

AFRICA ENERGY INDABA 2017 brings together Africa's leading women in energy

The third annual **Women in Energy** conference, organised by the Africa Energy Indaba, will bring together Africa's leading women in the energy sector on Monday 20th February at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg.

The Africa Energy Indaba was the first energy conference on the continent to launch a specialised event for the promotion and empowerment of women in the energy sector and the theme of the 2017 one-day conference is *"Developing African women Leaders to create our energy future"*.

Research indicates that overcoming gender inequality and gender-related legal restrictions would increase annual GDP growth in sub-Saharan Africa by 0.75 percent.

Liz Hart, the Managing Director of **Women in Energy** commented, *"It is important for women to play a bigger role in the workplace in Africa, where women play a disproportionately active role as breadwinners and caretakers of the future generations on the continent. If more women were represented in the continent's energy sectors, which are responsible for providing electricity access to improve the quality and standard of living, then many more people would have access to quality education and healthcare."*

Global research shows that empowering women in the workplace makes economic sense. According to Janet Riccio, Executive Vice President of the Omnicom Group, *"Women's leadership is more than important in today's world; it's imperative. Whether it's the public or private sector, organisations that are led by inclusive leadership teams make better decisions that deliver better results. The qualities that are required to lead in the 21st century include the ability to connect, collaborate, empathize, and communicate—all qualities that tend to be "female" in nature. Women in leadership roles position organisations in a way that makes them fit for the future."*

The Africa Energy Indaba's **Women in Energy** conference is designed to aid the increase in leadership and development of women involved in the African energy sectors. The event comprises a number of keynote addresses by leading African women as well as a number of panel sessions. The event provides a platform for women (and men who are involved in empowering women in the

workplace) to network, share their knowledge, discuss achievements and encourage the advancement of women across all sectors of the energy industry.

Through its vast network of collaborative relationships with various ministries such as the Department of Energy and other key stakeholder organisations, **Women in Energy** provides delegates with access to networks that are committed to seeing the energy sector benefit from more female representation.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Women and men in senior leadership positions within the energy and related industry companies
- High-potential women looking to enhance and advance their careers
- Industry professionals responsible for hiring, developing and advancing an equitable workforce

WHAT DELEGATES WILL GAIN:

- Knowledge of how men and women can join forces to create the workplace of the future
- Insights into the success factors of women in the C-suite and input into continuing research
- A new approach to assimilating a generation of women leaders into companies
- Enlightenment around the past, present and future of women's compensation globally
- Awareness of senior roles in the marketplace available and being acquired by women
- Success stories from representatives of leading companies on designing, implementing, sustaining and measuring women's initiatives

PRESS RELEASE ENDS

AFRICA ENERGY INDABA

Creating tomorrow's energy opportunities in Africa

Africa is the continent of opportunity for the serious energy investor. With vast natural energy resources ranging from coal, oil, gas, hydro, solar, wind and geothermal, there is ample choice for the discerning entrepreneur. Lack of access to electricity means that there is an opportunity for regional governments, energy businesses, organisations and investors to unlock electricity access to millions of people who have don't have power. **The Africa Energy Indaba** is the continent's premier energy conference and exhibition: bringing together leading African and global energy players to unlock energy and business opportunities across the African continent. Africa Energy Indaba has strategic partnerships with the World Energy Council (WEC), the South African National Energy Association (SANEA) and the NEPAD Planning & Coordinating Agency (NPCA).

21-22nd February 2017 at Sandton Convention Centre

www.africaenergyindaba.com

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**AFRICA ENERGY INDABA 2017 launches Africa Utility Forum to boost growth of energy projects in the region
January 2017**

South Africa has been seeking foreign investment to help drive sluggish economic growth and used the World Economic Forum 2017 platform last week to market the country as a favourable investment destination. South African Deputy President, Cyril Ramaphosa, led a 60-strong country delegation in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.

Energy demands in Sub-Saharan Africa have created investment interest in the Independent Power Producer (IPP) regional market in recent years as the demand for energy in the region has grown. However, South Africa has halted its lauded Renewable Energy Power Producer's Procurement Programme, sparking fears over the growth of the regional IPP market.

In a bid to boost momentum in the regional IPP market and to continue the growth trajectory of recent years, the Africa Energy Indaba is the first energy conference on the continent to launch a specialised workshop event exclusively bringing together African utilities to meet private sector project developers and investors.

"Despite the positive developments in regional independent power producer (IPP) energy projects, significant challenges remain for IPPs, especially when it comes to governments providing guaranteed off-take to IPPs. This has created significant risks for IPP developers and investors and will hamper the growth of the IPP market, unless other means and models are created to make the market more conducive to investment," said Paul Runge, Director of Projects & Development Finance at Africa House, a partner consultancy to the event that provides clients with early alerts of projects across a broad range of sectors in Sub-Saharan Africa..

The one-day **Africa Utility Forum** will bring together the movers and shakers of Africa's energy sector in February 2017 to unlock desperately needed energy projects and opportunities across the continent.

Collaboration between neighbouring countries and between public and private sector players can greatly increase the growth of regional power markets and reduce the overall costs, which will make power accessible for African consumers.

Successes in the market such as South Africa's Renewable Energy IPP Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) and the current privatisation process in Nigeria demonstrate that there can be power sector solutions when the public and private sectors work together to open up the market to various solutions.

The first-ever Africa Utility Forum is taking place on Wednesday 22nd February 2017, during the Africa Energy Indaba conference.

The Forum will provide IPPs, investors and key role players with the opportunity to meet role players and decision makers in the African utility space and find out about actual energy projects, current developments and priority projects in the regional power market.

This one-day workshop is an opportunity for IPPs & utilities in Africa to work together on specific, high-priority energy projects for the development of the continent's power sector.

Through its vast network of collaborative relationships with various ministries such as the Department of Energy and other key stakeholder organisations, the Africa Energy Indaba provides delegates with access to networks that are committed to seeing the energy sector benefit from more viable energy projects being built.

PRESS RELEASE ENDS

** The Africa Utility Forum is a closed session of the Africa Energy Indaba. Spokespeople will be available after the workshop to brief the media on the proceedings.*

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