

Communiqué Issued at a One-Day Seminar Titled Promoting Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Nigeria Organized by the Community Research and Development Centre (CREDC) at the University of Calabar Hotel and Conference Centre on 21st November 2007

Preamble

A one-day seminar titled “Promoting Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Nigeria” , organized by the Community Research and Development Centre, with support from the Global Greengrants Fund and the Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria (CREDC) held on the 21 November 2007 at the University of Calabar Hotel and Conference. The event was attended by Twenty-eight participants drawn from the government, academics, NGOs, private sectors, student bodies, and the media. Among the government officials present is the Commissioner of the Cross River State Ministry of Environment. The event featured paper presentations, observations, discussions and resolutions.

Observations

1. Though there are policies on renewable energy, there are no policies on energy efficiency
2. Nigeria can save over 50% of the energy presently consumed if we imbibe energy efficiency practices and products
3. To achieve sustainability in energy development in Nigeria, renewable energy and energy efficiency should be promoted along side with each other.
4. There is no agency in Nigeria specially created to promote energy efficiency
5. The Renewable Energy Master Plan of the Nigerian government does not mainstream gender in it strategies.
6. The energy sector was not given adequate budgetary allocation in the 2008 budget
7. That renewable energy and energy efficiency are mitigation strategies for climate change
8. Low access to energy have more impart on women and children.
9. There is low awareness in Nigeria on the Kyoto Protocol and it flexible mechanism especially the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and that the CDM is currently not benefiting developing countries in sub-Sahara Africa.
10. Nigeria flares 75% of natural gas because of lack of processing facilities, and this accounts for 20% of flared gas worldwide

Having observed these, our **concerns** are:

1. The poor development of renewable energy and energy efficiency in Nigeria
2. The extremely low access to energy in Nigeria, especially the rural populace
3. The energy loss through inefficient energy practices and products
5. Low investment by the government in renewable energy technologies in Nigeria
6. Inadequate policies to develop renewable energy and energy efficiency in Nigeria
7. The adverse social and environmental impacts of gas flaring on rural populace in the Niger Delta.

Resolutions

1. Policy strategies should be targeted towards sustainable, eco-friendly alternative energy sources
2. The government should set up the Ministry of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
3. Develop adequate policies with input from the civil society to address renewable energy and energy efficiency
4. Nigerian government should encourage the use of solar energy to provide electricity for her populace
5. State government be encourage to generate alternative energy sources
6. Civil society and NGOs must be involved in the planning and implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency policy
7. Capacity build should be intensified to empower communities to advocate for renewable energy and energy efficiency
8. Nigerian government and local NGOs should develop partnership with international agencies to develop renewable energy and energy efficiency
9. The importation of renewable energy products should be duty free to encourage the development in Nigeria
10. The government should promote the mapping of renewable energy and energy efficiency centers
11. Mainstream gender in the energy sector through policy formulation and implementation
12. The government should increase budgetary allocation to energy sector for research and development of alternative energy in Nigeria
13. Enhance strategic integration of relevant stakeholders groups into all policies on renewable energy
14. Government should develop effective regulatory framework and pass the National Gas Act into law by the National Assembly
15. Youths and community opinion leaders should be involved in the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency in Nigeria

Signed:

Etiosa Uyigue
For Organizer

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For Participants