

Bissau renewable energy storage

BISSAU, 10 December 2018 - The Guinea Bissau Sustainable Energy International Conference was attended by 150 participants from Guinean public institutions, private sector, financiers, NGOs and academic institutions. The event was organized by the Government of Guinea Bissau, in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) and the Lusophone Association of Renewable Energies (ALER), supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

At the opening session, Ant?nio Serifo Embal?, Minister of Energy, Industry and Natural Resources, reiterated the government's commitment to promoting sustainable energy and stressed that "in this conference we discuss more than just energy - we discuss the future of an entire young generation and its perspective to have access to modern public services and decent income earned in key industrial sectors such as agriculture, food processing, fishery, tourism and manufacturing."

Jo?o Saad, State Secretary of Energy, added, "The National Action Plans for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency provide a coherent vision how to achieve universal access to sustainable energy services. We need to reduce our dependence on diesel imports for power generation rapidly."

UNIDO's representative, Martin Lugmayr, noted, "It's now or never! The Guinea Bissau Sustainable Energy Investment Plan calls for US\$700m to make the energy transformation a reality by 2030."

Eder Semedo, the representative of the ECREEE, said that that "the signs of change are here" and hoped that "these two days must be part of something big, and it's up to all of us gathered here to ensure that is the case."

Isabel Cancela de Abreu from the ALER said that "Guinea-Bissau has reasons to be proud, thanks to the renewable energy mini-grids operating in Bambadinca and Contuboel".

The conference was the final mile-stone of the GEF-funded UNIDO project, "Promoting Renewable Energy Investments in the Electricity Sector of Guinea Bissau". Since 2014, the project has assisted the Government in creating an enabling environment through combined interventions in the areas of policy and planning, (pre-) investment support, technology demonstration, as well as capacity building.

During the conference, the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP), the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP), the SE4ALL Access Agenda and the National Sustainable Energy Investment Plan (NSEIP) were presented to the attending representatives of the private sector, investors and financiers. The conference also saw the launch of the Guinea Bissau Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report.

The African Biofuel and Renewable Energy Co (Abrec), which promotes renewables and energy efficiency



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across the continent, has awarded the contract to build Guinea-Bissau's first large scale PV plant to state-owned Chinese hydropower business Sinohydro.

The China International Contractors Association said the project was tendered along with two 1 MW hybrid solar-diesel plants in Gabu and Canchungo by Abrec in March 2019.

The solar asset, planned for Gardete near the city of Bissau, will sell power to national utility EAGB under a long-term contract. The West African Development Bank is backing the project with a \$42.9 million loan.

Guinea-Bissau relies on fossil fuels and solar has seen limited development, with the exception of rural electrification initiatives. The nation has one of the lowest electrification rates in Africa, as well as electricity prices among the highest on the continent. As a result, around 95% of the energy consumed in Guinea-Bissauan households comes from biomass.

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