



African Energy Commission (AFREC)



1st Workshop of the Coordination Group for the Establishment of the African Energy Information System (AEIS)

Communiqué

The African Energy Commission (AFREC) organized the 1st Workshop of the Coordination Group for the Establishment of the African Energy Information System and Database (AIES) which was held at the Headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 20-21 February 2012.

The workshop was organized following the recommendations and Action Plan adopted by the 3rd Seminar for the Establishment of the African Energy Information System and Database which was held in Cairo, Egypt, in November 2011.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Review the strategy adopted by the 3rd Seminar for the implementation of the AEIS,
- Examine the state of energy data collection by the AFREC's National Focal Points, and
- Review the measures taken by AFREC for the actual creation of the Africa's Energy Database.

The meeting was attended by the members of the Coordination Group in addition to Energy Information System Experts of AFREC, Energy Information System Officer of UPDEA, Information System Consultant of the SOFRECO Company, Representative of the EAPP, Representative of the AfDB as well as energy officers of the Department of Infrastructure and Energy of the African Union Commission.

The Work Program of the workshop covered 7 technical sessions in addition to an opening remarks and a closing session.

The Outcome

Participants have thoroughly reviewed and deliberated all issues and reports presented in the workshop and made thoughtful recommendations for the successful establishment of the AEIS project.

General Considerations:

While there is a general agreement with the strategy adopted by the 3rd Seminar of the AEIS, the meeting identified the following points as deserving a special attention due to their critical impact on the implementation process and operation of the system:

- Thoughtful selection of the conceptual models for the building of the energy database.
- Clear definition of the architecture of the Energy Information System.
- Commitment in continuing data collection along with timely transmission to the system management.
- Arrangement of continued and diverse training and capacity building programs which should meet the demands of the National Focal Points and other clients in the Member States.
- Application of the GIS models whenever possible.
- Assurance of the efficient operationalization, updating and sustainability of the AEIS project.
- Enhancing the institutional capacity of AFREC in order to undertake this project efficiently and with utmost professionalism.

AFREC:

- AFREC should prepare detailed technical and financial requirements in collaboration with all stakeholders for the establishment of the Energy Information System to be submitted to African and international donors for funding.
- Prepare a budget for reasonable time frame (e.g., 3 years) for technology procurement and equipment purchases plan.
- AFREC should make use of the AU Satellite and other communication systems for the transmission of energy data by the National Focal Points.

System Construction:

- AFREC should conduct detailed diagnosis for the system construction including budgetary requirements, human resources requirements, timeframes, Action Plans, and associated partners and stakeholders.
- For the system construction it is advisable to follow the process stage by stage.
- Information System (IS) and Information Technology (IT) tools and procedures are developing very fast and therefore the AEIS Management should adopt only those technologies needed for each phase of the system construction and on operation.
- All activities with regard to the Energy Information System in Africa should be integrated with the AFREC's continental system for exchange of information and synergy of activities.

Human Resources:

- Availability of competent human resources is essential for the system development which would include, but not limited to, IS/IT technicians, system developers, energy data collectors, website designers, translators, training officers, etc.
- AFREC should recruit competent experts and seek technical assistance from African and international Energy Information System developers and providers.
- AFREC should stay aware of the IS/IT technology development and human resources needs.

Training and Capacity Building:

- There is a need for information, communication and training and capacity building to be provided by AFREC for the National Focal Points and energy experts of the Member States.
- Training areas include data collection, technology use, survey techniques and technical assistances.
- Africa has different experiences in EIS with various levels of quality and therefore training should realize the competency of the National Focal Points and respond to their needs and requirement adequately.
- AFREC should scan the needs for training and design responsive programs and activities to meet their demands.

Technology Procurement:

- Assure the availability of adequate budget for purchasing technology.
- Conduct consultation with equipment providers especially about the models and effectiveness of the needed technologies.
- Always purchase the latest models of technology as the old ones may become outdate in sort periods due to technology rapid development.

Biomass Energy Resources:

- AFREC should mobilize technical experts and propose methodologies and survey models for biomass data collection.
- AFREC will need to define different parameters with objective to provide capacity building orientations.
- AFREC should collaborate with national institutions in the African countries to develop effective models for collecting biomass energy resources.
- AFREC should collaborate with international organizations working on biomass resources such as UNEP and FAO to assess the potential of biomass resources in Africa supported by maps and atlases.

African Energy Information System Developers:

- All Energy Information System Providers in Africa should harmonize their activities and share information and knowledge.

- Successful operating system should lend their support and experience in the development and operation of the AEIS.
- AFREC should provide technical support for the energy databases which are under development especially the national databases.

IEA:

- AFREC should adopt the IEA format for energy database and information system due to its internationally recognized status.
- The IEA should accept the role of the main technical advisor for the creation of the AEIS.
- The IEA should provide continuing training and technical support to the African National Focal Points in data collection and energy balances.

National Focal Points:

- Since they are representing the first source of energy data of the AEIS project, National Focal Points should verify commitment and lend their competency and dedication for serving the system operation.
- Collected energy data should be collected and transmitted timely for updating the system.
- Focal Points should remain in constant connection with the system operators and should answer their demands for information without delay.
- Attend regional and continental meetings and benefit from training and capacity building resources provided by AREC and other stakeholders.

Done in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 21st February 2012