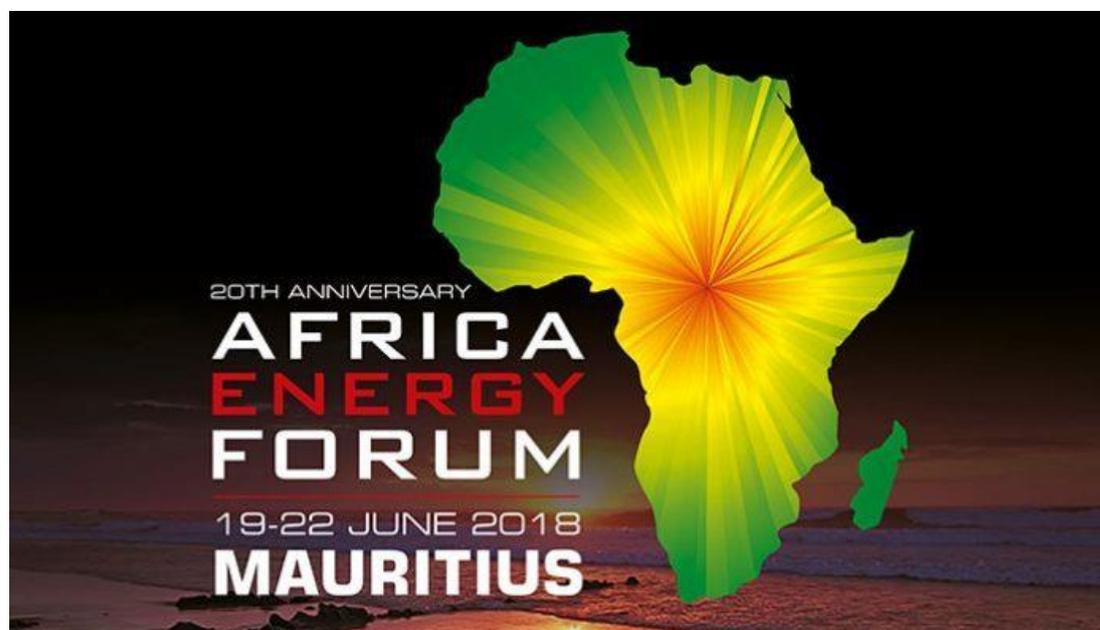


20TH AFRICA ENERGY FORUM – MAURITIUS

The 20th African Energy Forum was held at Le Morne, Mauritius from 19 to 22 June 2018.



This is an event organised every year by Energy Net, UK. It brings together policy makers, investors, power companies, banking institutions and international and regional agencies which is coupled with a large scale exhibition to showcase new technologies and services in the energy sector.

The three last meetings were held in Copenhagen in 2017, in London in 2016 and in Dubai in 2015.

About 1700 delegates, including 16 Ministers from Africa attended the meeting in Mauritius. Energy Net Ltd decided to hold the Forum in Mauritius because Mauritius is a highly competitive economy, has universal electricity coverage and is a gateway to the African continent.

In his opening speech the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities, welcomed the delegates to the forum and reminded them of the historic symbolic links of Le Morne Cultural Heritage site to Africa. He stated that in the New Deal for Energy in Africa, the African Development Bank mentions that “*over 645 million Africans have no access to electricity. Power consumption per capita in Sub-Saharan Africa is estimated at 181 kWh per annum, compared to 6,500 kWh in Europe and 13,000 kWh in the United States. Energy-sector bottlenecks and power shortages are estimated to cost Africa some 2 – 4 per cent of GDP annually, undermining economic growth, employment creation and investment*”. The African Development Bank has set targets such as achieving 160 GW additional capacity by 2025, 130 million additional on-grid connections by 2025 and 75 million additional off-grid connections by 2025.



He highlighted that challenges include geopolitical events which affect energy security and that small island states and Africa need to diversify sources of electricity generation and find ways and means to optimize the use of indigenous renewable resources. He pointed out that according to IRENA, it is estimated that between 2015 and 2030, the investment required is on average USD 70 billion per year - 45 billion for generation capacity and 25 billion for transmission and distribution.

He mentioned the International Solar Alliance, launched by India and France, which has already approved 20 projects worth 1 billion US dollars. Most of them will be implemented in African countries.

The Deputy Prime Minister also participated in the country focus session and gave an overview of the energy strategy of Mauritius, which has set a target of 35 % renewable energy by 2025. He explained that solar energy is expected to be a major part of this strategy, with the number of farms increasing from 1 in 2015 and to 11 in 2019. He also mentioned the Home Solar project which consists in installing solar panels on the rooftops of the 10,000 low income households.

In the special session on Mauritius, he informed the delegates that Mauritius was one of the first countries to receive a grant from the Green Climate Fund of \$ 28 million to upgrade its grid, set up battery storage and improve the capacity of our Utility Regulatory Authority and the Mauritius Renewable Energy Agency. It has also received support from India for the setting of a solar farm and Agence Française de Développement for the strengthening of the electricity grid.

The next Africa Energy Forum will be held in Lisbon. The Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities, handed to the Secretary of State for Energy from Portugal the logo of the forum.