

**Proceedings Brief for the National Policy Seminar
Renewable Energy Technologies in Tanzania: *Status and Prospects***

Peacock Hotel, Dar es Salaam –Tanzania, 31st March 2004

The Heinrich Boll Foundation (Regional Office for East Africa) and the African Energy Policy Research Network (AFREPREN) launched a study to assess the potential of renewable energy technologies in eastern and horn of Africa in May 2003. The main objectives of the study include assessing the benefits of renewables, and their possible contribution to the energy sector in the region. The findings of the study will be disseminated to a wide range of stakeholders in each of the participating countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia). The Tanzania National Seminar was held on 31st March 2004 in Dar es Salaam.

The main objectives of the seminar similar to those of other national seminars held in Ethiopia and Kenya were to:

- Disseminate some of the key interim findings from the study,
- Consult with key stakeholders on the major issues facing renewables in the country and
- Develop common national approach on renewables in the country

The seminar brought together 21 participants from different institutions. They included Government (Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Ministry of Finance and Office of the President), national electricity utility (TANESCO), NGOs, industry, Universities and independent power producers. To provide a regional perspective, one participant from Kenya was invited.

Presentation Items:

Four presentations on renewable energy were made during this seminar. The first presentation gave the project background on the scope, methodology employed; intended impact and dissemination mechanisms of the study findings. This was followed by a brief presentation on the status and future role of geothermal resource in Kenya's power supply as one of the regional success stories in harnessing geothermal energy.

The first two presentations prepared the background about the project as whole before the national study findings in Tanzania were presented. The first national study findings was on biomass-based cogeneration in Tanzania followed by potential role of geothermal resource in Tanzania's power supply presentation.

Discussion Issues

After the national study findings presentations, a plenary discussion session followed where various issues on renewable energy were raised:

- The existing legal and regulatory framework in the power industry has hindered private participation in energy sector especially for cogenerators
- The national utility's (TANESCO) development plan for renewable energy technologies like geothermal and cogeneration was not well articulated
- Expected benefits that can accrue from the increased development of geothermal and cogeneration are not well documented
- Investment cost requirements for cogeneration and geothermal to meet the 10% target need to be well understood for planning
- Incentives are necessary to encourage development of renewables

Recommendations and Way forward:

- The 10% electricity generation target from renewable energy is viable as the country's cogeneration potential is well over 10%.
- Energy regulator should provide a clear legal and regulatory framework on renewable energy imports from independent power producers (cogenerators). In addition, there is need for energy sector authorities to make electricity export to national utility attractive for agro-industries like sugar and wood mills.

- An exploration fund for geothermal resource in the country is required since geothermal resource has not been harnessed -although a huge potential exists
- There is need for training, capacity building and information exchange in the renewable energy technologies e.g. Tanzania could learn a lot from Kenya's experience with geothermal.

For more information on this event, please contact:

Stephen Karekezi, Waeni Kithyoma and Ezekiel Manyara
AFREPREN/FWD
P.O.Box 30979-00100 GPO Nairobi, Kenya.
Telephone: +254-20-566032
Fax: +254-20-561464
Email: afrepren@africaonline.co.ke
Website: www.afrepren.org

Asghedech Ghirmazion, Betty Maina and Hezron Gikanga
Heinrich Boll Foundation Regional Office for East Africa
P.O.Box 10799-00100 GPO Nairobi, Kenya
Telephone: +254-20-3744227/3750329
Fax: + 254-20-3749132
Email: Nairobi@hbfha.com
Website: www.hbfha.com