



Embassy of Italy
Nairobi

Business to Government Event

**“Renewable Energy in Kenya:
Unlocking Investments, Innovation and Research”**

Italian lessons learned and cutting-edge solutions

DAY 2

Strathmore University – Nairobi, Kenya

January 23rd 2020

Promoted and organized by
the Embassy of Italy in Kenya
in partnership with



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Context

Renewable energies have taken on an increasingly important role in the global fight against climate change. In Africa in particular they have taken the center stage in the political discourse, as the aim to provide clean and affordable energy for all by 2022 requires a significant paradigm shift. The pace of change in Africa's energy sector has accelerated and East Africa is experiencing a particularly fast GDP growth.

Around 3.5 million households are still without power, representing significant residential and productive demand for affordable, reliable and clean energy. Reducing energy poverty in Africa is widely recognized as fundamental to accelerating economic transformation and sustainable development, and can be achieved through the deployment of large scale and decentralized (off-grid) renewable energy solutions.

Kenya is blessed with abundant resources in the form of solar, wind and geothermal energy: exploiting these efficiently will be key to unleashing economic growth. To date, Africa has roughly 50 GW of installed renewable capacity of which 36 GW consist of hydropower. However, variable renewable energy is on the rise with utility-scale projects entering into service throughout the continent, including Kenya and Ethiopia. At the same time, off-grid solutions foster electrification and productive uses, while digitalization acts as a key enabler for new business models and payment tools.

Sub-Saharan African countries are rapidly attracting attention as new markets for renewable energy technologies. Thanks to the continent's economic and population growth, its abundance of renewable energy resources, and falling technology costs, renewable energy investments are considered a key solution to introduce widespread affordable, reliable and sustainable energy access in the region.

As the IEA predicts that around 260 GW of RES capacity will be added in Africa until 2040, representing 69% of total newly added capacity, around 1.5 trillion USD of investments in both generation and grid assets will be required. The future of Africa's energy sector will play a crucial role in the "Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want", since it will be pivotal for local sustainable development and climate change mitigation.

Closing the current investment gap through private sector participation is essential to pave the way for the achievement of these goals. In order to unlock these investments, a clear and enabling regulatory environment is needed.

Italy carries a wealth of experience in the field of energy and is glad to support the autonomous and local development of partner countries, sharing lessons learned from Italian research, education and entrepreneurial as well as industrial innovation.



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About the event

Considering the highlighted context, the Embassy of Italy in Kenya organize a multi-stakeholder discussion of Italian players to promote the Italian best practices in terms of education, research and innovation in the field of renewable energy and development and with a view at establishing a fruitful exchange and potential partnership with the relevant Kenyan authority and stakeholders.

In this area Italy can rely on a particularly rich heritage of experiences and competences that includes, in addition to institutional actors, also some small start-up of the private sector, players from the civil society, some key universities and research institutions, each actor being the bearer of specific skills and experiences.

Thanks to the support of Politecnico di Milano, the Italian Expertise will be deepened in terms of education and research to investigate the scientific space for promoting long term, sustainable and native energy solutions in Africa. Two sessions will provide highlights (i) on the research perspective developed by Italian universities and research centers as an opportunity for mutual learning with African colleagues and scientists and (ii) innovation perspectives as a new narrative for effective cooperation. Emphasis will be given to joint projects developed in cooperation with local players to highlight lessons learned and gather additional future synergies.



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Research and innovation for promoting sustainable energy solutions

Morning session

8:30 Registration and welcome coffee

9:00 Session 1 – Research and Innovation for promoting Sustainable Energy Solutions

Opening session

Introductory remarks :

H.E Alberto Pieri, Ambassador of Italy in Kenya

Prof. Izael Pereira Da Silva, Deputy Vice Chancellor – Research and Innovation, Strathmore University

Prof. Emanuela Colombo, Rector's Delegate to Cooperation and Development, Politecnico di Milano

9:30-10:45 Research Perspective as a mutual learning experience

Facilitator: Prof. Pierluigi Leone, Politecnico di Torino

Davide Fioriti, University of Pisa

Prof. Riccardo Mereu, Politecnico di Milano

Prof. Marco Bovo, University of Bologna

Daniele Bricca, Sapienza University of Rome

Simona De Iuliis, National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA)

Q&A

11:00 Coffee break

11:15 Session 2 - Innovation Perspective as a new narrative of cooperation

Facilitator: Prof. Emanuela Colombo, Politecnico di Milano

Francesca Oliva, AVSI Foundation

Fabrizio Colombelli, CEFA Onlus

Riccardo Ridolfi, Equatorial Power

Paolo Carnevale, Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei

Davide Cheboryot, E4impact

Alice Nencini, WindKinetics

Dr. Jude Songok, a Kenyan representative of the Africa Innovation Leaders project funded by Italian Agency of Cooperation (AICS)

Q&A

12:45-13.00 Closing remarks

Prof. Emanuela Colombo, Politecnico di Milano

Prof. Pierluigi Leone, Politecnico di Torino

H.E Alberto Pieri, Ambassador of Italy in Kenya