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ERERA CHAIRMAN RECEIVES INDIAN ENERGY DELEGATION

The Chairman of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA), El Hadj Ibrahima Thiam, on Tuesday, 4th February 2014 in Accra met with a visiting delegation of power experts from India to explore the possibility of cooperation on developing a competitive electricity market that will be beneficial to West African citizens and other stakeholders in the energy sector in the region.

The delegation comprising Messrs Lavjit Singh and Varun Sethi of PTI India Limited held talks with an ERERA team including a Council member of the Institution, Mr. Alagi Gaye, Messrs Yawouvi Negbegble, Oumar Bangoura and Uwem Thompson, responsible for power, legal and communication matters, respectively.

Following a detailed presentation by the visiting delegation on the reform of the power sector in India and the development of that country's electricity market, the meeting specifically considered issues relating to the regulatory issues, capacity building as well as investments in the energy sector.

While acknowledging electricity as the growth driver of an economy, both parties agreed on the need for a conducive business and regulatory environment.

El Hadj Thiam thanked the visiting delegation and expressed his organization's readiness to collaborate with the stakeholders in the power sector of India, and the need to partner with the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) of India.

He noted the many similarities between India and West Africa, and stated that cooperation with the Indian power sector would greatly benefit the region.

On their part, Messrs Singh and Sethi reiterated the opportunities for collaboration between the two regions, stating: "Regulations are the key for power sector reforms".

The Indian delegation are on a tour of West Africa to share their experience and expertise towards facilitating the electricity market of the region by optimal resource utilization and investments across the region's value chain, starting with Ghana.

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