



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT

**Regional Workshop on Clean Energy Development
Strategies in East Africa: Barriers, Incentives,
Policies & Programs**

**Mount Meru Hotel, Arusha, Tanzania
16th July, 2012**

OPENING REMARKS

FOR

**Hon. Jesca Eriyo
Deputy Secretary General
(Productive and Social Sectors)**

**EAC SECRETARIAT
Arusha, Tanzania
July, 2012**

- 1. Distinguished Participants;**
- 2. Ladies and Gentlemen;**

I take this opportunity and pleasure to warmly welcome you all to this workshop and to Arusha the home of the East African Community headquarters. I extend a special welcome to those who have come from outside the EAC particularly for their first time. I hope that your stay will be fruitful and rewarding.

Distinguished Participants;

This workshop is significant coming soon after the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, where I had the opportunity of participating as part of the EAC delegation. Energy is an important ingredient for development. The sustainable development goals will remain a myth without significant use of energy as is a facilitator and catalyst for economic activities and development. Energy sufficiency and efficiency also boosts gender equality and allows women and girls in particular to go to school and participate in other gainful activities.

However, energy (non-renewable in particular) is also a major contributor to global pollution. It is in this context that clean energy development derives its importance. Therefore, it is crucial to recognize that it is the responsibility of all to pursue clean energy development for our own sake and for the sake of posterity. The responsibility of ensuring that energy is harnessed in a clean and sustainable manner is even weightier for those entrusted with formulating and developing strategies for the development of the energy sector.

This workshop is, therefore, important because it brings together the key energy sector planners in the region including government ministries, power utilities and energy regulatory authorities. These institutions play a crucial role in the formulation of energy policies, the operationalisation of those policies and regulation of the energy sector activities. The critical role played by these institutions cannot be over emphasized.

Equally important is the participation of the private sector i.e. businesses and non-governmental organizations in this workshop as they play an important role in the development of the energy sector through private as well as Public Private Partnerships. Businesses and non-governmental organizations provide linkages with energy consumers that help to give feedback to policy and decision makers. This role is very critical and highly appreciated.

By bringing together these stakeholders to consider clean energy development, our Community is underscoring the importance it attaches to sustainable development. As many of you may know, the EAC region is endowed with energy resources both renewable and non-renewable. However, many of these resources remain under-developed, untapped and therefore under-utilized.

The renewable energy potential of the region is enormous. Biomass comprises ninety per cent (90%) of energy consumed in the region. Yet use of biomass contributes to the high rate of de-forestation which together with land degradation accounts for nearly 20% of global warming and climate change. The biomass available in the region can be harnessed and utilized in a modern, clean and sustainable manner.

The hydropower potential for large, small, micro and even pico hydros in the region could be in excess of ten thousand megawatts and can contribute significantly to meeting our energy needs. The geothermal potential is in excess of eight thousand megawatts but less than 500 megawatts have so far been developed.

In addition, the region's non-renewable energy resources are significant. The region has made discoveries of natural gas and crude oil and more exploration is ongoing. Coal and peat deposits are also available in the region in quantities that can be exploited for power generation. Lake Kivu in Rwanda contains about fifty five billion cubic metres of methane gas which is estimated to be capable of generating 700MW running for 50 years assuming an extraction rate of one billion cubic meters of methane per year. Yet less than five mega watts of electricity is currently being generated from this resource.

This demonstrates that the region's potential is enormous but still largely untapped. The challenge is how to develop these resources in a clean, sustainable and affordable manner to meet energy needs of the region, to contribute to economic development, and to enhance access to modern energy to East Africans who currently rely on traditional biomass.

This workshop will help us to consider appropriate strategies for clean energy development for the resources we have in our region. As planners and people involved in the sector, I am sure that you are aware of these strategies. However, by coming together we will be able to hear what others are doing in other parts of the world, share our own experiences in the EAC Partner States and explore ways of how we can better adopt these strategies to bring clean energy to our people at a rate they can afford.

I hope this workshop will help in not only identifying the barriers to clean energy development but recommend measures that can be taken up by the EAC secretariat and the Partner States in overcoming them. This could be by way of policy measures or programmes that may be used to promote such strategies taking advantage of our collective strength as a region to achieve the synergy required. Whatever strategies we adopt, it is important that at the end of the day, we lay emphasis on ensuring their sustainability and that our people have access to reliable supply at an affordable rate that does not undermine poverty reduction efforts and achievement of our economic and social goals. Striking this balance is critical and we hope to tap upon the expertise represented in this workshop to find ways of achieving it.

Distinguished Delegates;

The East African Community integration process is all encompassing. In this regard, Article 101 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community outlines key areas of cooperation in the energy sector. Pursuant to this provision, the EAC has made some strides in promoting joint energy activities. Our activities are hence organized under three cross-cutting sub-sectors. These include:

- i) New and Renewable Energy, Energy Conservation and Energy Efficiency;
- ii) Fossil Fuels; and
- iii) Power.

Activities under the New and Renewable Energy sector fit very well with the objectives of this workshop. Energy conservation and energy efficiency efforts fit very well as strategies for clean energy development because each megawatt conserved or foregone through efficiency means delayed

investment in a new one. One of our major achievements under this subsector is the EAC Regional Strategy on Scaling Up Access to Modern Energy Services. This Strategy seeks to meet four key targets which if achieved would enhance energy access with a view to reducing poverty and achieving the millennium development goals. The Strategy promotes the adoption of High Impact Low Cost and the measures recommended focus on utilizing clean energy technologies. I believe this workshop will provide useful insights that we can consider in implementing the Strategy.

On the other hand, the EAC plans to establish a Regional Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Centre. The centre will promote best practices in developing renewable energy technologies and will be a centre of excellence for energy conservation and energy efficiency. The proposed centre will play an important role in building capacity of the region to develop and absorb clean energy technologies at policy as well as technical levels.

Distinguished Participants;

For the power sector we have developed a regional power master plan for the region. The master plan considers the region's rising power needs between 2013 and 2038 and identifies generation and transmission projects that will most optimally meet that demand. This will translate the installed capacity of the EAC from 3,670MW to nearly 30,000MW in twenty-five years. This means that some of the big projects beyond the capacity of an individual Partner State will be jointly promoted. It also means that in formulating an energy project or programme in an EAC Partner State, consideration is made for the region. The region will require to mobilize 64 billion dollars over the entire period upto 2038 out of which 14 billion is required between now and 2018.

It is therefore clear, that the EAC Partner States will need the support of development partners to fully implement the power master plan; and I take this opportunity to invite our friends and partners to join hands with us in this noble task.

In the context of this workshop, I am pleased to note that most of the projects proposed in our power master plan use clean or renewable energy resources with hydro, geothermal and natural gas expected to make significant contributions to the future energy mix of the region. Although the composition of energy mix is expected to change to protect the region from vulnerability of weather dependent energy supply, it is noteworthy that the contribution of renewable and clean energy sources will remain at its current level of 70%.

Distinguished Participants;

At this juncture, allow me to take this opportunity to appreciate the continued support of USAID to the EAC in energy as well as other sectors. I have been informed that the USAID will be sponsoring another workshop here on Cross-Border Electrification from 19th to 20th July, 2012 which aims at interrogating policies and strategies of increasing the rate of implementing cross-border electrification projects. Cross-border electrification is a useful programme that allows Partner States to easily access electricity connection at distribution voltage when supply is close to the border. We look forward to continued collaboration including the implementation of the Regional Clean Energy Programme.

I also wish to recognize the contribution of the United States Energy Association which has worked hard to organize this workshop together with the EAC Secretariat. The Association has worked with the EAC to identify

key resource persons and develop the programme and logistics for this workshop. The idea of this workshop was muted when the EAC Secretariat participated in a similar workshop organized by USEA in the US. EAC Secretariat immediately recognized the value such a workshop organized locally, would have in reaching out to more participants and to have on-site assessment of existing programmes and future prospects. I am glad that the idea is now a reality.

Distinguished Participants;

As I conclude, I hope that you will find the workshop useful from the presentations, interactions with other delegates and the field visit; and that we will then build more partnerships to implement the strategies identified.

Despite the relatively cold weather prevailing during this period, I invite you to enjoy the warm hospitality of the people of Arusha. Take time outside the workshop programme to sample the attractions and vibrant life of Arusha. For those people coming from outside the EAC, I extend an invitation to visit the rest of the Region to enjoy its attractions and the warm hospitality of East African people.

It is now my pleasure and honour to declare the *“Regional Workshop on Clean Energy Development Strategies in East Africa”*, officially open.

Thank you;
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