

15 September 2009

Interview with WEC Vice Chair, Prof. Abubakar S Sambo



Professor Abubakar S. Sambo
Energy Commission of Nigeria
WEC Vice-Chair, Africa

1) What keeps you awake at night?

1. Extreme energy poverty of Africa as evidenced in a situation where approximately two-third of Africans do not have access to modern energy services, although Africa is well endowed with a large variety of conventional and renewable energy resources;
2. How Africa can overcome the many challenges facing its energy scene, which ranges from low technical expertise, obsolete and inefficient technologies, high energy intensities, high capital cost of energy projects, weak development of energy infrastructure, bad governance with political and social instability and crises within energy producing communities and to catch up with the rest of the world in terms of accessibility to modern energy services;
3. How to build adequate manpower and technological know-how for the development of the region's energy resources.

2) What would you appreciate feed back from WEC members on?

1. How WEC Member Committees can involve all potential energy-related organizations and individuals in the activities of WEC;
2. How WEC can facilitate the development of veritable partnerships between different regions of the world for capacity building as well as for knowledge and technology transfer;

3. How to enhance members involvement and participation in WEC national, regional and global events;
4. How to reduce dependency on limited resources from limited contributors.

3) What should the WEC think about?

1. How other regions of the World that are already developed can partner with less developed regions like Africa to attract private investments to compliment the efforts of the various governments in the realization of national development goals on energy;
2. How WEC could facilitate and support regional projects that could bring great transformation to Africa. Such projects include the Grand Inga Hydropower project and the major African interconnection projects;
3. How WEC could serve as the global voice on energy matters and advise governments all over the world thereby contributing to the development of energy development strategies.

4) Any other comments you would like to share...

1. It seems to me that energy planning as an activity is not accorded the attention it deserves and so I wish to propose that WEC could encourage and guide its Member Committees, for countries that do not have them already, to produce their national energy policies and master plans. These energy planning documents could be passed into law as a means of ensuring more guaranteed implementation;
2. WEC should encourage the entrenchment of energy efficiency and conservation to reduce energy wastages in developing countries.

WEC Debriefing

Reykjavik, Iceland

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the 2009 World Energy Council Executive Assembly in Reykjavik. I look forward to an exciting week with interesting and fruitful forward looking sessions. We will hold the first ever Secretary's Strategy Day and Chairs' Roundtable, hear about the Iceland energy sector on the Iceland Energy Day, and focus on WEC governance issues at the Executive Assembly Meeting. We will also have a Farewell Gala Dinner on Saturday evening, sponsored by ALCOA.

Our thanks to the Icelandic Member Committee, especially to Chair Gudni A. Johannesson and Secretary Inga Dóra Gudmundsdottir.

Christoph Frei, Secretary General

Congress Update

THE WORLD ENERGY CONGRESS CONCLUDES AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNDP

Stéphane Bertrand, Executive Director of the World Energy Congress, is pleased to announce that an agreement has been concluded with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). WEC Montreal 2010 will partner with the Toward Low Carbon and Climate Change Resilient Territories Program set up by the UNDP. Headquartered in New York, UNDP will be responsible for receiving and administering the WEC Montreal monetary contribution to set up the program, which has a private sector oriented energy component.



WEC Agenda

We invite our members to attend the following upcoming WEC events:

September 16-19; Reykjavik, Iceland

WEC Executive Assembly 2009

Contact: melton@worldenergy.org

October 13-14; London, UK

FT-WEC Energy Leaders Summit 2009

<http://www.ftconferences.com/energy>

Contact: hedberg@worldenergy.org

October 14; London, UK

Patrons CEOs Roundtable (invitation only)

Contact: best@worldenergy.org

December 3; London, UK

WEC Finance Committee – Closed Meeting

Contact: best@worldenergy.org

December 4; London, UK

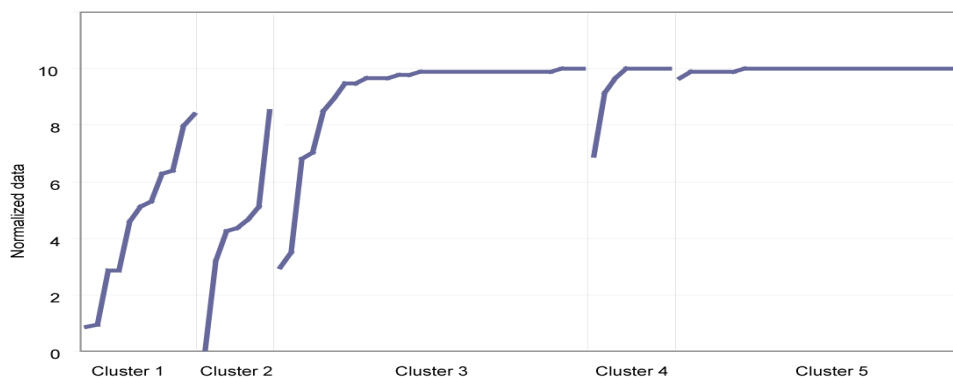
WEC Officers Council – Closed Meeting

Contact: best@worldenergy.org

For further events, including Member Committee and third-party events, please check the Events page on our WEC website.

Inside Insight

Access to Modern Energy Services



Data Source: UNDP "Human Development Reports", <http://hdr.undp.org/en/>

The figure, from the forthcoming WEC Assessment of Energy Policy and Practices, shows achievement of energy equity for 89 countries. Level 10 are countries with almost 100% of the population having access to electricity services. (Data from the UN Development Index)

The countries are grouped by clusters according to energy export/import ratios and level of income. Cluster 1 are net energy importers with low income (<\$4000/capita). Cluster 5 are also net energy importers, but with per capita incomes >\$4000/capita. Clusters 2 and 4 are net energy exporters. In general, cluster 3 countries are in the process of transitioning to higher incomes and more dependence on energy imports. Higher income countries (clusters 4 and 5) have clearly achieved greater energy equity. Countries in these clusters have developed very strong institutions that provide a foundation for putting energy policies into effective practice. These institutions include implementation of a "Rule of Law" (as measured by the World Bank), strong protection of property rights (World Economic Forum), very low levels of corruption (Transparency International), quality of regulations (World Bank), and strength of private institutions (World Economic Forum). They are also countries that provide for an ease of doing business with the international private sector.

While there is disparity within each cluster, the disparity is less in cluster 4 and 5 countries. Of particular note is the variability in achievement of energy equity in the large group of cluster 3 countries, indicating where comparing best practices with other countries within the cluster may provide information useful for future development and implementation of policies.

World Energy Council

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