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Kenyan Youth to benefit from specialized training in renewable energy

WTS Energy and the German Development Cooperation have partnered for developing a program to provide skills to young generations in technical training in renewable energy, crucial for future challenges in energy sovereignty and the effects of climate change in Sub-Saharan Africa. More importantly, the overarching aim of joining forces is to align investment in renewable energy infrastructure to generate job opportunities to the young Kenyans.

Granted young beneficiaries will be provided specialized skills correspondent to the Kenyan job market in renewable energy with capacities in Geothermal, Hydropower, Wind and Solar PV. Mapping the required capabilities and training needs will be advised in companion from local training institutions and private sector companies to ensure that skills acquired are relevant to the current sector requirements.

The partnership is part of the Employment and Skills for Development in Africa (E4D) Programme that is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

“Facilitating the transition to sustainable energy ranks high in our priorities in the bilateral cooperation with Kenya. With this partnership we contribute towards Kenya’s commitment to achieving full transition to clean energy in the next 10 years as well as increase job prospects for the youth in the sector by equipping them with the appropriate skills”, says Thomas Jaeschke, E4D Kenya programme manager.



In addition to promoting demand-oriented skills the project will contribute towards developing a renewable energy talent pool to address the skills shortage experienced in global recruitment by business partners and other stakeholders in the renewable energy space.

This collaboration adds another action line to the energy transition strategy for WTS Energy: **Human capital development for the energy transition in Kenya (and East Africa). Facilitating the dynamics of state of the art technology and international talent according to different local context.**

*“Whether planet earth warms a little or lot, people will have to change how they live, work and their energy governance. The impact of technical education to mitigate/reduce climate change is underestimated. Specially when the ultimate potential resource of Kenya is people. WTS mission is to enhance a training center that intends to be a **lighthouse**, a center of excellence that is already prepared for the challenges of 2030, which demonstrates what can be achieved within social, technological, and economic layers. Literally shedding light and the way to an industrialization powered by renewables”* says Frederick Rengers, CEO of WTS Energy.

There is a big difference in the magnitude in electricity generation and consumption between Kenya and a country from the global north. Yet Kenya has a unique 70 percent of installed renewable energy capacity in the Sub-Saharan Africa and a phenomenal momentum to speed up a competitive adoption of Renewable Energy.

Our vision is that Kenya leapfrogs to a complete Renewable Energy powered industrialization, avoiding the model of development of countries of the global north that still transgresses the planetary boundaries. It is not the first time that Kenyan population have leapfrogged, mobile money banking services were adopted quicker than in any country in the world, shortly after having the lowest usage of mobile phone technology. We firmly believe that this is inevitable for the adoption of Renewable Energy!



Kick off meeting between cooperating partners. Left to right: **Paolo Masi** (Director of O&M, WTS Energy); **Eve Murithi** (TVET Technical Advisor, E4D); **Jose Rivera** (PM Training; WTS Energy); **Frederick Rengers** (CEO, WTS Energy); **Thomas Jaeschke** (Head of Project, E4D); **Brian Kuloba** (Business Manager Kenya, WTS Energy); **Eddy Oloo** (TVET Technical Advisor; E4D); **Ronnie Lengees** (Technical Manager Kenya, WTS Energy).



WTS (World Technical Services) - has working expertise in 14 countries where it has offices and 30 where it has operated in the last 20 years.

WTS Energy recruits, mobilize and train key international energy experts; Develops digital resources and methodologies to enable asset monitoring and facilitates workforce performance and administration.

Currently, WTS provides Maintenance & Repair Services to Lake Turkana Wind Park in Kenya. WTS and its subsidiary V&SH Offshore Solutions have a track record on offshore wind developments in the North Sea in high voltage cable installation, termination and maintenance and are involved in Electrification Projects around the world. www.wtsenergy.com

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Employment and Skills for Development in Africa (E4D) is a regional platform for employment promotion, focusing on seven sub-Saharan countries: Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. E4D implements development projects in cooperation with private and public sector partners, to bring people into jobs and improve employment situations. E4D is currently prioritizing economic empowerment of women, youth and entrepreneurs, and creation of jobs in sectors like manufacturing, construction and in green sub-sectors like renewable energy and organic agriculture. E4D also supports resilience efforts amid the pandemic.

Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), E4D is co-funded by the European Union (EU), Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the companies Sasol and Quoniam Asset Management. It is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/31947.html>

For more information on GIZ and Employment and Skills for development in Africa, please contact: thomas.jaeschke@giz.de