

**COMMUNIQUE ON THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY
CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS HELD AT SHERATON HOTEL, ABUJA,
OCTOBER 16TH – 20TH, 2006**

The First International Renewable Energy Conference and Workshops with the Theme: **Development of Renewable Energy Resources as Alternative Energy Options for Nigeria** took place at the Sheraton Hotel, Abuja from 16th – 20th October 2006.

The conference was attended by about 300 participants drawn from federal, state and local government officials, non-government organizations, energy service providers, universities, research agencies, exhibitors and companies from China, Germany, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Opening

The Conference was declared open by the Honorable Minister of Science and Technology who was represented by Prof. A.S. Sambo, the Director General of the Energy Commission of Nigeria (ECN).

A welcome address was read by Prof. A.M.A. Imevbore, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee. His address was followed by other opening remarks and goodwill messages given by the UNIDO Country Director represented by Dr. Josy Thomas, the Honorable Minister of Power and Steel represented by Engineer J.O. Makoju, Special Adviser to the President on Electric Power, the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory represented by his commissioner of Transport, the Director General of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) represented by Engineer O. Obi, and the Director General of the National Agency for Science and Technology Infrastructure (NASeni) represented by Dr. Babatope.

Workshop Process

Two lead papers were presented as follows:

Prof. A.S. Sambo: *The Place of Renewable Energy Resources in the National Energy Policy and the Renewable Energy Master Plan for Nigeria*

Prof. A.O. Adegbulugbe: *Renewable Energy, Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction*

These were followed by panel discussions. Thereafter, over 15 technical papers were presented at various sessions on a variety of topics.

A dinner sponsored by the Honorable Minister of FCT for the delegates also provided opportunity for receiving additional policy remarks by the FCT Minister on the place of renewable energy in the nation's capital.

Conference Conclusions and Recommendations

1. Nigeria has a large variety of energy sources and a vast quantity of some of these resources to meet the challenges of development in the long run.
2. Accompanying the need for a transition from subsistence energy use now based on human labor and fuelwood towards supplies that are balanced with effective demand, is the importance of the new Energy Policy and Master Plan
3. Energy consumption has been growing in Nigeria by about three percent per annum on the average over the past three decades. As the economy is restructured through reforms, the country expects a more rapid energy consumption in the future. As this takes place, the percentage of fuel wood in the total energy mix, which has been decreasing should continue to do so.
4. This means that as the transition to sustainable energy system is being put in place, improving energy efficiency through the reliance on other types of renewable energy, especially wind, biogas, solar and mini-hydro power as alternatives to the dominant fuel wood sources must be stressed
5. No one primary source of energy can be all important. All resources must play their appropriate parts balancing the needs of present and future and securing the different uses of resources and amenities. In this regard, public participation in all phases of projects at the local level must be seen to be important for the success of any field project
6. Presently the three tiers of government spend billions of naira on long insufficient and expensive connections of rural communities to the national grid merely for political gain rather than the provision of reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity supply.

Since technical solutions are becoming well known, what is needed is for the three tiers of government to commit an agreed proportion of their annual budgets for rural electrification in renewable energy infrastructure especially solar and mini hydro power.

In this regard, the conference notes that appreciable progress is being made with mini-hydro projects through the efforts of UNIDO.

7. The Conference commends the Federal Government for establishing the Rural Electrification Agency and recommends that as a matter of priority, the Agency should place emphasis on renewable energy as the preferred option for the electrification of rural communities.
8. The conference commends the Association of Nigeria Solar Energy Promoters (ANSEP), which was set up during the conference and recommends that the Association extends its mandate to cover other sources of renewable energy
9. As attempts are made nationally to integrate rural energy supplies into the national supply/demand system, technological options should not necessarily be limited to small scale but should extend to large scale uses as well.

At the same time, simplicity of the systems to match the lifestyles in rural areas of our country should be promoted.

10. In all cases, consideration should always be given to the environmental and health aspects as well as the habits and social acceptability of the systems including simplicity and low cost of applications.
11. In the face of enormous challenges, the conference recommends that a National Roundtable for Renewable Energy Matters be set up in Nigeria to represent all stakeholders.

The Roundtable will be responsible for the following:

- Implementation of the Master Plan for Renewable Energy in Nigeria
- Inter-agency collaboration in policy and regulatory affairs
- Research and development
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Capacity building
- Public awareness and education and;
- Economics and financing of programs

The Membership of the Roundtable shall include the following:

- Energy Commission of Nigeria and associated Research Centers
- Proposed Nigeria Renewable Energy Development Agency
- Department of Petroleum Resources

- Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation
- NASENI – National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure
- Rural Electrification Agency of Nigeria
- SMEDAN – Small and Medium Enterprise Agency of Nigeria
- Solar Energy Society of Nigeria
- Relevant State Government Agencies
- Relevant Local Government Agencies
- Society for Small Hydro Power
- Nigeria Society for Large Dams
- Development Partners
- Relevant Civil Society Groups and Community Based Organizations especially Association of Nigeria Solar Energy Promoters (ANSEP)
- Relevant Private Sector
- National Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME)
- Council of Renewable Energy (CREN)
- Relevant Financial Institutions
- Relevant Professional Bodies
- Universities conducting active research on renewable energy

12. In view of the overwhelming interest shown by the various stakeholders and in view of the pressing demands for achieving affordable energy through renewable resources, the conference agreed that International Renewable Energy Conference (IREC) will be held annually.

Acknowledgements

The Conference thanks the Honorable Ministers of Science and Technology, Power and Steel, Health and the Federal Capital Territory and the Special Advisers for Energy and Electricity for their support and interest, the various donors for their financial contributions, UNIDO for overall support, all the companies who exhibited their products and the management of Sheraton Hotel for their hospitality.

The Conference also commends specially the Organizing Committee for a most fruitful meeting.