

## **Summary of a One-day Conference on Promoting Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Nigeria Held in Kano City, Northern Nigeria**

The third conference on the project Promoting Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Nigeria (PREEEN) held at Kano Educational Resource Centre in Kano City, northern Nigeria on the 24th of April, 2008. The one-day event was organized by the Community Research and Development Centre (CREDC) and it received financial support from the Global Greengrants Fund and the Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria. The conference was attended by 37 participants from different states in Northern Nigeria representing governmental establishments, policy makers, the private sector, academic institutions, NGOs and international organizations.

The conference aimed to create awareness on the PREEEN Project and enhance stakeholders in northern Nigeria to participate in the Project. Other objectives of the conference were: to create awareness on renewable energy and energy efficiency among stakeholders in Northern Nigeria; enhance stakeholders' capacity to advocate for renewable energy and energy efficiency; facilitate the creation of a network of renewable energy and energy efficiency advocates that will pioneer the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency in Nigeria. During the meeting, there were plenary and parallel sessions and practical demonstration on the use of solar generator and Save-80 efficiency cook stove. Recommendations from the sessions formed the resolutions which were adopted as a communiqué by the participants of the conference.



Dr. Daniel Yawson, Conference Chair

### **FIRST PLENARY SESSION**

The conference Chair, Dr. Daniel Kwesi Yawson of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), Kano Office welcomed participants and express gratitude to the organizers of the conference. Mr. Etiosa Uyigue, the Executive Director of the CREDC in his opening address lamented the pathetic energy crisis in Nigeria and highlighted the problems as follows: about 60-70% of Nigerians do not have access to electricity; frequent power outages lasting for several hours; and generation of electricity from unsustainable sources contributing to the emission of GHGs. He also noted that there are yet no policies on energy efficiency in Nigeria.



Etiosa Uyigue, CREDC

Giving a brief history of the PREEEN project, he said two

conferences have been organized in southwestern and eastern Nigeria since the inception of the project in 2006 and the present conference is the third one organized for stakeholders in northern Nigeria. He indicated that the PREEEN Project was designed to address the energy crisis in Nigeria and the vision of the project is to provide renewable energy systems to 10 million people in a period of 5-6 years.

The first paper in the conference was presented by Ms Omoyemen Lucia Odigie-Emmanuel representing Rev. Nnimmo Bassey, the Executive Director of the Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria. The paper was titled '**Access to Energy and the Millennium Development Goals**'. She highlighted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieving universal primary education; promoting gender equity and women's empowerment; reduce child mortality; improve maternity health; combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other disease; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop global partnership for development. According to her, access to energy is crucial if the world must achieve these international goals.



Ms Odigie-Emmanuel, ERA/FoEN

Etiosa Uyigue presented the second paper in the conference titled "**Towards a Low Carbon Economy: The Role of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Nigeria**". He indicated that harnessing energy from renewable sources such as solar, wind and geothermal will help to increase access to energy and reduce dependency on the burning of fossil fuel, thus helping to reduce the emission of GHGs. He defined energy efficiency as improvement in practices and products that reduce the energy necessary to provide services, thus helping to do more work with less energy. He said using energy more efficiently will leave more energy available to



Group photograph

stated that one of the objectives of the PREEEN project is to help develop policies on energy efficiency.

extend energy supply to all parts of the population; minimize the building of new power stations; reduce the negative environmental and human health impacts of energy production; and increase the efficiency and resilience of the economy. According to him Nigeria can save about 50% of the energy that is presently consumed if energy is used efficiently. He noted that there are yet no policies on energy efficiency in Nigeria and

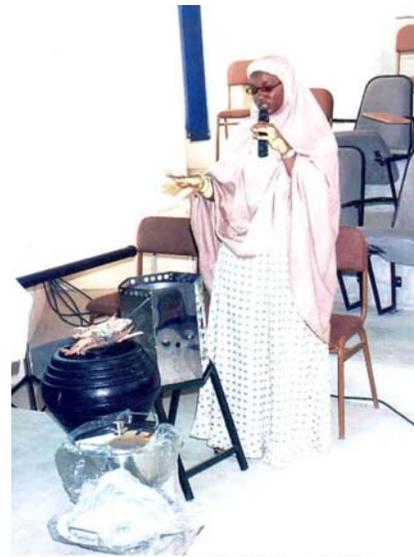
Ahmed Yahaya Chief Executive Officer of the Renewable Energies (DARE), made the next presentation titled “**Save-80 Project**”. He expressed great worries over the massive consumption of fuel wood in every part of Nigeria leading to rapid increase in deforestation and an alarming rate of desert encroachment in northern part of Nigeria. According to him, the objective of the Save-80 Project is to reduce drastically the massive consumption of fuel wood. He presented the efficient wood-saving Save-80 cook stove that can reduce the consumption of wood fuel by 80% compared to the traditional three-stone stove. He said with the Save-80 cook stove, 250 grams of wood is sufficient to cook for a household of 15 people.

Developmental Association for



Ahmed Yahaya, DARE

Mrs. Habiba Ali, the National Coordinator DARE provided more details on the components and how to use the Save-80 cook stove. The interior and exterior parts of the stove are made of stainless steel to ensure a life span of many years. The cook stove burns at high efficiency and at high temperature of complete combustion, thus low carbon emission. What is particular importance is that small piece of wood which are not traditional collected can be used in the Save-80 stove. Other features of the Save-80 stove include pot capacity of 8 liters; the stove is delivered in parts and assembly is simple by men and women; one of the accessories attached is a heat retaining box called the wonderbox with a high capacity to retain heat. The Save-80 cook stove is suitable for use in modern houses.



Habiba Ali on the Save-80 stove



Dr. Idris Muslim, GWRC

Dr. Idris Muslim of Gap Water Resource Consultant Ltd, in his paper titled “**Electricity Generation Using Large Hydro Technology: Implications for the People and Environment of Nigeria**” highlighted the reasons why dams are constructed to include electricity generation, increase food production, industrial development, flood control, enhance navigation, and serve as tourist and recreational centers. He indicated that in the Nigerian context, dams are not sustainable and have failed to meet the projected benefits. He

highlighted the environmental and socio-economic impacts of dam to include: partly and permanent submergence of land, displacement of residence, destruction of plants and animals life, flooding of communities, increased incidence and prevalence of water-borne diseases and deforestation and climatic changes. He recommended the use of alternative renewable energy sources such as wind and solar for electricity generation.

### **PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION**

A practical demonstration using the Save-80 wood stove was carried out outside the conference hall; using the wood stove, staff of DARE prepared rice meal for participants of the conference beside the meal provided by the organizers. Also the computer and the projector used during the conference were powered by a solar generator.



Cooking demonstration using the Save-80 stove

### **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

The conference participants were divided into two groups and each group was given the assignment to develop policy statements on renewable energy and energy efficiency. The results of the groups' discussion were presented in the second plenary session of the conference

### **SECOND PLENARY SESSION**

The results from the groups were presented in this plenary session and they were further edited and adopted as the resolution made during the conference by all participants.

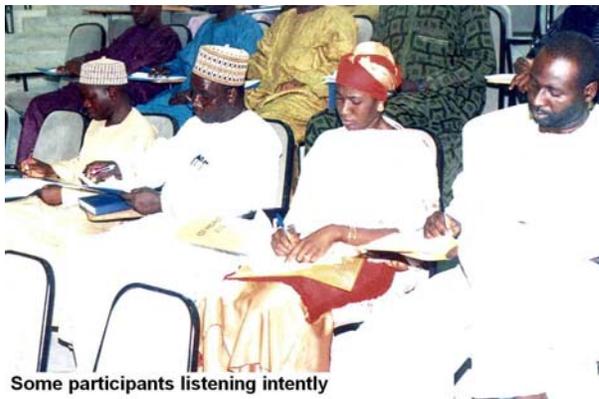
### **Resolution**

It was thus resolved by all participants of this conference that:

- To compliment the strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals especially the goal on environmental sustainability, the use of renewable energy should be encouraged
- Government should develop policies and strategies to promote the use renewable energy and promote energy efficiency practices and technology
- Government should establish an agency under the Ministry of Energy for the development and promotion of renewable energy and ensure proper utilization of available technologies to harness renewable energies
- An apex agency be set up for running and coordinating forestation programmes
- Establish an awareness programme to help stakeholders harness international potentialities on renewable energy and sustainability and transfer such to state and local government level

- Government should invest in the renewable energy sector and make the products affordable to the Nigerian people
- Local Government Councils in collaboration with state and federal government should establish renewable energy departments to access various community tangible and sustainable energy
- More research and training centre should be established by the federal and state governments to ensure speedy development of renewable energy and energy efficiency practices
- The Federal Government through the relevant ministries and the Nigerian University Commission should put in place mechanisms to ensure effective collaboration between research institutions, universities and relevant government agencies to develop renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Private sector should be given the right environment and encouragement by the Government to engage in the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Government, NGOs and development agencies should sensitize and encourage stakeholders to adopt the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technology and practices
- Government should develop a school curriculum that will teach stakeholders to shun the degradation of the environment and use energy more efficiently

During this session Etiosa Uyigüe gave an overview of the PREEEN Project.



Some participants listening intently

According to him, the objectives of the PREEEN project are to increase Nigerians access to electricity and modern energy services using renewable energy facilities and to promote energy efficiency. He said the vision is to provide renewable energy systems to 10 million people in a period of 5-6 years. Speaking on the plan of action, he said that after this conference, the next step is that CREDC will organize a national

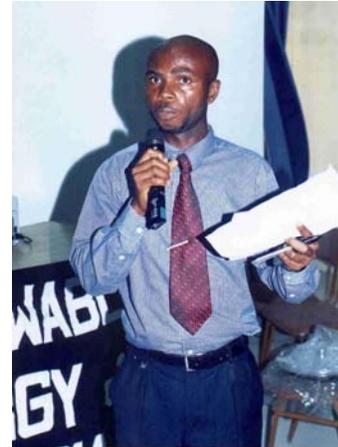
dialogue at the Federal Capital Territory Abuja and some of the participants from this conference and previous conferences on this project will be invited to the dialogue and this is proposed to take place August this year (2008). He said a major outcome of the national dialogue will be the development of a policy document (Nigerian Green Paper) that will promote renewable energy and energy efficiency.



Group discussion

Etiosa Uyigüe said the implementation phase of the PREEEN project will make

use of the informal market instrument. Individuals and households will be provided with renewable energy systems and they will be made to pay back at different installments within a period of six months to one year or more depending on local context, and at the completion of payment by a set of beneficiary, the recovered fund will be used to provide renewable energy systems for other set of beneficiary and this goes on and on. He said CREDC will partner with national and international organizations to achieve the vision of the PREEEN project.



Mathew Agho, CREDC

### **CLOSING FORMALITIES**

The draft communiqué was adopted by all participants. Matthew Agho, Deputy Director of CREDC, on behalf of the organizers is grateful to the participants and our partners for the success of this conference. Dr. Idris Muslim thanked the organizers of the conference on behalf of the participants and stressed their support for the PREEEN Project.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

CREDC is grateful to the Global Greengrants Fund and the Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria for giving financial support towards the realization of this conference. We are indebted to Rev. Nnimmo Bassey, the Executive Director of Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria for his consistent support for this project and for our activities in general. The efforts put in by Dr. Idris Muslim to ensure the success of this conference are greatly appreciated. We are grateful to Dr. Daniel Kwesi Yawson (Conference Chair), Okungbowa Ose Golden (Rapp auteur) and to all our participants.

### **CREDC CONTACT DETAILS**

**Address:** 90 Uselu-Lagos Road, Opposite Zenith Bank, P. O. Box 11011, Benin 300001, Edo State, Nigeria

**Tel:** +234 703 940 5619

**eFax:** +1 309 401 0921

**Email:** [info@credcentre.org](mailto:info@credcentre.org); [credcsecretariat@yahoo.com](mailto:credcsecretariat@yahoo.com)

**Website:** [www.credcentre.org](http://www.credcentre.org)

**GLOSSARY**

CREDC	Community Research and Development Centre
DARE	Developmental Association for Renewable Energies
ERA/FoEN	Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria
GHGs	Greenhouse Gases
GWRC	Gap Water Resources Consultant Ltd
HIV/AIDs	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PREEEN	Promoting Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Nigeria