EU Development Cooperation in the Energy Sector
Update on the activity of the Technical Assistance Facility (TAF)

Delivering results in the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All
EU Development Cooperation in the Energy Sector

Technical Facility (TAF) Activity Update

The European Union’s Technical Assistance Facility for Sustainable Energy is operational in more than 20 countries in the Sub-Saharan African, Asian and Pacific Regions.

The Facility provides much needed technical advice, guidance, and know-how to partner countries’ Energy Authorities, who are keen to implement changes to meet their growing domestic and regional energy needs. The technical guidance also covers energy efficiency and clean energy sources.

For any further information on the EU Technical Assistance Facilities Activities please contact the Energy team at EuropeAid, Brussels.

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SAPP - Southern Africa Power Pool Study Tour to Europe

The Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) is the regional power pool in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. Membership of the SAPP comprises twelve national power utilities. SAPP is the only power pool in Africa which has established an electricity trading platform and a day-ahead market (DAM).

The European Union supported the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) by organising a Study Tour to Europe. The aim of the EU study tour was to support senior staff from SAPP and member utilities to enhance their knowledge of the planning, operation and market mechanisms of liberalised power pools in Europe. The 18 visitors from SAPP are power system managers of member utilities of 12 African countries. Their main job is day to day operation of their interconnected power systems and trading functions. The SAPP delegates
were from national utilities of Botswana, Mozambique, Malawi, Angola, South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia, Congo D.R., Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The visit to Europe was held over one week from 22nd June to 26th June 2015, and the delegates were hosted at the German power exchange EEX, the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E), the French dispatch centre RTE, the Belgium Dispatch centre ELIA and CORESO who provide coordination services for the secure operation of the high-voltage electricity system for over 40% of the population of the European Union.

SAPP Study Tour visiting ELIA (the Belgium Dispatch Centre)

A visit to the European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) was part of the one week programme of the SAPP delegation with a welcome by Mr. Paolo Ciccarelli, Head of Unit, DEVCO Unit C5 – Water, Energy, Infrastructures and presentations of the EU-programmes and initiatives on Sustainable Energy by Mr. Felice Zaccheo, Deputy Head of DEVCO Unit C5 and an introduction to the European Commission’s Regional Programme on Southern and Eastern Africa with a focus on energy cooperation, by Ms. Irene Giribaldi, Head of Sector “Regional Programmes” Unit D2.
A briefing on the current state of play in SAPP, including strategies and challenges in the energy sector was presented by Mr. Alex Kadiayi Mbumbula, the SAPP Operating Sub-Committee Chairperson, and Director of Transmission at the national electricity company of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (SNEL).

The European Union’s Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) for the “Sustainable Energy for All” (SE4ALL) initiative for Eastern and Southern Africa facilitated the tour.
**Workshop: EU Technical Assistance Support to the Ethiopian Energy Authority**

The European Union supported a two-day workshop held on 18-19 June 2015, in Bishoftu just outside Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The workshop provided a forum to present and discuss with stakeholders the instruments and regulatory documents developed with support from the EU. These instruments serve to support the implementation of the Ethiopian Energy Authority’s (EEA) programme of activities, as prescribed under Ethiopia’s Energy Proclamation. The workshop was attended by representatives of Peoples’ Representatives of Parliamentarians, Governmental and State Agencies, the Power Utilities, the Private Sector, Academia, World Bank, USAID and GIZ.

The main topics discussed during the workshop were: Economic and Technical Regulation, Legal Aspects, Energy Efficiency and Conservation and the possibilities offered by the new financial instrument of DEVCO called **ElectriFI**.

The European Union’s Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) for the “Sustainable Energy for All” (SE4ALL) initiative for Eastern and Southern Africa facilitated the workshop.


The European Union organised a 5 day Energy Efficiency (EE) Training Seminar, held in Lusaka, Zambia, between the 15th and 19th June 2015 for members of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The seminar was well attended with 27 delegates from 20 countries. The purpose of the seminar was to build capacity and share information to facilitate Energy Efficiency capacity among members of COMESA and SADC, and to answer to specific training needs in the Energy Efficiency related fields.

More specifically the training supported the creation of policy frameworks for Energy Efficiency (EE) and the review of structures to promote EE by fostering the understanding of the potentials of EE in industry, commerce, buildings, energy generation and distribution.
Handover of seminar certificate to delegate

As part of the week long seminar a site visit to the Kariba North Bank Hydropower Station was organised. During recent years, a refurbishment and enlargement of the Hydropower Station took place which also increased its efficiency significantly. Furthermore, Kariba North Bank Hydropower Station is a joint project of Zambia and Zimbabwe and therefore an important showcase for cooperation in the energy sector within COMESA and SADC.

The site visit was conducted by the Zambian Energy Company and owner of Kariba North Bank Hydropower Station ZESCO. It started with a presentation in ZESCO’s head office, followed by a guided tour of the dam and the power house by the power plant manager.

The European Union’s Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) for the “Sustainable Energy for All” (SE4ALL) initiative for Eastern and Southern Africa facilitated the Energy Efficiency Seminar.

(Note: Project Financing: the EU is funding the rehabilitation of the Kariba Dam Plunge Pool with EUR 64 000 000 in grants under the 11th EDF (European Development Fund)).