

# **COMMUNIQUE ON THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS HELD AT SHERATON HOTEL, ABUJA, OCTOBER 22ND – 26TH OCTOBER, 2007.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The International Renewable Energy Conference (IREC, 2007) was held from 22 – 26th October at the Ladi Kwali Conference Centre, Sheraton Hotel, Abuja. The theme of the conference this year is “*Financing Renewable Energy in Africa*” which is deliberately chosen as a commitment to encourage the use of Renewable energy in the country.

The Conference was attended by Federal and State Ministries, Academia, Private Industries, Banks, International Companies and the Press representing about 150 participants.

## **OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE**

The Conference was declared opened by the Honourable Minister of State for Energy (Power), Mrs Fatima Balaraba Ibrahim.

In her opening remarks, she mentioned that Nigeria has just concluded a 10 year Renewable Energy Policy Guideline and an appropriate action Plan to implement the recommendation contained therein. The objective of the programme is to expand rural and remote access to electricity by using non-conventional energy resources such as Solar, Wind, Mini-Hydro and Biomass.

The Federal Government launched the Renewable Energy Master Plan (REMP) in 2005 and the Renewable Electricity Action Programme (REAP) in 2006. The lack of

capacity within the Federal Government has hampered the possibility of the REAP in contributing to the Power Sector emergency.

She also pointed out the fact that the onshore wind resource mapping for the country has recently been concluded and that an offshore Wind resource study has also been commissioned. She said that preliminary findings shows that a good number of zones with viable wind speed of up to 6.5m/s which is suitable for the generation of electricity.

In addition, the Nigerian Government has also recently completed a master plan for the utilization of Solar Energy which was financed by the Japan International Coporation Agency.

The Honourable Minister in her own words, “the development and deployment of renewable energy as a source of power in Nigeria may be appropriately described as ‘work-in-progress’. Accordingly, the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) would in due course consult relevant stakeholders to make appropriate recommendations to the government.

### **Welcome Speech**

Professor AMA Imevbore, Chairman Conference Organizing Committee, in his welcome remarks emphasized the role of renewable energy resources in transforming the lives of rural and semi-urban dwellers in Nigeria and Africa. In his words “electrification provides the greatest impact on rural dwellers as it improves all areas of their lives, economic development, health, education, environment, communication”.

### **CONFERENCE PROCESS**

The Conference was marked by three important invents;

1. Workshops: The Conference had the first ever CDM training session in the Country with about 18 participants and Workshops on other Renewable Energy Technologies with an average of 12 participants in each class.

2. Exhibition: There were exhibitions on renewable energy by various indigenous companies and offshore companies which include the German embassy, Sharp Corporation, Singapore and EcoSecurities from UK.
3. Stakeholder Investment Forum:

### **Keynote address**

Key note addresses were given by various stakeholders in the Industry. There are three lead key notes presented during the conference; one was presented during the conference plenary while the other two papers were presented at the Finance and Investment Forum.

The three papers are as follows:

### **Conference Plenary**

**Dr Stefan Cramer:** *Climate Change and Renewable Energy in Africa*

### **Renewable Energy Finance and Investment Forum**

**Dr Rotimi Nihinlola:** *Microfinance Schemes and Renewable Energy: Investing in a Sustainable Future*

**Mr Sonnie Ayere (Represented by Mr Muyideen Kazim):** *Mobilizing Finance for Renewable Energy*

These were followed by Panel discussions with over 25 technical papers presented at various sessions on variety of topics.

## **CONFERENCE FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

IREC 2007, with stakeholders from different industries came up with various findings, draw conclusions and also made recommendations.

We want to specially note and commend the Federal Government for the initiative on re-establishment of PICCDM in the Presidency. PICCDM, in the best

interest of the country will be the significant driver for mitigating measures to climate change experienced in all parts of the world in recent times.

It is also necessary to note that the Conference of Parties meeting in Bali will soon take place where decisive steps would be taken; Nigeria needs to take a robust presentation so as to take advantage of the review/ restructuring of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

Some of the recommendations made during the conference include the following:

- There is the need for partnerships between the researchers and the industry.
- Sharing of information among stakeholders in the industry.
- We must design projects locally in the country and only involve the foreign people to adapt the technology to our environment.
- There is the need to increase public awareness for Clean Development Mechanism.
- Carbon funds should be given proper attention. There is the need to consider the option as mechanism to finance Renewable Energy projects.
- Participation of banks in CDM and climate change product will be welcomed.
- We must synergise interest among project developers and investors.
- Available local skills in the renewable energy industry needs to be harnessed.
- There is the need to allow policies to drive renewable energy in the country.
- To meet the energy and climate change challenges in the country, there is need to create forum for regular dialogue of stakeholders which should comprise of the academics, industries, investors and marketers. This forum should be given a name with secretariat located at PICCDM in the Presidency.
- In view of the importance of energy for the climate change negotiations it is recommended that the Ministries of Energy and that of the Environment play an active part in the United Nations decision making meetings.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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The Conference also commends specially the Organizing Committee for their unrelenting efforts to make IREC 2007 a huge success.