



Financing Access To Sustainable Rural Electrification in Western and Central Africa Dialogues

*October 2-3, 2012
Novotel Hotel, Cotonou, Benin*

Workshop Summary Report



Workshop Details

- **Date:** October 2-3, 2012
- **Location:** Novotel Hotel, Cotonou, Benin
- **Objectives:**

At the end of the workshop the participants should:

 - Have a better understanding of the environment and the mechanisms to attract financing for rural electrification projects in the regions
 - Know how to strengthen PPPs and create the proper environment to accelerate the deployment of rural electrification
 - Be able to identify key short and medium-term actions to encourage this deployment
- **Organizing Committee:** **SG GSEP** (Bruno MENARD...), Ms Lwandle MQADI (**ESKOM**), Mr Paul LOEFFELMAN (**AEP**), Mr Hans-Georg ADAMS (**RWE**), **EDF** (Ms Mercédès NEME, MM Patrick MARTEL, Dominic HAMPTON, Jean-Claude HOUSSOU)
- **Participants:** 87 from 14 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Congo, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Niger, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Togo, Chad). Participants from Burundi returned half way for visa reasons. Participants from Mali were stuck in Bamako due to airplane problems.
- **Partners:** European Union with the assistance of French Development Agency

Workshop Details

- **Speakers:** 20 speakers including 6 from participating countries
 - GSEP :
 - Ms. Christine Heuraux, EDF
 - Ms. Lwandle Mqadi, Eskom
 - Mr. Edouard Dahome, EDF
 - Mr. Christian Leblanc, HQ
 - Mr. Bruno Menard, GS
 - From participating countries:
 - Ms. Sofiatou Onifade Baba-Moussa, Benin Energy Minister
 - Mr. Demenou Tapamo, Mgr - ARSEL Rural Electrification Agency, Cameroun
 - Mr. Raoufou Badarou, Energy Ministry Cabinet Director, Benin
 - Mr. Pathé Gueye, Manager – Economic Community of West African States Investment and Development Bank
 - Mr. Mahamadou Hassimiyou Biga, Mgr Rural Development & Infrastructure, West African Development Bank
 - Mr. Mahaman Sakariyou, General Mgr – Benin Rural Electrification Agency ABERME
 - From Development Agencies and Banks, Developers, Vendors, NGOs: Complete list to be included in the final report
 - FDA, AfDB, KfW, EU Energy Facility, GIZ, Barefoot Power, Michaud

Outcomes

- Definitely contributed to open/expand the dialogue between financing institutions present and the rural electrification bodies;
- Rural electrification agencies and government bodies were briefed on the need to establish a solid business plan keeping in mind that PPPs will draw higher interest;
- Government bodies must facilitate capital investments by providing proper fiscal regimes and sector regulations. Operating new investments can provide significant earnings to governments on the long run. Some countries indicated that they have implemented new policies and regulations accordingly
- There will always be a need for subsidies in rural electrification projects but a return on investment is also required for financial sustainability
- Grouping of Rural Electrification projects (nationwide) will receive better consideration from the financial institutions;
- Rural Electrification Agencies would like the banks (especially the regional banks) be more receptive to their needs and investment context
- 1st observation from survey questionnaire: need to allow more time for questions and discussions and define next steps

GSEP in Benin for its latest financing sustainable electrification workshop

October 3, 2012: Together with the European Commission, and in collaboration with the French Development Agency, GSEP opened its "Financing Sustainable Rural Electrification in Western and Central Africa Dialogues" in Cotonou, Benin. Taking place from October 2-3, this event was designed to stimulate discussions and share perspectives on the issues and solutions associated with power sector investment in the targeted regions of West and Central Africa. The workshop focuses on enhancing countries' ability to attract financing for rural electrification projects through the development of appropriate policy strategies and regulatory measures, as well as the best practices in this field. Close to 80 high-level government, power sector and investment community representatives attended the workshop.



Her Excellency Ms. Sofiatou Onifade Baba Moussa, Minister of Energy of Benin, officially opened the first day of the Workshop session with the following statement:

"By welcoming this workshop, the Government of Benin wants to acknowledge all initiatives that promote the deployment and development of rural electrification in Africa and hope that the workshop will conclude on a broad financing programme for the energy sector in Western and Central Africa. I am confident that with the level of representation at this workshop there will be an improvement of access to electricity in the coming years in our countries, thanks to a sustained support from the technical and financial partners that are present here today."

This workshop is part of GSEP's Financing Sustainable Electricity workshop program that to date has reached over 60 countries all over the world. For more details on the program and its workshops, please consult our [webpage](#).