TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITIES OF AFRICA’S ENERGY TRANSITION

Date & Time: Thursday 21 March 2019 | 11:00 – 13:25  
Venue: Accra International Conference Centre (AICC)  
           Committee Hall 2

11:00 – 11:15

OPENING

Short description

During the opening of this event, the speaker will set the scene and provide a youth perspective on the urgency of climate action. The speaker will also speak on the importance of technology in the energy transition.

- Zelda Kerubo, Communications Coordinator, African Youth Initiative on Climate Change

Zelda Kerubo is a recent graduate of Environmental Planning & Management from Kenyatta University, currently working as an environmental consultant & sits in the education committee of the Kenya Green Building Society. She also serves as the Communications Coordinator of African Youth Initiative on Climate Change-Kenya; a youth-led climate advocacy group that brings together young people in 26 African countries championing for climate justice. Through campaigns, projects, workshops & social media; AYICC offers a platform where youth learn, share & raise awareness on environmental issues such as renewable energy, climate smart agriculture, circular economy and sustainable production & consumption. Among the on-going
campaigns that AYICC is partner to is the #deCOALonize Africa campaign that calls on African governments to stop investments in coal & channel such investments into renewable energy. She believes it is time for the youth to come up with all the ideas, take the risks; and ultimately create the opportunities for Africa to develop, green and sustainably for thriving industries, businesses and societies.

**11:15 – 12:15**

**INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS FOR AFRICA’S ENERGY TRANSITION**

**Short description**

This segment is meant to raise awareness of the opportunities in technology development for energy transition. It will showcase a series of examples in technology development designed to meet different objectives in a sustainable way within the power and energy end-use sectors, including transportation and heating/cooling. The segment will include innovative business models in energy generation, efficiency, and use that are replicable and suitable for deployment in Africa.

**Moderator:** Mr. Gurbuz Gonul, Director, Country Support and Partnerships

**Panelists**

- **Dr. Isaiah Owiunji, Programme Coordinator: Energy and Climate Programme, WWF Uganda**

Dr. Isaiah Owiunji works for World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) as Energy, Climate and Extractives Programme Coordinator representing the Regional Office for Africa (ROA). Isaiah is also a member of the WWF Global Climate and Energy Practice Leadership Team representing Africa on energy access. Isaiah holds a PhD in Planning and Environmental Management of the
University of Manchester, England specialising in Petroleum Development and Biodiversity Conservation in Protected Areas. Isaiah has Master's and Bachelor of Science Degrees from Makerere University in natural resources and wildlife management. Isaiah holds a post graduate Diploma in project planning and management from Uganda Management Institute. Isaiah has other relevant trainings on energy development, energy access, renewable energy, conservation, environmental impact assessments and environmental auditing. Isaiah is a knowledgeable and experienced individual who has worked and undertaken consultancies in areas of energy access, renewable energy, biodiversity conservation, conservation training, ecological and social research, environmental consulting, natural resources management and project planning and management. Isaiah’s current interests include renewable energy, climate change, extractives, natural resources management and environmental management.

- **Prince Essel, CEO and Co-Founder, Maiseville Groupe**
  Prince Nana Know Essel, an award-winning Energy Access Entrepreneur with a focus in last mile solar, bioenergy, and waste-to-energy solutions. He is an alumnus of Energy Generation Academy, Lome, and a research fellow at the Waste-to-Energy Research and Technology Council (WtERT), Germany. Currently, he is the Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder for Maiseville Group, a Ghanaian for-profit social inclusive business that develops off-grid energy solutions for last mile settlements in Africa. Prince holds a Bachelor’s degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from the University of Mines and Technology, Tarkwa, Ghana.

- **Bernice Dapaah, Chief Executive, Ghana Bamboo Bikes Initiative**
Bernice has over a decade of work experience in both the profit and non-profit industries. Bernice is a member of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Biodiversity and Natural Capital, which is comprises the world’s premier intellectual network, convening the most relevant and knowledgeable leaders from business, government, academia, and civil society to address key global issues.

She was also named an Ambassador of the World Bamboo Organization having previous been appointed as a member of the prestigious Global Teacher Prize Academy. She was also honored to receive the World Entrepreneurship Forum’s “Entrepreneur for the World Award” for her impact on society and capacity to change the world. Lastly, Bernice sits on the advisory boards of World Intellectual Property Organization-Green (WIPO Green) in Switzerland. She is skillful in project implementation, monitoring, training, assessments, reviews, baseline surveys, and evaluation. In her capacity as the CEO of Ghana Bamboo Bikes, Bernice ensures that project design and implementation are scientifically-informed. She is also responsible for monitoring and evaluating mechanisms, processes, and targets related to the initiative in order to provide constructive feedback to project teams.

**H.R.H. Princess Abze Djigma, Chair of the H.R.H. Princess Abze Djigma Foundation**

H.R.H. Princess Abze Djigma is a Mossi Princess from Burkina Faso and a direct descendant of Princess Yennenga, mother of the Mossi people and a famous warrior in the 12th century. She is:

- Chair of the H.R.H. Princess Abze Djigma Foundation;
- Special Envoy of the President of Burkina Faso, for Resource Mobilization for SDG's and Climate Change;
- Ambassador for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency of Burkina Faso;
- Deputy head of delegation of the COP23 and COP24 delegations of Burkina Faso;
• Member of the African Union – European Union Digital Economy Task Force;
• Member of the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) Technical Committee;
• Former Board Member of UNISDR Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies;
• President Senior Advisor External relations and Gender for the Center Region Council of Burkina Faso;
• Regular speaker at high level UN conferences representing the bottom of the pyramid and the informal sector
• Founder and CEO of AbzeSolar S.A.;
• Initiator and leader of the ‘MAMA-LIGHT® Initiative for Sustainable Energy”, a Worldwide program that provides access to affordable energy for women, small business and children. It empowers the informal sector, it drives the generation of new jobs and it creates a sound basis for gender equality and women empowerment. The program is selected by the United Nations as one of the 14 global breakthrough solutions for achieving the new Sustainable Development Goals.
• Creator of the YAM® Token: a cooperative token within the ‘MAMA-LIGHT® Initiative; and
• Initiator of the Global Expertise Hub for the Informal Sector. The Hub works with and on behalf of the informal sector and facilitates their empowerment. It brings together the Bottom Up needs and challenges with the Top Down actions in a structured and integrated manner.
11:15 – 12:15

TECHNOLOGY AS A BACKBONE OF NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS

Short description

This segment will illustrate how countries can best develop their national strategies and plans in the energy transition given rapid technology developments and ongoing innovation. Participants will share experiences and best practices at national and regional levels, and discuss the opportunities emerging from the rapid advancement of modern technologies.

Moderator: Mr. Mahama Kappiah, Executive Director, ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)

Panelists

- Safiatou Alzouma Nouhou, Director of Independent Delivery Unit (IDU), Renewable Energy Initiative for Africa (AREI)

Mrs. Safiatou Alzouma Nouhou, is the Head of the Independent Delivery Unit of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) which aims to accelerate, scale up and harness the Continent’s vast renewable energy potential by supporting the development of transformative policies, vastly increased renewable energy ambition and helping mobilise the international public funding necessary to drive these efforts.

Prior to joining AREI, Mrs. Nouhou was the Regional Programme Officer for Sub-Saharan Africa at IRENA. Before joining IRENA, she worked for the Ministry of Mines and Energy in Niger and occupied the position of National Director for Renewable Energy for five years. In that position she actively participated in all relevant debates related to energy access, sustainable development and renewable energy deployment for poverty reduction in Niger and in the ECOWAS region.
• **Nii Darko K. Asante, Head of Technical Regulation and Chair of Integrated Resource and Resilience Planning Steering Committee, Energy Commission, Ghana**

Dr. Asante is a Chemical Engineer with over 20 years’ experience in energy management and optimisation. He is currently the Technical Director of Ghana’s Energy Commission and is responsible for licensing and the development of standards, codes and regulations in the electricity and natural gas sectors. He chairs the steering committee of the project that has produced Ghana’s Integrated Power Sector Master Plan (IPSMP). Dr. Asante also previously led the Energy Commission’s activities in coordinating the refinement and implementation of Ghana’s Country Action Plan, in response of the UN Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

Prior to joining the Energy Commission, Dr Asante lectured at the University of Ghana, in Accra, where he was part of the team that set up the Engineering Faculty, and acted as the first head of the Department of Food Process Engineering. Prior to this, he was the Technology Manager of the Energy Optimisation business of Aspen Technology Inc., where he developed tools and implemented solutions for Energy Management and Optimisation at refineries, chemical and petrochemical plants all over the world.

• **Edwin Aalders, Senior Principal Scientist for Climate Change, DNV GL**

Mr Aalders has over 25 years of experience as an assessor & standard developer in Environmental Policy, Auditing and Management particularly related to Climate Change & Forestry throughout the world. Mr Aalders has extensive experience with developing Climate Change strategies and International Climate Change negotiations, which saw him being involved in the development of earlier programmes such as the ERUPT, EU ETS, CDM/JI, VCS, ANSI ISO 14065 programme and the more recently NAMAs, REDD+, Green Bonds and the CTCN.
Mr Aalders has held senior management positions in SGS Climate Change Programme, IETA & the VCS and acted as an elected member of roster of experts for the Methodology & Accreditation Panel Expert of the CDM & JI, member of the JI Accreditation Panel, Pacific Carbon Trust Advisory Panel, ANSI ISO 14065 accreditation steering committee and Vera SD Vista Standard development Committee. Mr Aalders is currently the manager for DNV GL’s group research Climate Change Unit and member of the VCS Programme Advisory Group, AFOLU Steering Committee, W+ Programme Advisory Board, World Bank MAAP review team and the ART/TREES Steering Committee

- **Ndiafhi Patrick Tuwani, Deputy Director, Department of Energy, South Africa**

A Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Clean Energy Professional with a wide range of experience in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency project evaluation and monitoring. He has a knowledge of climate change and energy policies as well as green economy strategies, monitoring of green energy projects contribution to sustainable development and its contribution to low carbon development.