

Polytechnic Namibia / IRENA working meeting on synergies for renewable energy research in SADC

**23 October 2012, 9:00 - 17:00
Polytechnic of Namibia Hotel School**

Windhoek, NAMIBIA

The meeting follows the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Polytechnic Namibia, the University of Lesotho, the University of Botswana, Durban University of Technology and the University of Pretoria. The partnership is named the Regional Energy Forum (in the following: 'the network'). The MoU provides a basis for collaboration in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The Renewable Energy Strategy and Action Plan (RESAP) submitted by the SADC Secretariat to the Council of Energy Ministers foresee a cumulative investment in renewable energy of USD 300 billion by 2030. Private investments of this amplitude require a strong human capacity, a high level of expertise, and a solid technical background available locally. This should ensure, for example, that investments benefit the local communities, that the capacities allow for the development of local businesses, and that due consideration is put to adapting or selecting adequate technologies to the local conditions. For investors, it is critical that the technology can be properly implemented, operated and maintained locally, to secure the expected returns on investments.

The meeting has demonstrated the large body of knowledge existing in the region. Universities play an active and prominent role in developing, adapting and absorbing knowledge, and contribute to the development of the national master plans. International organizations (UNDP, IRENA), national cooperation agencies (USAid, DANIDA, GIZ), international programmes (Wind Atlas for South Africa - WASA), or regional networks (SADC, RERA) play an active role in developing projects to generate additional expertise.

A critical element is to benefit from a strong and stable network able to register, absorb and highlight the knowledge available, in order to accelerate the uptake of renewables in the region. This element is critically missing today. In this regard, the SADC Secretariat would be working on a strategy for creating a regional equivalent of ECOWAS Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) and Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). If successful, this entity would benefit strongly from the support of the universities and institutes having accumulated a large experience in the domain. The current network represents a first step for a successful partnership in the region.

The network can be further expanded to include additional partners from SADC: the Eduardo Mondlane University of Mozambique, Mauritius, and Zimbabwe were identified as future partners for joining the partnership. This enlargement would further increase the representativeness of the network, in order to best reflect the diversity of challenges, strategies and skills within the region.

Mr. Clement Matasane, from the University of Botswana was elected as coordinator of the network for the planning phase. The role of the coordinator is to act as a focal point for the network, disseminating the information amongst members, and overseeing the development of the activities described by the work programme. The coordinator may represent the network to public events.

A draft annual work programme was proposed during the meeting. The draft is presented below. The work programme describes activities allocated to leading partners. The leading partner of each activity should mobilize the network in order to detail its activity. It should detail the tasks, timelines and concrete deliverables. Once the work programme is approved, each leading partner would be responsible for stimulating and monitoring the implementation of the task with the contributing institutes.

Timeline

The work programme will be developed and refined, until January 1st 2013. Once agreed by the network, the work programme will be implemented through in-kind contribution of the partners, as well as mobilization of donors for complex projects.

Draft 2013 work programme:

1/ Resource assessment

- Wind resource assessment **(led by the National University of Lesotho):**

The aim of this activity is to create synergies between the on-going programmes in Namibia, Lesotho, Botswana, and South Africa. For South Africa, SANEDI would be able to facilitate the contact between the network and the relevant partners of WASA. IRENA would facilitate contact with the World Meteorological Organisation, and investigate collaborations in the framework of the Global Framework for Climate Services.

- Solar resource assessment **(led by the Polytechnic of Namibia and the University of Botswana):**

This activity will disseminate the experience accumulated in the network, and highlight the way forward to evaluate solar resources at regional level.

2/ Energy policy and regulations (led by Eduardo Mondlane University of Mozambique)

The aim of this activity is to analyse the successes and failures of policy development in the region. Several countries in SADC are developing and experimenting support schemes to encourage the uptake of renewable energy. In this regard, UNDP highlighted some lessons learnt from the development of renewable energy in rural areas in Lesotho.

Compiling such information, and analysing the causes of success and failures, would help countries to accelerate the development of adequate policies for the region. The network would capitalise on the lessons learnt from the on-going and past projects, and publish comparative analyses.

3/Training and capacity building (led by Polytechnic of Namibia)

The aim of this activity is:

- To list the existing training courses provided by the partners involved in the network. Those training courses could be promoted and disseminated through the Irena Renewable Energy Learning Platform (IRELP – www.irelp.org¹). The platform can be freely used to disseminate materials.
- Based on the RESAP, the network would analyse the human capacities and training needs to enable the investment of USD 300 billion in the SADC region by 2030, and evaluate the consequences in terms of programmes and volumes for the universities.
- Develop a strategy towards homogenising the training curricula development and course contents within SADC, in order to encourage the mobility of the work force within the region.
- Development of Regional Short courses materials focusing on the market
- Possible accreditations
- A set of materials will be drafted and developed and feed back to the network for finalisation

4/Socio-economic aspects of renewable energies (leading institute to be defined)

The RESAP foresees a large deployment of renewable energy over a short period of time. The socio-economic aspects of this deployment would need to be evaluated, e.g. acceptability by the populations, involvement of the local communities in the planning phase, evaluation of the energy costs for the consumers and their financial capacity to use the service.

Several successful projects were highlighted during the meeting, which can be promoted and replicated in the region. For example, Namibia is currently developing a network of energy shops, acting as local retailers of renewable energy devices in rural areas.

5/Energy efficiency and Demand side Management (led by Durban University of Technology)

A large amount of work is on-going on this topic (RERA, SAPP). This activity will initially register all on-going activities and promote those through a common platform. In a second stage, joint projects would be proposed. The University of Pretoria would be contacted to possibly join this activity.

¹ For the time being, little is known on the ongoing courses and seminars in the region.
<http://www.irelp.org/courses/index.aspx?cc=true&PriMenuID=6&mnu=Pri>

Annex 1: List of participants invited and in attendance

Name	Institution	Country	Present/Absent
Clever Ketlogetswe	University of Botswana	Botswana	P
Clement Matasane	University of Botswana	Botswana	P
Zak Thamae	National University of Lesotho	Lesotho	A
Tsita Molapo	National University of Lesotho	Lesotho	P
Molibeli Taele	National University of Lesotho	Lesotho	P
Jorge Nhambiu	Eduardo Mondhlane University	Mozambique	P
Fabiao Cumbe	Eduardo Mondhlane University	Mozambique	P
Geraldo Gimo	Eduardo Mondhlane University	Mozambique	P
Al Mas. Sendegeya	Polytechnic Namibia	Namibia	P
Kudakwashe Ndhlukula	Polytechnic Namibia	Namibia	P
Mrs. Helvi Iлека	Polytechnic Namibia	Namibia	P
Bernard Siepker	Polytechnic Namibia	Namibia	P
Rojas Manyame,	Electricity control board	Namibia	A
Lahja Amaambo	NamPower	Namibia	A
Martha Mwandangi	UNDP	Namibia	P
Kirimi Kiramiti	Polytechnic of Namibia	Namibia	P
Anna Matros-Gareses	Polytechnic of Namibia	Namibia	P
Hippolyte Muyingi	Polytechnic of Namibia	Namibia	P
Harmony Musiyarira	Polytechnic of Namibia	Namibia	P
Noddy Hipangelwa	Ministry of Mines and Energy	Namibia	P
Velli Pekka Heiskanen	SADC Secretariat	SADC	P
Elijah Sichone	Regional Electricity Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA), SADC	SADC	P
Andre Otto	SANEDI	South Africa	P
Poobie Govender	Durban University of Technology	South Africa	P
Jiangfeng Zhang	University of Pretoria	South Africa	A
Sundeeep Singh	DUT	South Africa	P
Nicolas Fichaux	IRENA	UAE	P
Tawanda Hove	University of Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	A

Annex 2: agenda

Polytechnic Namibia / IRENA working meeting on synergies for renewable energy research in SADC

23 October 2012, 9:00 - 17:00
Polytechnic of Namibia Hotel School
 Beethoven Street - Windhoek West

Tel: +264-61- 2072233, Email: hotel@polytechnic.edu.na

Chair: Kudakwashe Ndhulukula, REEEI Director, Polytechnic Namibia

Objective

A large body of knowledge exists within the SADC area on renewable energy. It is expected that by reinforcing collaboration within the region, improving information exchanges and partnerships, it might be possible to identify and address common challenges by building on local competencies.

Taking as a basis the Memorandum of Understanding between Polytechnic Namibia, the University of Botswana, the National University of Lesotho, Durban University of Technology and the University of Pretoria, the main objective of this meeting is to share perspectives on inter-regional collaboration between universities and institutes within the SADC area in the field of renewable energy.

Agenda

9:00 – 9:15	Welcome remarks (A. Niikondo, Vice-Rector, Polytechnic of Namibia)
9:15 – 9:30	Presentation on IRENA (N. Fichaux)
9:30 – 9:45	Presentation on SADC (V-P. Heiskanen)
9 :45-10 :45	<p>Presentation of the Background to the MoU, and areas of cooperation</p> <p><i>10 minutes presentation from the involved universities, presenting: 1/the on-going activities related to renewable energy and energy efficiency; and 2/ the concrete contribution to the MoU.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polytechnic Namibia (K. Ndhulukula) • University of Botswana (C. Matasane, C. Ketlogetswe) • University of Lesotho (T. Molapo, M. Taele) • Durban University (P. Govender, S. Singh) • University of Pretoria (excused) <p>Open discussion on the on-going partnerships within the MoU</p>

10:45 – 11:00	Tea break
11:00 – 12:00	<p>Concrete initiatives and on-going projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Electricity Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA) • UNDP projects in the SADC region (M. Mwandangi, UNDP) • WASA programme (A. Otto, SANERI) • Followed by an open discussion on the opportunities for the university network to capture the lessons learned from those projects, and possibly integrate additional partners.
12:00-13:00	<p>Possible partners for the MoU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on the on-going activities at Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique (J. Nhambiu, F. Cumbe) • Strategy for enlarging the MoU, with the vision to better cover the SADC area.
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-14:30	Election of a coordinator and point of contact for the follow-up activities
14:30-15:00	<p>Funding opportunities for the network and way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example of the UK DFID funding, possible other funding schemes.
15:00 – 16:30	Tour organised by Polytechnic Namibia (TBC)