

# Press Release

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## ENERGY AT THE CENTRE OF AFRICA'S FUTURE GROWTH

Opinioned leaders representing the African continent at the UN Climate Change Talks in Copenhagen in December 2009 displayed their strong belief to the world that countries on the continent have a vital role to play in preventing the destructive consequences of global warming. Their unyielding belief demonstrated the continent's commitment to cooperate with the global community for this important cause. However, Africa's struggle to transform its natural resources into a source of wealth for its impoverished population, has made it obvious that the continent has either much to lose – or potentially gain – during the possible environmental transition. But there is the need to look at this – as well as other related areas in Africa – understood as the need for “African solutions to African problems”, famously phrased by political economist, George Ayittey. This particularly applies to the situation on energy sustainability in Africa where 35 countries on the continent are experiencing a ‘power crisis’, and only a quarter of Africans have access to electricity\*.

The second annual ENERGY INDABA 2010 to be hosted on February 24-26, 2010 at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg is widely recognised in the energy sector for its role in bringing key decision makers and leaders together to focus on energy availability in Africa, and to help develop innovative solutions that will increase accessibility to power in homes. “Our ENERGY INDABA in 2009 provided a very real scenario of energy in Africa, such as the need for greater attention to other forms of energy such as fossil, nuclear and hydro; the need for good leadership; and the importance of creating an environment suitable for investors. All of these were concluded by decision makers and leaders – from all over Africa and the world - who were present at the event,” says Liz Hart, MD of Siyenza Management, the Project Management Company of the ENERGY INDABA. “We anticipate that this will continue at this year's ENERGY INDABA, where our delegates will once again bring forth their ideas and experience to create practical and workable solutions on energy that will enrich the continent and its people.”

The ENERGY INDABA is set to be the largest ENERGY event on the African continent. In addition to its endorsement by the South African Department of Energy, this event has been recognised as an official World Energy Council (WEC) event, with the association hosting its annual African Regional Meeting alongside the conference and exhibition.

“The conclusions reached at this year's event will contribute to one of our deliverables of publishing a paper, ‘The Future of Energy in Africa: 2010 – 2015’. This will be prepared through extensive

consultation that will take place throughout the forum and beyond.” explains Hart. “We foresee this to be released by July/August 2010 and the paper to be assessed at our next event in 2011.”

The ENERGY INDABA 2010 has a line up of speakers with a broad knowledge and understanding of developing this sector in Africa. “We have speakers from South Africa, Africa and countries including Australia, United Kingdom, Germany and China. Established as experts in their respected fields, they will provide insight and encourage debate around the very serious issue of energy. We believe that this, together with our high profile delegates, will, amongst others, influence policies and implement technologies that will support this sector,” says Hart.

Some of the keynote speakers that will cover topics are:

- SA Minister of Energy, Elizabeth Dipuo Peters on **‘African Energy Outlook 2010’**
- Jerry Vilakazi, CEO of Business Unity South Africa on **‘Doing Business for Ourselves’ on making Africa an accessible destination and Africans empowering Africa’**
- Prof Abubakar Sambo, Vice-President for Africa, World Energy Council for **an overview of the African Energy Sector**
- Dr Latsoucabé Fall, Regional Manager – Africa, World Energy Council on **‘Access to Energy: Empowering Africa’s Development’**
- Arthur Hanna, Accenture, Overseas Accenture’s Global Energy Board in London and Industry Managing Director of Accenture’s Energy Practice on **‘Global energy trends and the impact on Africa’**
- Thulani Gcabashe, Executive Chairman of BuiltAfrica Holdings on **‘Energising Africa – the road ahead to achieve sustainable energy systems in Africa’**

The other high-profile speakers include:

- Brian Statham, Chairman of the South African National Energy Association
- Dr Yves Guenon, Engineer and PhD in Physics Director of Business Development at AREVA

There will also be interactive sessions during the conference. With numerous energy projects in the pipeline in and around Africa, Paul Runge, MD of Africa Project Access will facilitate a session around ‘Infrastructure Development’, where projects such as the Zafarana Wind Project in Egypt that will supply 600 GWH per annum of power into the country’s national grid will be discussed in detail. Also joining this session is Dr Mohammed Abdel-Rahmen, energy expert at the NEPAD Secretariat.

The session on climate change and sustainable development will address the various aspects that relate to this including the regulatory framework for a low carbon energy future, the success of CDM, the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol/Copenhagen and the role of carbon credits in Africa.

With only 7 per cent of Africa's hydro-power potential being realised – compared to 33 per cent globally, Africa is neglecting one source of renewable energy. This session will expand on global and innovative technology trends that could be implemented in Africa to reduce its carbon footprint in areas such as nuclear, wind, biofuels, carbon capture and ocean energy. A panel of experts in renewable technologies – Dr Yves Guenon of AREVA and Prof Abubakar Sambo of the World Energy Council will sit in this session.

The ENERGY INDABA 2010 will also provide the opportunity for exclusive networking sessions with the Business Matchmaking Program for delegates, exhibitors, speakers and visitors to meet and discuss issues with each other. When delegates confirm their attendance, the ENERGY INDABA 2010 Business Matchmaking Team will profile the company they represent and provide access to an online matchmaking program. Through this, businesses are able to confirm meetings with interested parties and meet with them at a central point at the ENERGY INDABA. “This will provide an opportunity to exchange ideas, develop resolutions, and establish partnerships or business opportunities,” says Hart.

\* Source: Millennium Development Goals of the MDG African Steering Group: 2008

**Note to Editors:**

**ENERGY INDABA 2010: A Time of Change**

ENERGY INDABA 2010 – A Time for Innovation, Solutions and Alternatives is the event theme chosen by the Steering Programme Advisory Committee for ENERGY INDABA 2010.

The flagship African energy event is an annual event on the Africa business calendar with a specific focus on exploring solutions for a new energy future for Africa. With the recent ever increasing world-wide attention to Energy, ENERGY INDABA 2010 provides an ideal platform to encourage debate as well as creating the stage for a networking climate conducive for companies and individuals to interact.

The event forms part of the African business calendar, which will promote sustainable development initiatives across the African continent.

DATES: 24 – 26 February 2010  
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