

CONCEPT NOTE  
ON

# VALIDATION WORKSHOP

for the feasibility study of the

AFRICA GEOTHERMAL CENTER  
OF EXCELLENCE (AGCE)

UN Complex, Nairobi Kenya  
12-13 August 2015.

# BACKGROUND

In the framework of Energy, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goal, the governments of African countries are keen and committed to investigate and further develop geothermal energy as one of the alternative renewable energy resources in their respective countries. As a result, the countries have developed energy development strategies towards the objective of fast tracking renewable energy projects including geothermal resource for power generation and direct use applications. Among the various challenges to achieve this strategic objective in a sustainable manner is inadequate skilled manpower in the areas of geothermal science and technology.

In order to address this challenge, African countries are planning to set up “Africa Geothermal Center of Excellence” in order to build and strengthen their institutional and infrastructural capacities and create a critical mass of geothermal scientists and engineers in the continent. AGCE will be a vehicle to ensure the development of skilled manpower and promotion of use of geothermal expertise in the continent in a sustainable manner. For several years the notion of a regional geothermal training centre in Kenya has been discussed, and in recent years various periodical regional training courses and activities have taken place. In the establishment of such a centre as a regional facility for human resource development and capacity building, it is envisioned that collaboration would be established among key stakeholders in the region including Africa Union Commission (AUC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations University - Geothermal Training Programme (UNU-GTP), Geothermal Development Company (GDC), Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen), and the donor community. In the endeavour of creating the foundations for a regional centre for geothermal training, coordination and cooperation will continue to be vital.

In response to this, UNEP, through its ARGeo Project, in partnership with GDC and other countries and stakeholders, stepped up to conduct a skills gap analysis with a long term objective of establishing the Centre of Excellence

Further, ICEIDA and the Nordic Development Fund (NDF) funded a feasibility study for the Centre of Excellence, in consultation with countries and partners, to ascertain the feasibility of establishing AGCE and to prepare a draft report and concept note with recommendations on key aspects of such a Centre, including institutional set-up, operational model and long term sustainability. The feasibility study includes (among others):

- Catalog the Needs: Regional geothermal development needs related to geothermal power generation and direct uses.
- Draft AGCE Vision: Staff/Facility requirements, institutional set-up schedule, budget, and suggested next steps.
- Assess Feasibility: Long-term sustainability in establishing a regional geothermal AGCE in Africa, through collaboration with stakeholders as partners: National, Regional and International Donor partners, Private Sector Developers and Service Partners, Academic, Training and Association Partners

The outcome of the feasibility study report will assist and guide in the establishment and operation of the Centre

## 2. Objectives

The overall objective of this validation workshop is to provide a collaborative platform for countries to contribute and discuss the vision of Africa Geothermal Centre of Excellence and foster ownership and leadership among participants, countries and external partners, in the establishment and operations of the AGCE.

The specific objectives are: (i) to gain valuable input and comments on the findings of the feasibility study, (ii) to validate the feasibility study and skill audit/gap analysis conducted by UNEP; and (iii) to define the role of the partners in the establishment and operation of AGCE.

### 3. The Workshop

UNEP, in collaboration with the Government of Kenya and partners such as AUC and ICEIDA, will host a two-day Validation workshop at the UN Complex, Nairobi Kenya, on 12-13 August 2015.

DAY 1: Countries will review and validate the feasibility report and the Skill Gap Analysis.

DAY 2: Development partners will provide their inputs on the feasibility report including the financing aspects of the Center.

### 4. Expected Participants of the Workshop:

A total of about 80 participants are expected to attend this workshop. Among these about 30 representatives from thirteen African countries are expected to attend. Other participants will include representatives from partners, stakeholders and donor community that could provide support to the establishment and operation of AGCE.

### 5. Expected Output

- Feasibility study and Concept note reviewed and validated
- Analysis of country's Skill gap, needs and expectations endorsed and validated
- Country's Ownership and leadership in the set-up and operations of AGCE developed
- Networking and partnerships strengthened.
- Resource and support for AGCE identified
- Consensus among countries and external partners on the concept for AGCE