



FUTA NEWS

FUTA, ECOWAS-ECREE PARTNER ON SMALL HYDRO-POWER SYSTEMS CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

In its sustained bid to address the challenge being faced by Nigeria and the West African sub region in the power sector, the Federal University of Technology, Akure has championed a training programme aimed at building capacity in hydropower systems. A Team of International experts from ECREE-ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, GIZ of Germany and the Nigerian Energy Support Group is partnering with FUTA Centre for Renewable Energy Technology (CRET) FUTA to develop capacity for technology in rural and small hydropower systems in the West African Sub region. Director, CRET, Professor Olurinde Lafe, said the hydropower system experts are in FUTA as an Integral part of the solution to Nigeria's energy problem. He said hydropower is underutilized in Nigeria and lamented that despite the numerous gas and hydropower plants, Nigerian still has the challenge of power distribution. He emphasized the need for small scale power distribution to the nook and cranny of the country as a major initiative that would contribute to solving the challenge of power in Nigeria.

Mr. Hannes Bauer of ECREE-ECOWAS who is leading the team of experts emphasized the uniqueness of the 3 weeks Train the Trainers Workshop saying the project has the support of notable local and international organizations. He described FUTA has a forward looking institution whose initiative in generating ideas and research for improvement of power will ultimately benefit the country. He said his organization would continue to partner with FUTA in order to firm up developmental efforts in the sub region. Declaring the Training of Trainers (TOT) on small hydropower systems open, FUTA Vice Chancellor,

Professor Adebisi Daramola said FUTA is proud to host the second TOT barely six months after the maiden edition of the programme, “it is worth mentioning that this 2nd edition is principally sponsored by ECOWAS Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) and I acknowledge the commitment and determination of ECREEE to develop human capacity and improve living conditions in and around the ECOWAS sub-Region” he added. Professor Daramola said, despite the fact that Africa holds about 12% of the world’s hydropower potential with a technically feasible output of about 1,800 terra-watt hours per year, yet Africa produces only about 3% of the global hydropower and exploits less than 10% of its technical potential. This reality he said “underpins the strategic importance of the training programme whose resource persons were drawn from CRETEC, (FUTA), Engineering Materials Development Institute (EMDI) as well as FUTA’s Civil and Environment Engineering Departments.

He appreciated the significant role played by Mr. Hannes Bauer, ECREEE’s sustainable Energy expert and the generous supports by other local and international organization, including GIZ of Germany, EMDI and its Managing Director ,Dr Gbenga Olusunle, the Nigerian Energy support programme (NESP), and the display of high sense of responsibility by Mr. Olatunde Isiolaotan of Nigerian Energy support programme (NCSP-GIZ).

The Training of Trainers on Small Hydropower Systems with participants from six West African countries namely, Benin Republic, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Cote-Divoie, Liberia and Nigeria will last for 3 consecutive weeks.