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# Fresh Air

October 2009

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Something windy from our Afriwea President :

**Hermann Oelsner**



Dear Readers:

(Article extracted from "ENGINEERING NEWS, Oct 2-8, 2009)

Since the introduction of the renewable-energy feed-in electricity tariff in April, the local power utility has received enquiries relating to connecting 3000 MW wind-generated power from the Western Cape and 600 MW from the Eastern Cape to the national power grid, reports the African Wind Energy Association (AfriWEA).

AfriWEA president Hermann Oelsner says that there are a number of large wind farms in North Africa, but that there has been little implementation of wind-power generation projects in sub-Saharan Africa. At present, South Africa has only one commercial wind farm with four turbines, each with 1,3-MW generation capacity.

By comparison, Germany currently has 22 000 wind turbines installed that produce the equivalent power of half of all South Africa's fossil fuel and nuclear power stations. Oelsner says that South Africa has three-and-a-half times more land and a seven-times-longer shoreline than Germany. He adds that this comparison shows the significant potential in South Africa for wind-power generation systems.

Oelsner believes that, in addition to large wind farms contributing to the national power grid, renewable-energy generation could grow through the development of off-grid applications and small wind power-generation opportunities in residential areas.

"There is significant potential for communities and tourism locations of off-grid applications of wind generation, but implementation is subject to the State finding a way to support the tariffs, as well as transferring "free electricity" systems to off-grid electricity users.

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## African Wind Energy Association is Proud Host.....

This is the premier international event on wind energy in Africa hosted by African Wind Energy Association in partnership with other African and international organizations.



A powerful networking platform, the event

will bring together key African and international stakeholders from the public and private sectors with the aim to unlock Africa's wind energy potential.



**THE VENUE**  
CAPE TOWN INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION CENTRE



**14 May 2010** at the **Cape Town International Convention Centre** in Cape Town, South Africa featuring a high-profile Conference & Renewable Energy Exhibition, Site Visits, a Networking Cocktail, Gala Dinner and Spouses Programme over the 3-day period.

**Organized by Omega**



Omega Investment Research is an international marketing, communications and event management firm with an emphasis on Africa. With offices in Cape Town and London, and representatives in major international centres including Washington DC, Singapore, Munich, Zurich, Athens, Hong Kong, Beijing and Dubai, Omega has been assisting key decision-makers and corporations around the world with services including trade & investment promotion and facilitation, global conferencing and trade missions, marketing and communication strategies, project management, fundraising, business intelligence, political risk analysis, international business development and strategic financial consulting for over 20 years. Omega has conceptualised, initiated and managed over 200 events in 20 countries around the world.

Please visit: [www.windenergyafrica.com](http://www.windenergyafrica.com)

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This should be treated with the utmost urgency," says Oelsner. Smaller residential wind-power generation, which would allow users to generate their own wind power and sell the excess back to the municipal grid, requires support from local municipalities. Oelsner says that municipalities are reluctant to encourage this system as they will then sell less electricity, which will reduce their income.

"Financing of municipal infrastructure costs have to be modified not to rely on making a profit from electricity sales, because with energy saving measures and the increasing competitiveness of home-generated electricity from solar and wind, municipalities will sell less electricity," he says. A lack of support for wind-power generation from local utilities in Africa and a lack of coordination between national Ministries and different tiers of government are some of the challenges facing the renewable energy industry. Further, the industry is also challenged by decreased capital available for investment in renewable-energy projects resulting from the global financial downturn.

However, Oelsner says that there some positive impacts as a result of the downturn as wind turbine suppliers have reduced their prices and have more-efficient delivery times, which has reduced the lead time for the implementation of wind farms by two years. He adds that international investors are also seeking new markets for renewable energy projects , which could extend to Africa.

#### Leading in Africa

Oelsner says that North Africa is leading the continent in terms of functioning wind-power capacity and that South Africa has the potential to become a significant player and the gateway for renewable energy infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa. There are a number of large wind farms that are close to implementation in Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia. Further, Oelsner says that, should the additional 3000 MW of generation in the Western Cape come to fruition, a recent study showed that up to 1000 MW of that power could be exported to the northern areas of South Africa. He says that developing wind-power generation infrastructure in poorer countries would contribute positively to the growth of clean energy on the continent.

"Most of the poorer African countries do not have their own fossil fuel resources and their only way of developing electricity generation is to use renewable-energy sources," says Oelsner. Wind power is a viable option in Africa, whereas several other renewable-energy sources , such as hydropower, are vulnerable to unstable variables, such as drought, he says.

AfriWEA functions as a network to support wind energy applications and other renewable-energy options in Africa. The association aims to refrain from interfering in local politics, but to assist countries by keeping its members informed about industry trends and developments, and promoting education and training and organising conferences and workshops .

AfriWEA is hosting the Wind Power Africa 2010 conference and renewable-energy exhibition in Cape Town, in May, next year.

Website: [www.engineeringnews.co.za](http://www.engineeringnews.co.za)



October 14, 2009

by Dr. Preben Maegaard, Vice-President of EUROSO LAR, Director of the Danish Folkecenter for Renewable

Energy and member of the WCRE Chairperson Committee

The World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE) is a global voice for Renewable Energy. It demonstrates best practice examples for Renewable Energy policy and identifies the main obstacles against it. Aiming to inform about current political and technical developments in the field of Renewable Energy, the WCRE publishes articles, papers and studies on a regular basis that it deems to be of importance. We now offer a new article about:

**Danish Renewable Energy Policy**

[Read the complete article](#)

Global Wind Day, 15 June 2010 - visit [www.windfair.net](http://www.windfair.net)

## Other Events

#### October 22-24

##### RECE 2009

Shanghai, China  
Email: [sstec@sstec.com.cn](mailto:sstec@sstec.com.cn)  
Website: [www.sstec.com.cn](http://www.sstec.com.cn)

#### October 27-29

##### Alter Energy Convention 09

Dubai, UAE  
Tel: +971 4 3355001  
Fax: +971 4 3355 141  
Email: [info@icedxb.com](mailto:info@icedxb.com)  
Website: [www.alterenergyconvention.com](http://www.alterenergyconvention.com)

#### October 27-29

##### Wind Power Shanghai 2009

Shanghai, China  
Email: [yubin@siec-ccpit.com](mailto:yubin@siec-ccpit.com) or [eelia@siec-ccpit.com](mailto:eelia@siec-ccpit.com)  
Website: [www.windpowershanghai.com/en/](http://www.windpowershanghai.com/en/)

#### October 27-29

##### Bioenergy Markets West Africa

Accra, Ghana  
Tel: +44 20 7099 0600  
Fax: +44 20 7900 1853  
Email: [info@greenpowerconferences.com](mailto:info@greenpowerconferences.com)  
Website: [www.greenpowerconferences.co.uk](http://www.greenpowerconferences.co.uk)

#### October 27-28

##### Carbon Markets MENA

Cairo, Egypt  
Tel: +971 4 813 5213  
Fax: +44 20 7900 1853  
Email: [santosh.sarma@greenpowerconferences.com](mailto:santosh.sarma@greenpowerconferences.com)  
Website: [www2.greenpowerconferences.co.uk](http://www2.greenpowerconferences.co.uk)



#### November 3

##### Renewable Energy Intergration Integration

STATCOM workshop  
Portland, OR, USA  
Website: [www.amsc.com/statcom1](http://www.amsc.com/statcom1)

#### November 3