

RES4Africa launches Ethiopia Program during conference “Fostering the deployment of renewable energy in Ethiopia: A sustainable roadmap”

Addis Ababa, 3-4 October, 2017 - RES4Africa returns to East-Africa to launch its Ethiopia program during a 2-day high-level conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Addis Ababa. Over 300 participants and more than 90 speakers meet for a multi-stakeholder exchange on Ethiopia’s renewable energy transition. The event sponsored by Enel Green Power, organized with the support of AEEP, gathers representatives from the Ethiopian government, multilateral banks, international organizations, private sector, and academia to discuss lessons learned, identify gaps and propose solutions for a smooth deployment of renewable energy in Ethiopia.

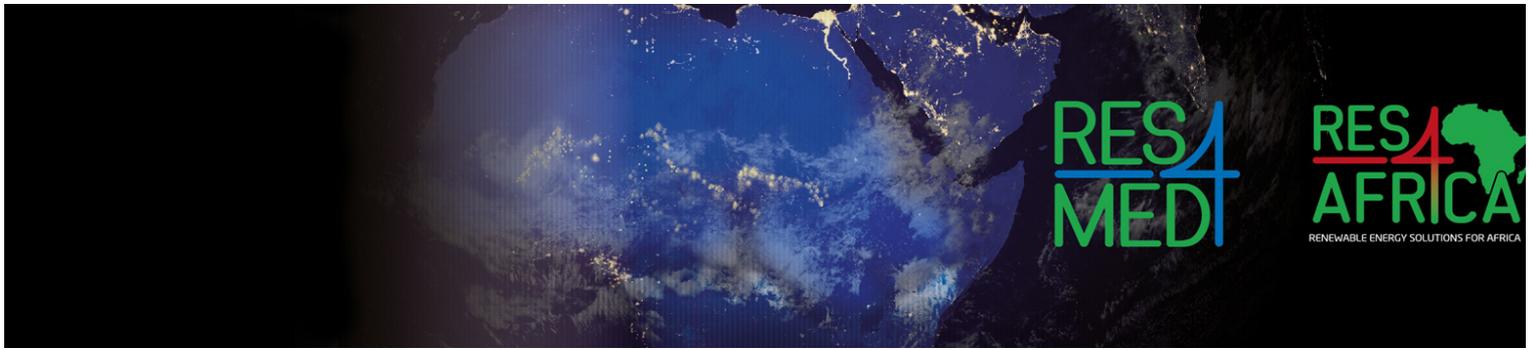
“Ethiopia can reap significant benefits from unlocking its vast renewable energy potential, and RES4Africa aims to be a part of this ambition.” said Roberto Vigotti, Secretary General of RES4Africa, in his opening remarks. As one of Africa’s fastest growing and most populated economies, the country’s increasing electricity demand can be met with renewable energy, in particular hydro, geothermal and wind energy. Enabling access to electricity in the country’s predominant rural areas is crucial to improve livelihoods and to foster business creation in a sustainable, reliable and cost-efficient way. Ethiopia aims to install 13 GW new capacity between 2018 – 2025, mostly for hydro, wind, geothermal and solar PV, including a dedicated program similar to the IFC Scaling Solar initiative for a total installed capacity of 800 MW.

Renewable energies are key for Ethiopia’s sustainable economic development, to which private sector and investors will play a vital role. *“Ethiopia is a dynamic and rapidly changing market with tremendous renewable energy potential – said Antonio Cammisecra, president of RES4Africa and CEO of Enel Green Power – “and that is why we are in Addis Ababa today. We envision to play an important role in Africa’s renewable energy potential, not just in the future, but from today. This implies sharing energy strategies building true partnerships with local institutions, in particular on solar, wind and geothermal energy.”*

The 2-day conference hosts high-level representatives and experts to share insights on the key topics for the deployment of renewable energy in Ethiopia. The event was graced by the presence of Minister of Industry of Ethiopia, Dr. Mebrathu Meles, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Gemedo Dalle, and Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation of Ethiopia, Dr. Amasu Nebebe, as well as African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid. *“There is no better place to pioneer a sustainable African energy transition than in Ethiopia. Ethiopia has set an amazing example in Africa in the field of hydropower and geothermal towards a sustainable future.”* – said David Otieno, Head of Secretariat AEEP, in his closing remarks.

The conference aims to build on the outcomes of the G7 Energy Side event of 9 April 2017 in Rome organized by RES4Africa, with the support of AEEP and Enel Foundation. Under the leadership of the G7 Italian Presidency, RES4Africa presented a communiqué on the importance of accelerating access to sustainable energy in Africa as key to unlocking economic opportunities and driving the continent’s sustainable development. The conference in Ethiopia follows those commitments by enabling dialogue and the creation of strategic partnerships for resilient sustainable energy development in Africa.

RES4Africa aims to create an enabling environment for renewable energy investments in Sub-Saharan African countries. After launching in Kenya last year, RES4Africa expands to Ethiopia to create dialogue, share expertise and foster skills for renewable energy deployment. As event outcomes, RES4Africa releases 10 position papers that present concrete suggestions on how to move forward. In addition, the Ethiopian Ministry of Industry and RES4Africa signed a MoU – drafted by BonelliErede - to formalize cooperation on potential renewable energy solutions for integrated agro-industrial parks’ (IAIPs) in Ethiopia.



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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.