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PREA Workshops 2007 Successfully Concluded

30 November 2007

The second series of workshops within the framework of the project PREA (Promoting Renewable Energy in Africa) took place in October in South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. The workshops were successful, with stimulating presentations and active discussions among the participants at all three events. Lecture topics covered the local energy and built environment situations in each country as well as elements of sustainable building design such as thermal comfort, passive thermal controls, daylighting, BIPV, as well as presentations on the PREA project and the planned MSc courses to be offered by the African partner universities.



Solar water heaters in Lwandle – part of the “Hostel-to-Homes” renovation project.

The first workshop took place from the 10 – 13 October at the Sustainability Institute in Stellenbosch, South Africa. The University of the Witwatersrand (WITS), the local coordinating partner, together with ISES put together an interesting programme. The theme of the workshop was Socio-Economic Priorities in Renewable & Sustainable Energy Initiatives in the Built Environment in South Africa. Speakers included not only the PREA project partners, but also local experts presenting on topics relevant to the implementation of renewable energies for the built environment in South Africa. Break-off sessions on several topics, not only buildings but the energy situation in general also

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took place. The workshop also hosted an exhibition, with local companies featuring local innovative products for sustainable building. On the final day participants were given the opportunity to visit case-studies buildings that demonstrate some of the subjects covered in the workshop. The first stop was the BP Southern Africa Headquarters Building in Cape Town, an interesting example featuring several energy efficiency measures, such as cooling towers for heat rejection and daylighting, as well as a solar water heaters and large PV installation of 68 kWp on the roof. The second site visited was the Lwandle “Hostel-to-Homes” project featuring solar water heating integrations. Lwandle, located 40 km from Cape Town, was a hostel for migrant labour workers under the Migrant Labour System (1958 – 1994). Today Lwandle is vibrant home for many families and since 1996 has been renovated and upgraded with solar water heating systems. Lwandle is also home to the Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum, the first township based museum in the Western Cape and the first museum to commemorate migrants in South Africa. The museum also offers tours through one of the originally preserved hostels, a bleak reminder of the conditions under which migrant workers were forced to live.



Participants of the PREA workshop in Kampala during the break off sessions.

The second workshop, from 15 – 16 October was organised together with the University of Dar es Salaam and the newly founded Ardhi University in Tanzania. The programme offered a look into the energy situation in Tanzania as well as appropriate renewable energy solutions for the building sector. Also examined, among other issues within the building sector, were the public sector and the possibilities for integration of solar technologies in government buildings as good practise examples. One point of discussion was the aging building codes in Tanzania with a focus on the need to re-write many of the

codes and regulations governing how architects and engineers build in this country. As during the 2006 workshop, one of the main topics of discussion was energy supply and poverty, in particular energy as a basis for economic development and catalyst for socio-economic growth. The workshop also hosted a small exhibition, with local companies showcasing their products such as solar water heaters and mini-hydropower systems.

The final PREA workshop took place in Kampala, Uganda from the 24 – 25 October. This event was held in cooperation with a workshop by the Commonwealth Association of Architects that immediately followed the PREA event. The theme of was sustainable built environments, with the PREA workshop offering lectures and discussion sessions on the building themes, and the CAA workshop focusing on the introduction of a new guidebook for sustainable design. Opening remarks were given by the President of the Uganda Society of Architects, Dr. Daniel Musana and the Uganda Minister of State for Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Hon. Omara Atubo. Both presenters acknowledged the importance and promising role renewables have in the Ugandan energy supply and built environment. Musana called for more sustainable building practises, including use of RE and sustainable use of local materials; as well as support from the government, stressing the role architects can play in planning and design to guide development sustainably. The Minister praised the action taken by academics and professionals to address the issue of energy in the built environment as encouraging. He also noted progress of the National Housing Policy to address the changing demands in the housing sector, as well as the importance of stakeholder involvement. Following the opening speeches and throughout the next two days, participants learned about a variety of topics related to sustainable building. Break-away sessions offered participants the opportunity to discuss specific topics and conduct exercises in small groups.

The PREA project is supported by the European Commission's Intelligent Energy Europe Programme.

ISES would like to express its sincere thanks to all the PREA project partners and participants who played a vital role in making the PREA workshops not only possible, but a success. To learn more about the PREA project, please visit <http://prea.ises.org>.

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