After launching its Kenya program in 2016, RES4Africa hosted a 2-day regional conference and exhibition at Strathmore University in Nairobi.
The event, organized in collaboration with the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP), aimed to assess progress made, foster further dialogue and discuss best practices for effective renewable energy deployment in the East-African region. **More than 350 participants and over 60 speakers attended the conference**, including representatives of the Kenyan government, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), regional and international organizations, private sector, academia and civil society. The event was sponsored by Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy, and was supported by Enel Green Power, ERM, European Investment Bank, FRIEM, Enertronica, and EPS.

Kenya is one of the fastest growing countries in East Africa and has made remarkable progress in unlocking its already recognized renewable energy (RE) potential, mainly for solar, wind and geothermal energy. Renewable energy is considered a key enabler of Kenya’s sustainable development revolving around the “big four” (food security, universal healthcare, affordable housing and increased industrialization); as declared by Hon. Judy Wakhungu, Kenya’s **Green Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan (GESIP)’s set target to 2030 is to ensure the 80% of the total energy production comes from renewables.** “**RES4Africa and its members are here to combine efforts with Kenya and provide renewable energy solutions to fulfil the country’s potential towards enabling its economic development as a whole.**” said Roberto Vigotti, RES4MED&Africa Secretary General, during the opening remarks.

The RES-EXPO event included a regional conference, a showcasing exhibition as well as B2B match-making sessions. The 2-day conference agenda touched upon the key topics for renewable energy deployment such as enabling policy and regulatory frameworks, financing solutions and innovative business models, technological and technical issues, capacity building and socio-economic benefits to local economies. The exhibition at RES-EXPO included 7 stands by African and international companies and organizations presenting their business. Complementing the event, RES4Africa released a book of 15 position papers with concrete recommendations for Kenya’s way forward. Download position paper [here](#). “**Sustainable integration of renewable energies into the country’s supply chain is an economical prerequisite to be met by both the public sector and the private sector**, adds David Otieno, Head of Secretariat, Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP). Download speakers presentations [here](#).
On the sidelines of the conference, RES4Africa presented the renewable grid integration study and launched the Micro-Grid Academy, two concrete outcomes from 2016 RES4Africa launch. The first results of the RES4Africa/CESI study “Integration of non-programmable renewable energy in the national electric system of Kenya” were delivered during a high-level meeting at Fairmont Hotel on 22 January in Nairobi with the presence of Hon. Joseph Njoroge, the Principal Secretary of the Kenyan Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, and demonstrated that RE generation in Kenya increases sustainability and reliability of the electric system. On the same day, the RES4Africa Micro-Grid Academy (MGA), a new capacity building initiative, completed its first opening at KPLC premises partnering with AVSI Foundation, Strathmore University, St. Kizito VTI, Enel Foundation, which included a site visit attended by 40 international stakeholders to the future MGA venue and the certification ceremony of the first 50 MGA students. Watch MGA video here

High-level representatives and experts from the Kenyan government, multilateral banks, international organizations, private sector, and academia contributed to the event. The conference was graced by the presence of Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources of Kenya, Hon. Judy Wakhungu; Secretary Renewable Energy Ministry of Energy and Petroleum of Kenya, Mr. Isaac Kiva; and Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Mining Kenya, Hon. Dan Kazungu. In parallel to the event, Dr. Francesco La Camera, representative of the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea and Hon. Joseph Njoroge, the Principal Secretary of the Kenyan Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, signed an MoU establishing a partnership agreement to foster renewable energy deployment in Kenya and support the implementation of RE projects and policies. “We welcome this partnership as investing in renewable energy follows our mandate to provide a clean, safe and healthy environment for Kenyans” said Hon. Judy Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources of Kenya.

The development of African start-ups and its entrepreneurial innovation scene plays a key role in driving the region’s sustainable energy transition. To that end, Enel X, Enel’s new advanced energy services division, in partnership with Seedstars World, awarded the innovative start-up SolarFreeze with the Africa Energy Prize, following a competition launched in April 2017. RES-EXPO hosted the side-event on innovation, including the awarding ceremony of the competition’s winning African start-up.

More photos here
Hon. Judy Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources of Kenya
Amb. Mauro Massoni, Ambassador of Italy in Kenya

Hon. Dan Kazungu
Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Mining Kenya

Dr. Francesco La Camera
Director General for Sustainable Development, Environmental Damage, European Union and International Affairs, Italian Ministry of Environment, Land & Sea

Mr. Isaac Kiva
Secretary Renewable Energy, Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Kenya

Media Coverage

RES4Africa torna a Nairobi per sostenere le rinnovabili in Kenya e Africa orientale
Source: InfoAfrica

RES4Africa: nuove strategie e strumenti per lo sviluppo delle rinnovabili in Kenya
Source: Enel Green Power

RES4Africa torna a Nairobi per promuovere le energie rinnovabili
Source: InfoAfrica / Info Mercati Esteri

KEPSA attends the RES4Africa renewable energy expo
Source: KEPSA

RES4Africa to organise conference and exhibition in Kenya on renewable energy
Source: Inside News Africa

Enel e Seedstars premiano a RES4Africa la startup più innovativa per l'accesso all'energia in Africa
Source: Canale Energia

Enel: con Seedstars premia startup SolarFreeze a RES4Africa
Source: milanofinanza.it

Renewable energy: Conference on sustainable power begins - KTN News Kenya

Mining firms urged to embrace renewable energy sources - KBC Channel 1
Renewable Energy Solutions for Africa (RES4Africa) is an association that promotes the deployment of large scale and decentralized renewable energy in Sub-Saharan African markets to meet local energy needs for growth. RES4Africa gathers a member network from across the clean energy value chain and supports the creation of an enabling environment for renewable energy investments and strategic partnerships.

The Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) launched as one of the eight strategic partnerships of the Africa-EU Joint Strategy (JAES) by the African and European Heads of State during the 2007 Second EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon, Portugal. The AEEP is an established forum for high-level political dialogue between Europe and Africa, and it has performed as an instrumental agenda-setter in African-European cooperation on energy issues as well as contribution at the international scene. The AEEP’s overall objective is to increase the effectiveness of efforts to secure reliable and sustainable energy services and extend their access on both continents, enhance access to modern energy services and expand renewable energy and energy efficiency in Africa.

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