UN ENVIRONMENT AFRICA OFFICE, ENERGY HIGHLIGHTS 2018

―2018 was another exciting year for the Energy Team of the UN Environment Africa Office. We close the year in good spirits by reflecting on some of the highlights of our progress in the year documented below. In 2018, UN Environment was one of the three strategic priorities, which arose from the agency to support, coordinate and facilitate the tasks of the “Energy Development” nexus for realization of the objectives of sustainable development in Africa. This has been in the context of realisation of “Global and Continental Development Agendas: (i) 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (ii) Africa Union Agenda 2063 and (iii) Paris Agreement 2015” through an integrated approach of diversified, de-carbonized, de-risked investment and democratized energy services. We thank our organisation, member states and partners for the support, guidance and advice. We look forward to another exciting year in 2019.\n
(A) AFRICAN RIFT GEOTHERMAL DEVELOPMENT FACILITIY (ARGeo)

- The enhanced conceptual model of barriers-40s geothermal prospect, Kenya through the ARGeo programme in 2018, has now shown its ability to enhance through drilling of near geothermal well power generation. For more information, visit http://theargeo.org.

(B) AFRICAN RIFT GEOTHERMAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (ARGeo)

- Through the Interim Project Coordination Unit of the African Geothermal Center of Excellence (ARGeo-C7) the ARGeo programme was enhanced by E420 and UN Environment, Africa Region. This has in turn allowed the role in reviewing and optimising those studies during the technical review held in Tanzania in November 2018. These efforts catalyzed investments of a total of about 100 MDG for the new project (Somalia) geothermal project. The support and investment from Africa Union Commission’s Institutional Risk Mitigation Facility and Government of Tanzania are confirmed and under negotiation.

(C) CATALYZED CLEAN ENERGY ACCESS & ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN AFRICA

- Development in ARGeo member countries
- The conceptual model of geothermal prospects in Kenya, Ethiopia, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. These experts then developed their capabilities in the complete geothermal development value chain from exploration to development and utilization as generation, conversion and management. They are currently working on geothermal projects in their countries to maintain the repair and maintenance of geothermal resources exploration and development in the region.
- The above includes:
  1. Four parallel ARGeo-C7 short courses where a total of 111 geothermal scientists, engineers and planners from 12 African countries and other parts of the world were trained. The short courses were:
     i. Short Course 1: Management and financing for Geothermal project development
     ii. Short Course 2: Low temperature geothermal systems and direct use applications
     iii. Short Course 3: Geothermal Reservoir engineering and modeling
     iv. Short Course 4: Geothermal Resource Decision Modules 1 & 2: Volcanic and Deep Crustal Models

- Enhanced Private sector engagement and developed technical skills through the Africa Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework (AWEEF)

- Enhanced private sector engagement in implementing innovative environmental solutions in the areas of policy, science, technology and finance to empower women in the energy sector. This was through the High-Level Lancet on ‘Business Opportunities for women in a Changing Energy Value Chain in Africa’ organized jointly by Africa office and Private sector unit, Governing Arctic Africa Office during the Seventh Special Session of the African Ministers Conference on Environment (AMCEN) in September 2018.

- Connected and consolidated more than 10,000 users such as energy experts, private reports, civil society, government and non-government organizations through:
  1. Downwardly mobile edition of Africa Renewable Energy Electronic News (on line)
  2. Promoted the Renewable energy projects and initiatives via social media through twitter and Facebook
  3. Developed various websites such as ARGeo (theargeo.org), AGCE (agce.theargeo.org), AWEEF (http://aweef.org), E420 (fears.org), The African Women Entrepreneurs Framework of Excellence. The websites are dynamic and interactive, by keeping the information relevant and up to date.

- Created Access of a geothermal related Information in Africa through enhancement of MDG UN united Africa Geothermal inventory Database. About 13 focal persons from African countries were trained to collaborate, manage and update the database in Djibouti, in September 2017.

- Commenced the development of an Africa learning another real-time online training platform for the African Geothermal Centre of Excellence that was endorsed by the ARGeo Steering Committee members during the ARGeo-C7 Conference at the Seventh AGC Steering Committee meeting held in Kigali, Rwanda.

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Two new partnership have developed in 2018. These include:

(a) Italy and UN Environment partnership through the Africa Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework (AWEEF) and the Environment and Sustainable Energy Solutions for the Mediterranean and Africa (RES4Med) Agreement in December 2018. This is a way to institutionalize their ongoing collaboration in a variety of technical and practical strategies on access to energy and de-risked renewable energy systems to women and youth in Africa, as well as water-energy-food nexus initiatives.

(b) Continuous partnership with ALC, MFA-Ireland, IEO, US Power Africa, ADB, ODA, BSR, EU-POF, WB-ESMAP, Italian Development Cooperation, PACIA, Global CED Alliance, AR Regional centers on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Africa (EAGRED, EREDU, HRED, HREDU, SLEDE)

NEXT MILESTONES:

- Support to provide support in marketing geothermal well management in Kenya for power generation or other uses. (private sector, producers engaged, Government and supporting organizations)
- Developing private sector proposals to mobilize new investment and implement projects that empower women through the geothermal value chain
- Identifying new and innovative environmental solutions in the areas of policy, science, technology and finance to empower women in the energy sector.
- Promoted the Renewable energy projects and initiatives via social media through twitter and Facebook
- Developed various websites such as ARGeo (theargeo.org), AGCE (agce.theargeo.org), AWEEF (http://aweef.org), E420 (fears.org), The African Women Entrepreneurs Framework of Excellence. The websites are dynamic and interactive, by keeping the information relevant and up to date.
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