

The seminar on *Stand-alone Renewable Energy Solutions* which took place in Lagos on the 30th June 2015, at the Westwood Ikoyi, Lagos, is the continuation of four successful seminars on *Utilization of the Potential of Renewable Energy* held in 2014.

Financed by the climate fund of the German foreign department, the seminar was facilitated by the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Lagos and the Energy and Environment Desk of the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Lagos.

The seminar presentations focused on PV, its advantages and the introduction of feasible installations in Nigeria. With regards to the slow grid improvement and installations in urban areas coupled with the ongoing power shortage; PV stand-alone systems represent an individual solution to self-sustaining power supply. It has a high potential to also become a source of income through decentralized grid feed in in the future.

All three presenters opined that stand-alone renewable energy systems do not only supply energy but also help its users to be energy efficient but users enjoy security and safety in an affordable way.

In it's presentation, Mr. Juergen Raach of Raach Solar, Germany presented the technology and economics of standalone photovoltaic power systems which could be installed in urban residential areas with a high power demand, suffering under frequent power failures and voltage peaks destroying not only electric devices but also constituting a safety risk destroying homes and being a threat to life.

CEO Blue Camel Energy Limited; Nigeria, Mr. Suleiman Yusuf presentation on Living off grid and fossil – gave a practical example incorporating green architecture, renewable energy resources and energy efficiency. His 10 apartment (mini estate) developed in Abuja is solely powered on renewable energy resources-wind and solar and deploys best available energy efficient appliances ranging from AC's, lightings, DC refrigerators, energy efficient washing machines and other heat appliances, solar powered street and perimeter lighting solutions, solar powered water supply systems etc.

Segun Adaju, who is the CEO of BlueOcean, Nigeria introduced new opportunities for MSME with his presentation - Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) Solar for Commercial Use. Energy supply is the major constraint to the growth and survival of these organizations. PAYG Solar provides solutions for the challenges that affect scaling up of alternative energy as it will provide a financing platform that will make technologies affordable. MSMEs are a group that would benefit from insular renewable energy solutions but often do not have substantial amounts of funding to invest in their own installations. The business model has supported the uptake of solar especially in East Africa and Nigerian businesses stands to benefit from its adoption.

The interesting and highly interactive seminar enabled relevant stakeholders in the Nigerian renewable energy and energy efficiency sub-sector to directly engage with entrepreneurs in the field and to partake in their profound experience and competencies focusing on global best practices. Discussions evolved around energy cost savings and efficiency, environmental protection and employment creation. Also access to funding/ financing schemes and awareness

and consumer confidence and the need of increased technical skills was discussed. Government legislation is further needed to control the standardization of equipment and the influx of sub-standard equipment resulting to high failure rates and high failure rates of government projects.

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