than its sub-Saharan colleagues. In setting its own renewables plan, Algeria is seeking to become an energy exporter off the back of its solar potential. In 2011, it announced plans to install 22GW by 2030 with the goal of keeping 12GW for internal consumption and exporting 10GW. Rather than focusing on one massive project like Ethiopia or Kenya are, Algeria envisioned this capacity being spread across a myriad of smaller plants. This would largely be done with Chinese involvement, including Yingli Solar, which won a bid in December 2013 for the first 400MW tranche of 1.2GW solar plant. With

instability in the region rising, it remains to be seen whether Algeria's medium-term plans come to fruition, but its energy export ambitions are a wonderful example of the continent's potential.

These examples are positive, but not every African country has a major river or serious interest from foreign investors. Many of the continent's smaller economies, even trusted democracies like Botswana, are dependent on importing most of their power. But this should not stop them from taking active steps to halt this dependence.

Botswana has imported 80 percent of its electricity on average in recent years, but this country of 2 million has a program devoted to electrifying rural areas through renewables, has implemented renewable energy feed-in tariffs to stimulate investment, and used funds from the World Bank to fully investigate its concentrated solar power potential.

Efforts like these will hopefully serve as a clarion call to other African nations to explore their options for developing renewable energy sources, and to foreign investors about opportunities in this sector. Africa's smaller countries cannot wait indefinitely for outside help: their energy future is in their own hands.

By. Chris Dalby of Oilprice.com

Africa: Africa's mobile networks drive renewable energy growth | September 3 | PC Advisor

Source URL: <http://www.pcadvisor.co.uk/news/network-wifi/3543179/africas-mobile-networks-drive-renewable-energy-growth/>

By | Computerworld Zambia | 03 September 14

Renewable energy technologies are getting a boost in Africa, driven by the need to power base stations for mobile phone operators in rural areas that are unconnected to national power grids.

Several western companies are introducing technologies to help mobile phone operators and the financial sector power data centers and networks. They are also selling low-cost solar mobile chargers, enabling subscribers to charge their phones in addition to lighting their homes.

France's Schneider Electric, the U.K.'s SunnyMoney and the U.S.-based World Panel are among the companies that are battling to outdo each other in rolling out solar technologies to power mobile phone base stations and data centers.

Schneider Electric said it plans to create access to renewable energy for 20,000 Africans by the end of this year to enable them to charge their phones and have continued access to mobile communications. It has also developed renewable energy solutions for mobile network operators that could help them power their base stations and extend services in rural areas.

Schneider's Villasol and VillaSmart photovoltaic panel systems, which are representative of the offerings from the other companies as well, are able to generate up to 24 kilowatts of power per day, enough to run a base

station, or electrify a health center or school. The prices differ widely from one country to another depending on distribution agreements, but prices range from \$2000 to \$5000.

When fully charged, Schneider's Mobiya solar lamp and phone charger can provide light for 48 hours. But when used simultaneously for lighting and charging mobile phones, it can run from six to 12 hours. The price ranges from \$40 to \$50.

SunnyMoney is also rolling out its solar technology in the region in order to provide renewable energy to those not connected to the national grid. It's The S2 solar-powered light runs for 4-5hrs. The Barefoot Power unit (15 watts) provides both lighting and a mobile phone charging system. Prices range from \$30 to \$50.

Mobile phone operators in Africa have been slow in expanding their networks to rural areas due to concerns about the economic viability of running base stations using expensive diesel-powered generators.

Schneider Electric is providing solutions to all sectors of society to address energy poverty, its head of sustainable development for Southern Africa, Zanelle Dalglish, told IDG. It has "developed renewable energy solutions for mobile phones operators that could help them to power their base stations and allow people in rural areas to communicate," she said.

World Panel Zambia Ltd. executive director Jacob Sikazwe said, "our technology empowers people, especially those in rural areas as the mobile solar chargers are meant for people who have challenges accessing electricity."

Over the last decade, Zambia and neighboring countries including Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and Democratic Republic of Congo have been suffering from a substantial power deficit because the demand for electricity has outstripped supply, leading to a new challenge of load shedding, according to Zambian minister of Mines, Energy and Water Development Christopher Yaluma.

The influx of renewable energy technology companies will help to mitigate the power shortage effects, Yaluma said. And the introduction of solar mobile chargers will help bring about an inclusive society in which everyone would have an opportunity to have access to renewable energy, he added.

According to current statistics from the Zambian government, only 8.8 percent of the country's 14 million people have access to electricity from the national grid.

Africa: Getting the Most Out of Africa's Hydropower | September 2 | SAnews.gov.za (Tshwane)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409021306.html>

Stockholm — With Africa registering the lowest electricity generation in the world and hydropower severely underexplored, calls are mounting for leaders of government and industry alike to step up efforts to change the status quo.

This emerged on the third day of the 2014 World Water Week in Stockholm, where one of the sub-themes was Africa Focus Day.

The day was an opportunity for the continent's top brass in the sphere of water and sanitation to share their experiences in unlocking the hydropower potential of their various countries.

Presenters at a plenary to further interrogate the subject included Senegalese Water and Sanitation Minister, Ahmadou Mansour Faye; Sarah Reng-Ochekpe from Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development, and the Sudanese Minister of Water Resources and Electricity, Mutaz Musa Abdalla Salim.

What emerged as speaker after speaker took to the podium was the significant hydropower potential Africa has, which can only be understood when viewed in the context of the fact that the less than 8% potential developed supplies 32% of the current energy production in the continent.

With so much potential, it begs the question why, according to a UN report, only 10% of the continent's population has access to the electricity grid? Apparently the answer is deeply rooted in the continent's willingness to work together beyond borders, something South African Minister of Water and Sanitation agrees with. This, she said, is evident in the number of multi-country projects in which South Africa is involved.

Success stories

Faye, who is also the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) President, said he was encouraged by existing projects, which show Africa is making headway towards securing its own supply of water and electricity.

Projects of notable stature in this field include the Grand Inga Hydroelectric Project, the Lesotho Highlands Water Project between Lesotho and South Africa, and the Kashimbila Multipurpose Dam in Nigeria.

Each of these projects has at its very centre the vision of powering the continent through cleaner means.

The Grand Inga Hydropower Project could eventually become the largest hydroelectric project in the world, with the potential to power half of the continent.

The Kashimbila Multipurpose Dam in Nigeria has generation power of 40 MW, and sizeable economic potential.

Faye commended the efforts to light up the continent in a responsible manner, which is considerate of Africa's carbon footprint in the wake of increasing industrialisation.

"We need a new approach to improve energy efficiency against the backdrop of climate change. We need to develop a framework to ensure water and energy security at a global level," said Faye.

Nigeria's Reng-Ochikpe said care has to be taken to get the maximum benefits when developing hydropower.

"We are not just building dams for reserving water or flood control, but making sure that where there is potential for hydropower, that is fully exploited," she said.

The speakers agreed that environmental protection, however, is not the only consideration when developing hydropower or any other source of energy. Developments of this nature and scale have to bring about positive change in the communities in which they are located.

World Water Week, which is hosted and organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) will conclude on Friday.

Africa: Investors To Flock Africa Energy Conferences This September | September 3 | AFKInsider

Source URL: <http://afkinsider.com/70328/investors-flock-africa-energy-conferences-september/>

If you're an international energy investor eyeing Africa, you're going to have a busy month in September nation hopping. Kenya, South Africa, DRC, Rwanda, Ghana and even China are all hosting major conferences targeting energy and infrastructure investment in Africa.

The Eastern African region is undergoing an energy revolution, South Africa is leading renewable energy development, the Western region is ramping-up development of its oil and gas resources and China continues to spend lavishly on African energy and infrastructure projects.

And since the US-Africa Leaders Summit in early August, one would expect a spike in registration or sponsorship from U.S.-based companies.

"Not as yet, but we are now embarking on our USA marketing campaign so expect to see an increase in delegate numbers from the U.S. as a result of this," Amy Offordof world conference organizer EnergyNet told *AFKInsider*.

"It is a bit soon to specifically indicate a trend, but I can assure you that the continent's utility industry is very aware of the U.S. initiatives and are very excited about it," Annemarie Roodbol, communications manager for Spintelligent told *AFKInsider*.

Spintelligent is the event organizer for a number of the African conferences, including the DRC Oil and Gas Forum, the East African Power Industry Convention, and the Powering African Industry 2014 Convention, while EnergyNet organizes the heavily attended annual Africa Energy Forum and the annual Africa Infrastructure and Power Forum in Beijing.

Unfortunately, due to the Ebola outbreak, organizers have postponed the much anticipated Solar & Off-Grid Renewables West Africa Conference – that was to take place in Ghana September 16-17, until the first half of April 2015.

Nevertheless, the timing of the conferences that are scheduled makes them literally a non-stop, back-to-back experience.

East Africa Leads The Way

The 16th annual **East African Power Industry Convention**(Nairobi, Kenya September 3-4) will bring together the region's power utilities, investors and technology and service providers. Kenya's KENGEN, Kenya Power, KETRACO, the Ministries of Energy, Tanesco, UEGCL, UMEME, and EEPKO will be among the more than a 1000 attendees (beating last years record of 800) along with exhibitors showcasing the latest power generation, transmission, and distribution technologies.

"EAPIC is celebrating its 16th edition this year and we believe the event has grown and become an annual must-attend on the regional power calendar because it has been able to stay relevant, up-to-date and by and for the industry," Annemarie Roodbol, the event's communications manager told *AFKInsider*.

Kenya's Davis Chirchir, Minister of Energy and Petroleum, will give the keynote address on "Kenya's 5000 MW plans," and Andy Herscowitz, U.S. *Power Africa* Initiative coordinator, will lead a round table discussion on power transmission and distribution investment drivers, the African Clean Energy Corridor project and the skills needed for future partnerships.

The other panelists will include: Ben Chumo, CEO of Kenya Power; Felschesmi Mramba, CEO of Tanzania's Tanesco; Joel Kiilu, CEO of Kenya's Ketraco; and Tarun Brahmay of Netherlands-based Private Equity, N.V. FMO.

A pre-conference workshop on September 2 will focus on "financing renewable projects in Africa" and "best practices in renewable energy project management."

The **PV Project Development Africa 2014 Conference**(Johannesburg, South Africa September 9-10) happens less than a month after the bid submission date of the latest round of South Africa's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Program (REIPPPP), offering an opportunity to network and learn from industry experts and regional government representatives about which markets are ripe for solar energy development.

The key industry stakeholders attending include Jinko Solar, SAPVIA, Momentous Energy, SolarCapital, Juwi Renewables, Aurora Power Solutions, Soitec, Emergent Energy, and Aurora Power Solutions. There will also be reps from major financing outfits such as Nedbank Capital, Investec Bank, Kensani Eaglestone Capital Advisory and Cresco Project Finance.

Government and private sector stakeholders across the oil and gas industry will come together at the **iPAD DRC Oil & Gas Forum**, (Kinshasa, DRC September 10-11) to focus on the untapped potential in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African region. The forum aims to contribute to investment and infrastructure development strategies in an industry that could become the DRC's biggest Gross Domestic Product base within a decade.

The DRC's Minister of Hydrocarbons, Crispin Atama Tabe, is scheduled to open the Forum that will include a line-up of industry speakers from Chevron, Baker Hughes, Clarke Energy, Schlumberger and Cohydro.

The discussion over the two-day event will include sessions on: The new hydrocarbons legal framework and codes; Cross border resources; Exploration hot spots in the Central Basin, Lake Kivu, the Rift Valley and Lake Tanganyika; and Pipeline infrastructure financing.

Bringing together senior decision-makers within the liquid petroleum gas (LP Gas) industry with government representatives and investors is the focus of the **Argus Africa LPG 2014 Conference**(Cape Town, South Africa September 16-17). This conference will offer a two-day forum for discussing the infrastructure and public policy challenges facing the LP Gas industry, as well as how LP Gas can serve as a clean, safe alternative to traditional fuels.

Power Companies Full House

Some of the companies and government agencies that have already confirmed include: Oryx Energies, Total, Rubis Energie, Strategic Energy, Transnet Port Authority, AlHussami Companies, Petroleum Institute of East Africa, National Energy Regulator of South Africa, Norton Rose Fulbright, Standard Bank and Avanti Gas.

The inaugural **Powering African Industry 2014 Conference**(Johannesburg September 18-19), which takes place alongside the annual Electra Mining and ELENEX Expo, aims to assist large mining, manufacturing, transport and industrial businesses to become more sustainable in order to cut costs as well as reduce their carbon emissions.

“The Powering African Industry conference is an inaugural event that came about during the 14th annual African Utility Week’s large power users conference sessions where participants requested an additional meeting to explore solutions and technologies to overcome increasing tariff increases and lack of capacity to meet energy demand,” communications manager Annemarie Roodbol told *AFKInsider*.

The conference will present energy efficiency and management strategies from the use of alternative energy sources, reducing carbon emissions, asset maintenance and demand side management strategies that are “key elements of today’s sustainable business development.”

The event will include speakers from Eskom, Toyota, Wits University, the Steel and Engineering Industry Federation of Southern Africa, the Mining and Industrial Energy Optimization Association, the Technology Innovation Agency and SANEDI.

The theme of the inaugural **Rwanda Mining & Energy Conference and Exhibition**(Kigali, Rwanda September 24-25) is “Unleashing Rwanda’s mining and energy potential to drive inclusive and sustainable growth.” The conference has been organized to help ramp-up Rwanda’s economy by showcasing what that nation currently offers in terms of mining and power potential, including identifying the challenges faced by investors. Among the discussion sessions will be one exploring Rwanda’s location as a strategic regional hub and another on expanding Rwanda’s transport infrastructure to support the region’s growing extractive industries.

Finally, September’s energy investment events wraps up across the Pacific with the 3rd **Africa Infrastructure and Power Forum in Beijing September 25-26**, which will bring together Chinese investors, developers and African energy ministers to discuss current opportunities in Africa’s energy and infrastructure sectors.

This event, produced by EnergyNet which organizes the annual Africa Energy Forum, expects to draw over 220 government representatives, utility companies, project developers and technology providers all interested in tapping Chinese financing.

The presentations planned include Chinese investors giving insight into their investment plans, an overview of the 5 biggest power investment opportunities in Africa in the next 5 years, and the key investment opportunities to look out for in Africa's renewable sector.

East Africa: Data Centres Relying More On PDUs to Provide Total Energy Consumption | September 2 | CIO East Africa (Nairobi)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409021178.html>

By Lilian Mutegi

The Power Distribution Unit (PDU), segment is becoming much more of a focal point as there are many more co-location data centres worldwide.

This demand has become more crucial as data centres are now relying more on PDUs to provide the total energy consumption measurements per port. With this, a client can be billed for the power that is used by his equipment, which eliminates many billing-related issues.

It is through this that Tripp Lite is helping customers save in energy and cooling costs from a technology perspective.

"We have recently launched our range of in-row cooling units that can be installed without the hassle of the water cooling pipes and all the unnecessary cabling. This reduces the customers' energy and cooling costs as these units run on DC inverter compressor, which means that there is not a constant cooling cost to maintain the temperature of the DC. This also means that the client saves much more on the average cost they are spending on their utility bills," said Gareth Carr, Technical Specialist Africa, Tripp Lite.

As power management expands to include securing systems and data, Tripp Lite has positioned itself to manage this role that's different from its core power management function.

But as Gareth explains, all their data centre equipment - including the cooling units - are equipped with communication via SNMP Web interface. The client can log in remotely and monitor the status of any unit within the data centre at any given time. Should the data centre manager have access to the network, s/he can also monitor the following: cooling units, PDUs, UPS's, and even the environment if a sensor has been installed with the solution.

"This would provide all the alerts and details that they would need to get the most accurate details regarding the temperatures within the data centre. One sensor can be installed per SNMP Web unit and the units can be placed around the data centre to monitor all at the same time. With this, dry contacts can also be configured," stated Carr.

However, balancing between reducing energy costs and increasing data centre efficiency can be tricky but if the data centre is properly maintained and correct cooling systems are in place, the servers do not need to work too hard, thereby bringing down the running temperatures of the data centre as well as its cooling costs.

"In so doing, you bring down the energy costs of running the data centre. These days, much more data centre equipment is 'green' and a much stronger focus has been placed on energy efficiency as a whole," he said.

East Africa: EAC States Could Switch to Cleaner Fuels Effective January 2015 | September 2 | The New Times

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409030289.html>

By Peterson Tumwebaze

Plans for five countries in East Africa to adopt cleaner fuel standards in 2015 are likely to help absorb excess low-sulphur oil products coming out of Middle East and Indian refineries, where new capacity is being added, industry sources said.

Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Burundi are due to switch to the cleaner fuels from January 2015, according to documents posted on the websites of the regional intergovernmental organisation of East African Community (EAC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (Unep).

The fuel switch would come just as refiners in OPEC countries and India install secondary units and new oil plants to produce ultra-low sulphur fuels that meet tighter European environmental standards, worsening a supply glut of the higher grades of transport and industrial fuels.

The EAC plan to switch to low-sulphur diesel and gasoline would open a new market for these refiners, who now compete with US and Russia to supply Europe, traders said.

"There is an oversupply of (ultra-low sulphur) diesel ... and the situation will only get worse in terms of oversupply once Ruwais and Yanbu's new capacity is online," said a Singapore-based middle distillates trader.

Abu Dhabi National Oil is expected to double the capacity of its Ruwais refinery from 415,000 barrels-per-day (bpd), with an expansion to be completed late this year. Yanbu Aramco Sinopec Refining Co is likely starting its new 400,000 bpd refinery by the first quarter of next year.

They would join Saudi Aramco Total Refining and Petrochemical's new 400,000 bpd Jubail refinery, which started operations last year, and Reliance Industries' export-focused 580,000 bpd Jamnagar plant in India, in producing ultra-low sulphur refined products.

Currently, these refineries are competing to supply to Europe as the majority of Asian countries outside of Japan and South Korea are still using higher sulphur fuels.

New specifications for East Africa:

The EAC countries have been discussing their switch to euro IV standards for diesel and euro III standards for gasoline for the past couple of years, working in conjunction with Unep with the aim of reducing harmful emissions and improving air quality.

Under the changes in specifications, the five East African countries have to lower sulphur content in diesel from 500 parts-per-million (ppm) to 50 ppm, according to EAC and Unep documents and conference presentations.

For gasoline, the EAC countries have to lower sulphur content from 1,500 ppm to 150 ppm. They also have to drop lead content and maximum density slightly.

Commenting on the development, Robert Opirah, the director general for trade and investment at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, said the initiative is in line with government's and region's strategy to promote green growth and reduce toxicants which are contributing to air pollution and resultant global warming.

"Rwanda has already started implementing these standards... We stopped importing high sulphur content fuel products in 2012. In fact, these requirements were mooted in 2011, but implementation was delayed because some EAC member states requested more time to phase out their high sulphur fuel products," Opirah, who is also the in charge of fuel importation, said.

The move will not in anyway affect fuel dealers, Opira, stressed.

"Importers should not get worried since there is no big difference in terms of prices, and instead prepare to embrace the move because it does not only protect the environment, but also quality of business."

Eugene Kayigamba, the vice-president of the Rwanda Fuel Importers Association, welcomed the initiative as being pro-business that will enhance competitiveness in the sector.

"Business is built on quality, and we are happy to be part of the solution to climate change and the country's strategy towards green growth," he said.

Rwanda currently imports over 30 million litres of fuel annually.

Oil importers in Kenya and Tanzania have told suppliers they need to be prepared to supply the low-sulphur fuel from the start of next year.

Kenya and Tanzania import about 600,000 to 670,000 tonnes of diesel and gasoline every month - about 170,000 bpd - for their own needs and to export to their landlocked neighbours, according to traders who regularly participate in monthly tenders issued by companies that handle the imports.

Diesel is mainly supplied from India and the Middle East, while the gasoline comes from the Mediterranean and Fujairah, the traders said.

Kenya's diesel and gasoline imports are set to rise by a third this year and next, driven by a growing auto fleet and rising industrial activity and because the country's sole refinery shut last year.

Ethiopia: Ethiopian Electricity Goes Smart With New IT-Plus Meters | August 24 | Addis Fortune (Addis Ababa)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408270992.html>

By Fasika Tadesse

Hi-Tech Engineering Industry under Metal & Engineering Corporation (MetEC) has started supplying the Ethiopian Electric Utility (EEU) with locally manufactured smart electric meters, called It-Plus. The meters are centrally controlled to determine the amount of power an individual client get and to selectively turn off the power supply to specific clients on an individual level.

The meters are manufactured by the Hi-Tech Engineering using inputs from sister companies, Ethio Plastic Industries, Metal Fabrication Industries and Hibret Manufacturing Industry.

Hi-Tech was established in 2011 as one of the sister companies under the MetEC. The Company manufactures electronic and electromechanical technology products and gives services of Communication and surveillance system for defence and police forces including Ministry of Defence and Federal Police.

The deal was signed in 2003 between the Hi-Tech and EEU for the supply of the electric meters. The MetEC launched the meters at a ceremony held at the Hilton Hotel on Thursday, August 21, 2104.

It-Plus have home and industrial types, with the former selling for 2,500 Br and the latter for 13,000 Br.

"Each and every meter is controlled by a remote control station," said Tena Kurunde (Brig. Gen.), deputy general manager of the MetEC.

The new meters will enable power redistribution in times of power shortage and technical problems, according to Berihu Gidey (Leut), general manger of Hi-Tech Industries. The system also has intelligence value, Berihu said, as power blackouts could easily be achieved at a national level if the need arises.

The company supplied samples to the EEU, which were successfully tested, and the first batch of the meters will be delivered soon, according to Berihu.

The MetEC is an electro-mechanical contractor of the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). Up to now, Hi-Tech has supplied 10,000 transformers for the EEU and plans to establish a smart grid system at a national level. When the company starts manufacturing at its full capacity, it will manufacture 1,200 electric meters on a daily basis.

"The main advantages of the electric meter is that it saves electric power, especially for industries," said Bitweded Gebrealise, chief executive officer of the EEU Wire Business.

The new meters come adjusted to a three-phase electric power system, which reduces the processing time for industrial applicants, he said.

It-plus will replace the import of the electric meter, which the Country was importing, according to Tena.

"The next process will be the replacement of previously installed electric meters through different phases," Biteweded said.

Currently, the EEU has two million clients connected to the national grid.

DVentus Technologies Plc - which was established in 2005 with a capital of three million dollars - manufactured an electric meter reader, which it called Smart Meter, eight months ago.

Ethiopia: In Search for Power, Ethiopia Turns to Growing Sugar | August 27 | Thompson Reuters Foundation

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408271426.html>

By E.G. Woldegebriel

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia — Eating and drinking in Ethiopia involves a lot of sugar, from the quintessentially Ethiopian buna (coffee) ceremony to the fare in pastry shops. But it's expensive to import.

Now the government has embarked on an ambitious project to grow more sugar to meet that demand - but also to boost electrical production and to create sugar-based ethanol that could help reduce car emissions and cut down on fossil fuel imports.

Ethiopia currently produces about 300,000 tonnes of sugar a year from three factories, at Wonchi, Metehera and Finchaa. The factories also generate 62 megawatts (MW) of electricity, half of which is used by the sugar plants themselves, with the rest sent to the national electric grid.

Gossaye Mengiste, an official at the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy, says Ethiopia has the potential to produce 600 MW of energy from sugar when 13 additional factories now being built start production - a considerable boost to the country's national electricity output.

QUADRUPLE THE ENERGY

Altogether, Ethiopia aims to generate up to 8,000 MW of additional energy by the end of the next year, more than quadrupling its current 2,200 MW. Most of the energy will come from hydropower and wind - but waste energy, geothermal and co-generation from sugar plants are all part of the strategy.

The government, facing a shortage of at least 200,000 tonnes of sugar a year, as well as persistent electricity cuts and rising pollution from its busy streets, sees growth in sugar as a cost-effective, environmental friendly answer.

Ethiopia is working to build a climate-resilient green economy and aiming for a net carbon output of zero by 2025. Reducing emissions from cars, a big source of greenhouse gases, is a key part of that, Mengiste said.

Another economic goal is to become a middle-income country by 2025, which depends on the government keeping the economy growing at what it claims has been an annual growth rate of 10 percent a year over the past decade.

The government has focused on increasing use of ethanol, a byproduct of sugar, as a source of electricity because it's relatively cost effective and doesn't require a dedicated factory, so it can act as a supplementary energy source when needed.

THREAT TO PASTORALISTS?

Sugar plantations, however, need large tracts of lands. The question of land availability in lowland areas - most of which are occupied by pastoralists who occupy 60 percent of the country's land but account for only 11 percent of its population - may be a difficult one.

Zemdekun Tekle, corporate communications director at the Ethiopian Sugar Corporation, the state entity that handles all sugar projects, says the current projects benefit both local people and the country as a whole.

Planting sugar has created employment for local people and pushed pastoralists into settling, he said. He pointed to the Omo Valley where local people produce maize and have been provided with health clinics, schools and saw mills.

In the area, "graduates are learning practical skills with the sugar industry, becoming a skilled workforce and eventually becoming innovators themselves," Tekle said.

Another benefit from the sugar project is that it produces high-quality cattle feed as a byproduct, helping the country's large livestock sector which had previously been hampered by lack of good cattle feed, the Sugar Corporation noted.

But critics aren't convinced of the merits of the scheme, saying efforts to expand sugar production are based on a condescending plan drawn up mainly by people living in highland areas but affecting the lowland population.

Groups like Survival International and other minority rights bodies have urged potential donors to shy away from such projects, which they allege destroy pastoralist populations. Tekle admitted that such lobbying has reduced the range of Ethiopia's funding partners.

FUNDING FROM INDIA, CHINA

But emerging economies such as India and China have already opened their wallets, he said, noting that the visit of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in May coincided with a \$500 million loan funding agreement for one such project - the Welkayit sugar factory.

In highland Addis Ababa, a bustling metropolis of more than three million people, however, businesspeople and residents alike are more concerned with finding sugar for their daily needs at an affordable price.

One such person is Tsehay Gebremeskel, who has owned and run a small café in the capital for more than 20 years.

"I use sugar for the tea, coffee, milk, pastry and juices I serve to my customers, but I'm having difficulty finding sugar regularly from the government shop for a price of 1550 birr (\$78) per quintal," she said. The

cost of sugar is eating into her profits, from which she pays her employees and bills for the café and covers her home expenses.

The government plans to meet the sugar shortage by opening seven new sugar-processing plants by the end of next year, which will raise the country's production capacity from 300,000 tonnes to 1.2 million tonnes a year. The plants will require 348,000 hectares of land, the government says.

The government estimates national sugar demand at about 650,000 tonnes a year, with current shortfalls made up by imports from Thailand and Dubai. But with added sugar-growing capacity in place by 2015, Ethiopia aims to export some 550,000 tonnes, giving it earnings projected at \$300 million by the end of next year.

E.G. Woldegebriel is a journalist based in Addis Ababa with an interest in environmental issues.

Ethiopia: Installation of Electric Lines Well in Progress | August 26 | Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency (Addis Ababa)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408270262.html>

By Nesru Jemal

The Ethiopian Electric Power said 80 percent of the ongoing installation of electric transmission lines in western and southern parts of the country has been done.

Agency's Public Relations Head, Miskir Negash said that the lines cover 445km in Oromia, Gambella and South Ethiopia Peoples' states.

Launched in 2003 E.C., the installation of the 230kv lines will consume a total of 2.1 billion Birr, of which 74 per cent is covered with loan secured from the African Development Bank, while the balance comes from the government coffers.

Up on completion, the project will help to electrify the Western and Southern parts of the country.

Source: Ethiopian News Agency

Ethiopia: Sugar Project Aims to Boost Power Production | August 29 | Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency (Addis Ababa)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408291429.html>

By Zerihun Getachew

Ethiopia has embarked on an ambitious project to grow more sugar crop as it would not only allow the government to meeting soaring demand for sugar but also help it boost electricity production and cut carbon emissions.

After extracting juice from sugarcane, the remaining product can be used to produce electricity. Ethiopia's three factories at Wonji, Metehera and Finchaa currently produce nearly 300,000 tons of sugar annually.

These factories also generate 62 megawatts (MW) of electricity, 50 per cent of which is used by the factories themselves and the remaining half is sent to the national electric grid.

Production of sugar-based ethanol would help the country in reducing its dependence on conventional fuels like petrol.

This way, the country will also be able to cut carbon emissions. The country is also working on a plan to build a climate-resilient green economy, with an aim to achieve zero net carbon output by 2025.

A senior official from Ethiopia's Ministry of Water, Irrigation & Energy, Gossaye Mengiste, said the country has a potential to produce 600 megawatts of electricity from sugar when the thirteen additional factories that are currently under construction start production.

Ethiopia has an aim to increase electricity generation from current 2,200 megawatts to 8,000 megawatts by the end of the 2015.

The list of other benefits from the sugar project includes generation of more jobs and the production of high-quality cattle feed as a byproduct, for the country's growing livestock sector.

Ghana: Energy Commission Ask Consumers To Conserve Energy | September 2 | SpyGhana.com

Source URL: <http://www.spyghana.com/energy-commission-ask-consumers-to-conserve-energy/>

The resilience of Ghana's energy sector depends on the commitment of electricity consumers to energy conservation measures, the Energy Commission said.

The country, it noted, was able to save 70 megawatts of electricity during the 2014 World Cup as domestic consumers heeded the Commission's advice to use electricity prudently when the energy situation was critical.

That success justified the launch of the nationwide energy conservation drive.

Mr Victor Owusu, Public Affairs Manager of the Energy Commission made these observations at the Commission's "SAVE A WATT", National Road-Show campaign in Ho.

He said the Commission was therefore focusing its energy conservation campaign towards changing wasteful use of electricity by households, offices and businesses, energy inefficient electrical appliances and unprofessional wiring of buildings.

Mr Owusu said the Commission aims at inculcating the habit of energy conservation among children, so that when they become adults, they will adopt energy conservation measures.

He said the Commission would also use the platform of Churches and Mosques for its energy conservation drive.

Mr Owusu said leaving the lights on, in and around kiosks and containers on week-ends constitutes a significant drain on the national electricity grid.

He cited the instance where a 10-watt bulb was used by each container or kiosk, saying a total of 100 megawatts of electricity would be lost by 10 million kiosks and containers every weekend.

Mr Solomon Sarpong, Senior Programme Officer, Technical Regulation, Energy Commission said as from the beginning of year 2015, only houses wired by the Commission's certified wiring professionals would have electricity extended to them by the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG).

He said anyone who would require the services of such certified professionals in the Volta Region should contact 0208160493 or the Commission on 0506344713.

Mr Robert Amewuda, acting Volta Regional Director of the ECG, said energy conservation was not about affordability of the utility by consumers, but rather that it be fairly available to every consumer.

Ghana: Erratic power supply to intensify; PURC helpless | September 5 | GhanaWeb

Source URL: <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=324416>

Intermittent power outages that have hit the country in the last five months will worsen as almost 300 megawatts of power has been dropped to the electricity supplier – Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG). Cuts in gas supply from Nigeria, repairs on faulty equipment and non-availability of supply from Bui have been blamed for the reduction in the power generation mix. Public Relations Manager of ECG William Boateng told Joy News' Elton John Brobbey the supplier is unable to publish a timetable to manage the current load shedding due to fluctuations in supply from the power producers. "Now it's on as-and-when basis. As-and-when means that any time we have a challenge, that is when one of the plants has to shut down for maintenance, then we have to shed some load", he said. He was, however, hopeful the situation will improve. On Joy FM's Newsnight Thursday, Public Affairs Director of the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC), Nana Yaa Gyantuah, said the regulator is equally concerned about the development. She however admitted the situation is unfortunate, but urged consumers not be alarmed.

Ghana: Load shedding not over yet, says ECG | September 4 | GhanaWeb

Source URL: <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=324374>

The Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) says the power rationing exercise which began in April is still in force. It explained that the effect of the exercise subsided during and after the 2014 FIFA World Cup because

of energy-conservation practices adopted in Ghanaian households but the situation has since worsened. Speaking to TV3's Sandra Amarquaye in an interview on Thursday, September 4, William Boateng, the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of ECG, said: "For the past two weeks, [loadshedding] has gone up again." He pointed out that: "We are shedding within the region of 200MW and that is why customers are complaining but the loadshedding is not over yet." He was, however, not certain when the exercise will end as he observed the Company is yet to draft a timetable. "I think it will be improper for us to come out with a timetable and [when] we are unable to follow the timetable, I think our consumers will not be happy with us." Mr Boateng told our energy reporter that ECG is still engaged in discussions with power-producing companies to consider whether a new timetable is necessary. He explained that for now the timetable released in April will still be used.

Kenya Power Customers to Get Loans to Fund New Connections | September 1 | The Star (Kenya)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409010952.html>

By Kiplang'at Kirui

KENYA Power is working with various financial institutions to give loans that will assist people to pay for new connections.

The firm's managing director Ben Chumo said it already has deals with local banks such as National Bank, Jamii Bora bank, Equity bank and its own Stima loan for the connections.

Chumo said the move will help the potential customers especially in rural areas to access affordable loans for new connections.

He was speaking during a press briefing in Narok town on Saturday.

"The financing arrangements at the cost Sh638 million credit facility spearheaded by Kenya power in collaboration with the government and French Development Agency will help to ease connection," said Chumo.

Chumo said the company recorded 443,000 new customers last year from 307,000 recorded in the previous year.

"The government aims to increase electricity access rate to 70 per cent of Kenyans in the next five years. Currently, 32 per cent of Kenyans have access to electricity," said Chumo.

He added that the company targets to connect one million new customers to the national grid in 2014-15 financial year.

Kenya: Garden City Installs Mega Solar Project | August 27 | The Star (Kenya)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408270515.html>

DEVELOPERS of Garden City Mall have said they will install large solar panels on its car park canopy with a target to produce 1,246,000 kilowatt of energy annually and cut service charge for tenants.

The \$250 million project along Thika Highway being financed by private equity firm Actis, with additional funding from the International Finance Corporation includes a 50,000 square metre mall, over 420 apartments, duplexes and villas, as well as office blocks and a public park once complete.

The entire Garden City project including both phases of the mall, all residential units, offices and hotel are expected to complete in 2017. However, the mall is slated for completion this year.

"We are taking a 360 degrees approach to ensure we are creating something which is both relevant to its surroundings and has as light a carbon footprint as possible," said Michael Kingshott, a director at Aspire, the UK-based property development firm managing Garden City.

The solar panels will be installed on the mall's roof, Kingshott said, during the fit-out phase, offering a shaded area for customer parking which also generates clean electricity. Developers of the project said it will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by at least 492 tonnes every year.

"We were looking for a turn-key solution that could produce clean power and pay for itself with the energy it produces. This solution not only takes advantage of Kenya's exceptional solar resources but also provides additional covered parking to customers of the Garden City Mall," said Koome Gikunda, Investment Principal at Actis.

Kenya: Kenya Power Secures Funds for Expansion Project | August 25 | CAJ News Africa

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408252446.html>

By Antony Langat

Nairobi — THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has committed a US\$150 million loan (approximately Shs13 billion) to finance part of Kenya Power's target of 1 million new electricity connections this year.

Principal Secretary for Energy and Petroleum, Eng. Joseph Njoroge, disclosed that the loan was the first phase of the AfDB financing, totalling about Shs.60 billion) that will cover connection costs for approximately 400 000 customers before the end of the year.

Kenya Power Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Dr Ben Chumo, said the company would maintain last year's success to accelerate the rate of connections, which saw the company record 443 000 new customer connections up from 307 000 recorded the previous year.

Chumo said the company was working closely with the energy ministry and financial institutions to ensure allocation of adequate resources to maintain the high rate of connectivity in the coming years.

He said this was part of demand creation for the 5 000 MW additional capacity envisioned by the government and help attain 70 percent electricity penetration by the year 2020, up from the current 32 percent.

The two officials were speaking at a media briefing session in Athi River where they witnessed a Shs159 million power upgrade project aimed at stabilizing power supply to customers in Nairobi's rapidly growing satellite towns of Athi River, Kitengela, Namanga, Machakos and Mlolongo.

Kenya: Kenya Pushes for More Steam Power | August 24 | East African Business Week (Kampala)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408252778.html>

Nairobi — This financial year Kenya's Geothermal Development Company (GDC) has been given \$142 million to generate more power from the country's natural steam pools writes JOHN SAMBO.

Kenya is one of a few African countries, including Ethiopia and Zambia, which is exploring geothermal potential.

The discovery of Kenya's geothermal energy resources dates back to the 1950s, when the first test wells were drilled at Olkaria, near Nairobi.

According to the Oxford Group, a research group, Kenya is one of a handful of African countries, including Ethiopia and Zambia, which is exploring geothermal potential. The discovery of Kenya's geothermal energy resources dates back to the 1950s, when the first test wells were drilled at Olkaria, near Nairobi. Kenya completed its first geothermal power plant, a 15MW facility, in 1981 at the same location.

Since then, Kenya has also turned to private producers, with IPPs such as United States-based Ormat Technologies 50MW plant in Olkaria contributing to geothermal production.

Kenya's Rift Valley is the main geothermal zone.

Among the largest well clusters are Menengai and Baringo, which have potential capacities of 1,600 MW and 800 MW, respectively. According to the government's second Medium Term Plan - an action plan for the broader development strategy 'Vision 2030' - 620 geothermal wells will be drilled and developed. Kenya's 10-year plan will come at a collective cost of some \$2.6bn.

According to a Ministry of Energy 2013-2016 investment prospectus, Kenya's geothermal generation makes up just under 250MW of the total electricity production of roughly 1650MW. Hydroelectric comprises the largest proportion of generation, at around 800MW, followed by thermal at around 600MW.

Kenya: Mini Grids Summit Set for Nairobi | August 28 | CAJ News Africa

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408281151.html>

By Antony Langat

Nairobi — MAJOR players in the power industry will convene in the country this November to explore the commercial potential of mini grids in Africa.

The Africa Mini Grids Summit 2014 will convene from November 18-19 in Nairobi.

The summit will provide a high-level strategic platform for all industries plagued by electricity shortages to explore and deploy mini-grids to meet the chronic electricity shortfalls in the African continent.

According to Magenta Global, the event organizer, the speakers' panel include: University of Southampton, Rural Electrification Authority Zambia, Rural Energy Agency Tanzania, Kenya Power and Lighting Company, Rural Electrification Agency Uganda among other electrification agencies in the region.

Africa Mini Grids Summit 2014 will also include an exclusive site visit and presentation to a live solar project at Strathmore University.

The Vice Chancellor of Strathmore University, Professor Izael Pereira da Silva, an authority and expert on the subject of mini grids said he was looking forward to the important summit on mini grids and to share with delegates the finer points on technical, economic and sustainability considerations on implementing hybrid mini-grids.

"I am also excited to host the summit participants at our Strathmore Energy Research Centre at Strathmore University on Day 2 of the Summit. We have a 600 kW grid connected system and also a 10kW diesel/solar hybrid system which were set up as training tool for engineers," he said.

Mini grids are defined as power sources of 3MW (diesel, hydro, biomass, hybrid) supplying a local distribution grid connected to domestic, business and institutional customers in the locality. They provide potential opportunities over grid-connected electrification, such as enhanced reliability of supply, lower costs in remote locations and better environmental performance.

Kenya: Sh11 Billion for Electricity in Rural Schools, Homes | September 2 | The Star (Kenya)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409020561.html>

By Mathews Ndanyi

THE government will spend Sh11 billion on rural electrification programmes this year.

The plan aims to connect more than 1 million households, primary schools, markets and other public facilities to the power grid.

Rural Electrification Authority chairman Simon Gicharu said the government has provided enough funding.

"By the end of 2015 we will have achieved our target. This will completely turn around the economy," he said.

Gicharu was speaking at Kiplombe in Uasin Gishu county where he launched an electricity project.

He was with Governor Jackson Mandago.

The REA will use more than Sh 200 million on rural electrification in Uasin Gishu.

Gicharu said the plan to connect all schools will ensure standard one pupils get free laptops from the government.

"We will ask the government to connect private schools because the children who go there are also Kenyans," he said.

"Once we connect homes, we will also have helped deal with the insecurity and other challenges that have been causing retarded development in some parts of the country."

Gicharu said the theft of transformers has interfered with plans to expand power supply in rural areas.

He said MPs should support a proposal to classify the theft as a serious economic crime.

"Those undermining our plan by vandalising transformers are criminals who should be dealt with as economic saboteurs," Gicharu said.

Liberia: The Mt. Coffee Hydro: Despite Ebola, Still Achievable by 2016 | September 1 | The Liberian Observer

Source URL: <http://www.liberianobserver.com/editorials/mt-coffee-hydro-despite-ebola-still-achievable-2016>

Mon, 09/01/2014 - 05:27 admin

The Ebola crisis has handed Liberia its most serious medical crisis in its 169 year-history. It came at a time when the nation was poised to mark of the most important achievements in its post-war history, the rebuilding and reinstallation of the Mount Coffee Hydro Electric Plant. The first phase was scheduled to be by completed in December 2015, supplying 20 megawatts; while the second phase was due for completion in June 2016, when the full 80 megawatt capacity was due to be generated, up from the original 64 megawatts. It was Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front forces that destroyed the entire hydro at the onset of the civil war in 1990. Since that time, the Interim Government of National Unity did nothing to safeguard the hydro's assets and whole scale looting ensured, with scrap dealers dismantling and pilfering everything in sight.

Now, just as the hydro engineers had commenced their work in earnest to restore the plant and meet the December 2015 deadline, the deadly Ebola epidemic hit, placing everything in Liberia into disarray.

Most of the expatriate hydro engineers have left. So have those working also on the two 10-megawatt plants, one financed by the Japanese government and the other by the World Bank; and on the GOL' 18-megawatt plant.

But we at the *Daily Observer* are eternal optimists, and refuse to let anything defeat us or our country. Despite the rapid spread of the disease and people dropping dead in many places, we strongly believe, as we said in a recent editorial, that "this, too, shall pass."

Yes, Liberia can and will overcome this epidemic and things will be restored to normalcy, so that the government and people may get back to the business of reconstruction and development.

The first urgent point we wish to make here is to call on the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy, which has oversight of the country's energy program, Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), which is chiefly responsible for electrification and the entire state security apparatus, to exert every effort to safeguard all hydro and other electrification assets, in order to ensure that when the works are resumed, nothing shall have been lost.

We know our people. We also know that being as unpatriotic and self-destructive as some of us often are, there are many who will seize the opportunity of the current crisis to steal and loot any and everything in sight, not realizing they are doing it to themselves, since they and their very wives, children and other relatives, and the nation and people as a whole, stand to benefit from these very developments.

The chief LEC communication officer, Hassan Kiawu, confirmed to this newspaper last weekend, that the expatriates on the Hydro plant and the three thermal plants at Bushrod Island are continuing their work in their respective countries, Germany, Canada, etc. A skeletal Liberian staff is continuing their work at Bushrod Island.

The second point we make in this editorial is to call on the GOL to intensify its efforts to defeat Ebola, by making maximum use of all the resources that have been put in place and those contributed by the development partners in a concerted and determined effort to end Ebola in our country.

Thirdly, we call on all Liberians to cooperate fully and decisively with their government, in a determined bid to defeat Ebola and heal our country and people again.

If within the next two months we can rid our country of this disease and make Liberia safe again, we will be able to resume of normal activities, work and school, and the task of reconstruction and development.

Let each individual citizen and resident continue to clean not only our hands, bodies and homes, but also our neighborhoods, towns and cities, removing all dirt from the dumpsites. If we can do this, and we believe we surely can, we would have solved at least half the problem.

Let also everyone who is detected of the virus immediately report himself or herself to the health authorities and do everything to ensure that no one else is infected.

We urge the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Mr. Jallah Dorbor, National Ebola Task Force Coordinator, and his entire team to exert their best efforts defeat the virus. We pray, too, that the GOL will equip them with the financial resources that will empower them successfully to complete the job.

Nigeria: 'FG Targets 30 Percent Electricity From Coal By 2015' | August 27 | The Guardian (Lagos)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408280244.html>

THE Minister of Mines and Steel Development, Mr. Musa Sada, on Tuesday said that the Federal Government had targeted coal to contribute 30 per cent of power generation in the country by 2015.

Sada told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja that the Federal Government was determined to address the country's power challenge through coal.

He said that the ministry was taking steps towards meeting the target by making effort to determine the amount of coal deposit in the country.

The minister explained that the quantity and life span of coal deposit in the country would determine the basis for designing the coal power plant to generate power supply.

He said the Federal Government would ensure that gas, solar and wind energy contributed to power generation, adding that all the countries that had steady power supply did same.

"What we are looking at now is the targeted contribution from coal and we must take the right step towards achieving it so that we don't get stock along the way.

"It is very important that we determine the amount of coal deposit that we have because that is the basis for the designing of power plant itself, otherwise, our efforts will be speculative.

"The problem in the gas power plant is that pipelines have not reached where some of the power plants are located and we don't want that to happen with coal," he said.

Sada said that there were no coal power plants operating in the country currently because there were factors to consider in designing and running them.

"For you to be able to build a coal power plant, you must determine the amount of coal deposit you have and how many years it can last.

"Once you start a coal power plant, you cannot switch it off and that is why we are at the stage we are now.

"Most of the companies we have engaged now are working on the quantity of coal we have because that is the basis upon which power plant can be built," he said.

The minister said that he was not aware of any power generation company in the country that imports coal from South Africa or any other part of the world.

Sada explained that those importing coal might be doing so for other purposes and certainly not for power generation.

He explained that some of the cement factories that use coal only used it to fire the limestone they use for cement making to save the power that they could have used for that.

"Coal is as volatile as any combustible mineral because if you pack a heap of coals here, it has a very high tendency to catch fire.

"Storage of coal is not an easy thing because you cannot put coal in a container or in a room; it must be stored in the open and consistently watered.

"I am not sure there are facilities to handle coal at our ports currently,"he said.

Nigeria: FG Pledges Stable Power Supply By October | August 29 | Daily Independent (Lagos)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409010423.html>

The Federal Government on Friday said some measures had been put in place to ensure more stabilised power supply in the country by the beginning of October.

Minister of Power, Prof. Chinedu Nebo, disclosed this to State House correspondents after a meeting presided over by Vice President Namadi Sambo at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

Part of the strategies, he said, was the method put in place to ensure availability of gas for generation companies.

He said the step had started yielding results as some parts of the country had started experiencing more stabilised power supply.

He said, "The cheering news from all of these is that if you have noticed throughout the country in the past one week, people have been getting much better power supply.

"The gas is now beginning to come back and it is something that gives all of us a lot of joy.

"And we know that it will continue to grow that way even until December.

"The gas producers have come to a place where almost all of these is being taken care of.

"So that part of the shortfalls we've had in production up to this time, we hope that by the beginning of October, we will see a much better stabilisation of the entire power delivery system in the country."

Nebo said that for the first time in recent past, the country had been on an average of 4,500MW, including the about 300MW of spilling reserve which is meant to ensure the regular reliability and stability of the grid.

The minister boasted that the government was making progress in the power sector, although it might not be as rapidly as Nigerians expect.

He promised that the progress would be sustained.

On the complaints by generation companies on their debts, the minister said arrangements were being made to ensure that they are paid as at when due.

Nigeria: Govt Borrows N300 Billion for Electricity Transmission | Daily Trust | August 26

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408260583.html>

By Simon Echewofun Sunday

The federal government has borrowed a total of \$1.9bn (N300 billion), as part of electricity transmission expansion capacity.

The funding came from various sources as part of the target to meet the 20,000mw transmission capacity in the year 2020, records indicated.

Daily Trust gathered that so far \$4 billion (N647.6bn) was generated by government out of the \$16 billion (N2.6 trillion) target to achieve the 20,000 megawatts transmission capacity before 2020.

The Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) is in-charge of evacuating electricity from the generation stations to the distributors across the country.

The federal government recently concluded the privatisation of the other two sectors-generation and distribution companies from the old Power Holding Company of Nigeria, primarily to reduce cost of operations and increase efficiencies of the sectors.

TCN, which is government owned but still under a management contract by Manitoba Hydro International (MHI) of Canada, confirmed the figures recently.

"In order to support the electricity market - TCN has checked out comprehensive programme to enhance system reliability, stability and total transfer capability to meet with requirement of exponentially growing generation and real load demand," it said.

The loans so far, approximately \$4bn has been raised as "Capital funding has been secured through internal and external bilateral partners."

The World Bank has given approximately \$900m, the African Development Bank (AfDB) \$150m, Japan's JICA \$200m, CHINA EXIM \$500m, the Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC) through its National Integrated Power Projects (NIPP) \$1.6m, the Eurobond \$136m while the federal government contributed \$500m.

The company said a Programme Appraisal Document (PAD) gives the expansion plan for the Transmission's Total Capacity (TTC) to include achieving an increase to 6,000mw by this year, December.

But statistics from the transmission National Control Centre, Osogbo, weekend, shows that the national electricity grid is at 3,400mw with actual power evacuation at 3,100mw.

TCN said it seeks to attain 10,000mw evacuation capacity by 2017, but the Minister of Power, Prof. Chinedu Nebo, at the recent Power Council inauguration had said the 10,000mw grid target will be achieved by 2016.

The company also plans to another 3,000mw in 2018 while it reaches 16,000mw by 2019 and a total of 20,000mw by 2020, TCN disclosed.

Nigeria: Kashimbila Dam - Generating Electricity for Nigerians | September 3 | Daily Independent (Lagos)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201409040091.html> aama

By Janet Audu / Correspondent

Jalingo — One of the drawbacks to the development of Nigeria is the supply of inadequate electricity to power the industrial development of the country. This is in spite of the federal government spending billions of dollars to improve the electricity situation in the country.

However, the Federal Government has disclosed that the multi-billion naira Kashimbila multi purpose buffer dam in Takum Local Government Area in Taraba State has reached advanced stage of completion and will be ready for commissioning in December this year.

Minister of State, Niger Delta Affairs, Darius Dickson Ishaku, disclosed this in an interactive session with journalists in Takum, adding that that when the multi purpose dam is completed and put to use, it will serve as the nation's buffer against lake Nyos in the Cameroun Republic as well as generate 40 megawatts of electricity to the national grid. He said the dam will also serve as an irrigation facility in the area.

The Minister also stated that President Goodluck Jonathan has directed the contractor handling the contract of the dam to speed up work and ensure its completion by December.

According him, "Glory be to God in heaven that Mr. President has ordered that Kashimbila dam be completed this year. Taraba State is one of the disadvantaged states in terms of electricity and when I got to the

Ministry of Power, I took it up as a burden. I met with Mr. President and pleaded with him that the dam they are constructing at my backyard should not only be 40 megawatts; I told him that initially it was 100 megawatts but the engineers said 40 megawatts was the maximum the dam could carry.

"Now, as I am talking to you, all our turbines are in Kashimbila and the idea is to transmit electricity to Takum, Wukari and Jalingo where we will have substations.

"As minister of power then, there was no transmission here from Wukari to Jalingo and the state government had no money, so what I did as minister was to fix the sub-station in Jalingo, located along Yola Road, and I provided a transformer for every location in Jalingo," he stated

On the proposed Mambilla hydro electricity power dam, the minister said that plans have been completed for the award of contract and take off of the gigantic project.

According to him, "When I was at the Power Ministry, Mambilla project has been like that, nothing was being down because they were locked in legal tussles. I removed the legal tussles and brought all people together and harmonized all their differences. Mambilla was 2,600 megawatts, I took it to 3,000 megawatts and we would have full-fledged lake on the Mambilla. It would take a maximum of six to seven years to build that power plan."

Still on the Mambilla hydro power project, the minister stated that the federal government was working on providing access road to the project site, stressing that the project would commence in earnest.

He further revealed that the Mambilla hydro power project which has been on the drawing board for decades, will gulp \$7 billion, he explained that the multi purpose Kashibilla dam when completed, will provide job opportunities, social and economic benefits to the people in the area, stressing that the beneficial economic impact of the dam will include the development of the irrigation an scheme and the supply of water to Takum, Kashimbilla and other places in the state.

The minister added that the benefits of the dam could also be enhanced through the use of water resources for the development of the hydroelectric power project. He said the hydroelectric power plan project would augment the national power grid and contribute to the production of clean energy. He said that the project will be beneficial from carbon trading as this will be one of the solution to achieving net carbon sink status, it will be a plus for combating global climate change and achievement sustainable development.

He also revealed that the multi billion naira contract for the construction of the Kashimbila multi-purpose dam project was awarded to Messrs Setraco Company Limited on May 11, 2007, for the multi purpose development of flood control to check the threat of a flood from the weak volcanic lake Nyo in Cameroon Republic, water supply of 60,000 per day for 400,000 people, additional hydro power supply of 40 megawatts, irrigation of 2,000 hectares, including tourism and fishery potential which will serve as poverty alleviation in the area, mean while the Federal Government has awarded a N31. 2 billion contract for the evacuation of electricity from the 40 megawatts capacity Kashimbilla dam. In a related development, a member representing Takum 11 constituency in the state House of Assembly, Hon Mark Bako Useini, who also served as the former chairman of Takum Local Government Area where the multipurpose dam is cited, has commended the federal government for siting the gigantic project in his domain and expressed satisfaction with the project in Kashimbilla, describing the dam as a capital project that the federal government is committed to its logical completion.

He, therefore, called on the people of the area to lay down their arms and give peace a chance for the sake of development, saying that without peace no meaningful development will come to their area. He described peace as the catalyst for development, stressing that with the siting of the dam in Kashimbila investors will flock to the area and attract more federal government presence to the state at large.

Our correspondent who was in Takum during the 60th birthday and thanks giving ceremony of the minister reports that the joy of the people of the area knew no bounds as they were optimistic that development has reached their area and job opportunities are guaranteed to them, saying that the project has given them a sense of pride and belonging.

Tanzania: Geothermal energy could solve Tanzania's power crisis | August 27 | Hydrogen Fuel News

Source URL: <http://www.hydrogenfuelnews.com/geothermal-energy-solve-tanzanias-power-crisis/8519284/>

Posted on 27 August 2014.

The Tanzania Geothermal Development Company intends to produce up to 4,000 MW of geothermal power by 2017.

The company, which was established by the Tanzanian government and is a subsidiary of Tanesco (Tanzania Electric Supply Company), was created to help the African country make effective use of its geothermal energy potential in order to generate electricity for the nation, accelerate social and economic development, and help with a rapidly increasing power crisis.

Tanzania has been found to be very suitable for producing this form of renewable energy.

The Minister for Energy and Minerals, Prof Sospeter Muhongo, stated that the country has "huge potentials in geothermal since Tanzania has the largest share of the East Africa's Rift Valley system. I should admit that we have delayed to make use of this opportunity." He also said that "Lake Ngozi in Mbeya has so far been identified as a suitable location to start generation."

It has been confirmed by experts that the country, which is located in East Africa, is home to the largest part of both the Western and Eastern Arm of the East African Rift Valley system, and it is highly suitable for geothermal power production.

Kenya has also greatly benefited from geothermal energy.

The vice-president of Tanzania, Dr. Mohamed Gharib Bilal, commented that their neighbors, Kenya, with whom they share the rift valley, have already tapped into and made good use of the alternative energy source. The vice-president noted that while Kenya generates around a quarter of its energy from geothermal, Tanzania has barely produced a kilowatt of power from it.

He has said that due to the country relying so heavily on hydropower, this has resulted in an energy crisis because irregular weather conditions have made hydropower a less reliable source of power for the nation.

Tanzania will be collaborating with other countries, including the U.S., Germany, Italy, and Japan to obtain the expertise and knowledge that is required to enable the country to make the most of the renewable source.

In addition to geothermal energy, other renewable options that are being explored by the African nation for electricity generation include solar energy, biomass-biogas combination, and waves & tides.

Tanzania: Tanzania to double power supply by 2016, mostly from gas | September 3 | Reuters

Source URL: <http://www.trust.org/item/20140904100920-s31qb/>

Source: Reuters - Wed, 3 Sep 2014 16:00 GMT

Author: George Obulutsa

NAIROBI, Sept 3 (Reuters) - Tanzania aims to double its power production to 3,000 megawatts by 2016 at a cost of around \$1.21 billion to meet rising demand by using its vast natural gas supplies, an official at the state-run utility said on Wednesday.

Businesses say frequent power outages now are hurting productivity and are a barrier to economic growth.

Decklan Mhaiki, deputy managing director for investments at Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO), said the country's installed capacity stood at 1,500 megawatts (MW), against a peak power demand of 900 MW. The full installed capacity is however rarely available due to power plant outages and drought.

Mhaiki said demand for electricity was growing at a rate of 8 to 10 percent per year.

A gas-powered plant located near the commercial capital Dar es Salaam would start producing 150 MW by the end of this year, he said, adding that the total cost of the additional power supply would be funded by private investors and public funds.

"So it's also a challenge for us to make sure we increase generation capacity," Mhaiki told Reuters on the sidelines of an east African power conference.

"We are taking advantage of gas to be able to bring more affordable power in the short term, and gas plants are quick to build. So all of the 1,500 megawatts will be gas-fired, except for only 50 megawatts that will come from wind."

At present 24 percent of the 45 million population in East Africa's second-largest economy is connected to the power grid, and this would rise to 30 percent by 2016, Mhaiki said.

Tanzania has made big natural gas discoveries off its southern coast and hopes to use its deposits to end chronic energy shortages. As of April, the government said Tanzania's natural gas discoveries stood at 46.7 trillion cubic feet.

The government has said the economy, which depends on agriculture, tourism and mining, is expected to grow at 7.2 percent in 2014, up from 7.1 percent last year.

(Editing by James Macharia and David Evans)

We welcome comments that advance the story through relevant opinion, anecdotes, links and data. If you see a comment that you believe is irrelevant or inappropriate, you can flag it to our editors by using the report abuse links. Views expressed in the comments do not represent those of the Thomson Reuters Foundation. For more information see our Acceptable Use Policy.

Tanzania: U.S.\$11 Billion Needed for Tanzania Power | August 25 | East African Business Week (Kampala)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201408252718.html>

Dar es Salaam — Tanzania's Power System Master Plan for the years 2012 to 2017 will require short term financing of \$11.4 billion.

The blueprint availed to East African Business Week in Dar es Salaam last week shows that in short term it requires \$11.4 billion - about \$1.9 billion per annum of which 73.5% is for generation.

As in a long run the government has embarked on reforming the Electricity Supply Industry (ESI). It is estimated that the ESI Reform Strategy will be implemented over a period of 11 years and will require about \$1.15 billion (equivalent to Tsh1.9 trillion).

This amount would be used for paying Tanesco's debt (\$412 million), capacity charges for existing IPPs (\$635 million) and other expenses (\$101.2 million).

This initiative is the biggest undertaking in electricity sub-sector in Tanzania since the de-specification of Tanzania Electricity Supply Company (Tanesco) from privatization in 2005.

The ESI Reform Strategy and the Roadmap describe the intended reform initiatives and key actions covering the period from 2014 to 2025.

The newly released energy blueprint dubbed Electricity Supply Industry Reform Strategy and Roadmap 2014-2025, shows that the government hopes to increase installed generation capacity from the current 1,583MW to over 10,000MW.

The blueprint shows that nearly 4,000MW will be generated from natural gas and 200MW from geothermal.

"So as to realize these targets, the country requires adequate, reliable, affordable and environmentally friendly electricity supply," the Minister for Energy and Minerals, Prof Sospeter Muhongo said.

As a result, Minister Muhongo said in a blueprint that the installed power capacity must increase from 1,583 MW (April 2014) to at least 10,000 MW by 2025 and transmission and distribution systems expanded.

At present, there are four primary sources of funding for investment in the power sector which are the government, Tanesco, development partners and financial institutions.

For decades, while the government and Tanesco have been the primary financiers with some forms of support from development partners, the projected growth exceeds existing resources.

Economists believe that the immediate availability of these funds could be a challenge as the government depends on taxes as its main source of revenue however its means of collecting revenue still weak.

Therefore, the private capital investment becomes an important option to bridge the financing gap within the context of appropriate controls and balancing the interests of both investors and consumers.

The implementation of the plan will engage the private sector in a shift that will see the financing of power projects move away from government hands.

ESI Reform Strategy aim at meeting the current and future demand for electricity; reducing public expenditure on ESI for operational activities; attracting private capital; and increasing electricity connection and access levels.

The ESI Reform Strategy and the Roadmap have been prepared by the government in consultation with various key stakeholders including the general public, academia, private sector, financial institutions and Development Partners.

The intended major outcomes of the ESI Reform Strategy and the Roadmap include: increased efficiency; quality services and goods; availability of affordable power; satisfaction of the client; satisfaction of the business partners and their shareholders; increased transparency and competition; and abolition of subsidies in the electricity sub-sector.

Tanzania is endowed with diverse forms of energy resources including natural gas, hydro, coal, biomass, geothermal, solar, wind and uranium which have not been optimally utilised. As of May 2014, Tanzania's total installed generation capacity was 1,583 MW composed of hydro 561 MW (35%), natural gas power plants of 527 MW (34%) and liquid fuel power plants of 495 MW (31%).

Tanesco also imports power Uganda (10 MW), Zambia (5 MW) and Kenya (1MW). Due to traditional dependence on hydropower, the droughts that occurred in 2010 resulted in power supply shortages in the country. To bridge the electricity supply gap in the country, in 2011, Tanesco contracted Emergency Power Producers (EPP) which is relatively expensive.

About 24% of the Mainland Tanzanian population is connected with electricity services of which 7% is in rural areas. Demand for electricity is on average growing between 10% and 15% per annum.

To achieve the desired socio-economic transformation, Tanzania aims to increase connection levels to 30% by 2015, 50% by 2025 and more than 75% by 2033.