

**PRESS  
RELEASE**



**COMMUNIQUE  
DE PRESSE**

No.006: 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014 – Conakry, Guinea

## **ERERA CHAIRMAN SAYS GOOD GOVERNANCE, NEW MENTALITY ARE PANACEA TO ENERGY CRISIS IN WEST AFRICA**

The Chairman of the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA), El Hadj Ibrahima Thiam, has stressed the need for good governance in the energy sector if West Africa is to successfully address its energy crisis.

This would call for transparency, accountability, credibility and other values that good governance requires of any leadership, stated El Hadj Thiam who was addressing participants at a special workshop organized as part of activities to mark the 39th anniversary of ECOWAS on Wednesday, 28th May 2014 in Conakry, Guinea.

The workshop, which was jointly organized by the Special Representative of the President of the ECOWAS Commission in Guinea, Mrs. Jacqueline Marie Zaba, in collaboration with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Guinea, focussed on the energy challenge in the region and the efforts being made to find lasting solutions, both at the national and regional levels.

According to El Hadj Thiam, efforts must also be directed at changing the mentality of Community citizens to accept the fact of electricity as a commercial service – similar to other utility services - which needs to be paid for as part of consumers' responsibility.

Unless there is a change of the mind set of the individual citizen, laudable attempts by regional institutions responsible for energy matters in ECOWAS Member States would appear as of no effect, declared the ERERA Chairman to an audience including representatives of the diplomatic community – in particular ECOWAS ambassadors accredited to Guinea, the national Parliament of Guinea, energy experts, civil society organizations including women's groups, the media and members of the general public.

The workshop featured presentations by ERERA, WAPP and the ECOWAS Commission - the three ECOWAS institutions represented at the workshop, as well as by Guinea's Ministry of Energy, which focussed on the energy situation in Guinea.

---

**Published by: Department of Communication, ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority**  
**Publié par: Le Département de la Communication, Autorité de Régulation Régionale du Secteur de**  
**l'Électricité de la CEDEAO**  
**Energy Commission Building, Ghana Airways Avenue, Airport Residential Area, Accra**  
**P.M.B. 76, Ministries Post Office, Accra, Ghana**  
**Tel: (233) 0302 817 049 Fax: (233) 0302 817 050 E-mail: [info@erera.arrec.org](mailto:info@erera.arrec.org)**

Presentations by the ECOWAS institutions specifically dwelt on the energy challenge in West Africa and the regional responses to the challenge, including the development of power generation and transmission facilities to connect Member States, as well as the introduction of an electricity regulatory agency, which is also mandated to ensure the development of an electricity market.

In addition, participants were treated to ECOWAS' strategic development plan and priority programmes, as well as its flagship Protocol on the free movement of persons, goods and services, the status of the implementation of the protocol and its impending review to make it more meaningful to citizens of the Community.

Earlier at the opening, participants were addressed by the Minister of International Cooperation, Dr. Moustapha Koutoubou Sanoh, the Dean of the group of ECOWAS Ambassadors in Guinea, ~~xxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~, the Chairman of the Executive Board of the West Africa Power Pool (WAPP), Dr. Olusola Akinniranye, as well as the Special representative of the President of the ECOWAS Commission, Mrs. Jacqueline Marie Zaba.