

SOUTH AFRICA SUPPORTS AT THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY (IEA)'S THIRD ANNUAL GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Energy efficiency has been recognised in South Africa as one of the most cost-effective ways towards sustainable development. Energy efficiency improvement helps to avoid the cost of new energy generation (and distribution) capacity, advance industry's competitiveness, increase access to energy and reduce pollution including emissions of greenhouse gases.

South Africa, through the support of the Government of Denmark and the European Commission, the International Energy Efficiency in Emerging Economies Programme (E4) has been successfully working in partnership with key emerging economies on a rich and diverse programme of activities since January 2014.

The Third Annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency, hosted by the International Energy Agency (IEA), took place from 25 - 26 October 2018 in Paris, France. The conference was attended by Ministers and high-level Government officials, Business leaders, Financial institutions and Civil society gathering from over 60 countries to advance the dialogue on energy efficiency, with a focus on action and delivery of scalable, impactful efficiency policies and programmes. IEA is committed to continue global co-operation and knowledge sharing in the global energy sector.

Over 60 countries, representing 80% of the world's energy consumption, shared insights and experiences on how to increase action and maintain momentum on energy efficiency in the context of increasing CO² emissions and a slow-down in global energy intensity improvements.

The focus at IEA's Third Annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency faced the urgent need to implement and scale-up successful energy efficiency policies and programmes with real impacts with regards to decarbonisation, economic growth, energy access and sustainable development.

IEA released the latest energy efficiency market report series, on 19 October 2018. It also featured a *World Energy Outlook Efficient World Scenario (EWS)*, which shed light on how energy efficiency can reduce global energy demand by 2040 across all key economic sectors while simultaneously delivering multiple non-energy benefits.

The report answered the question “What would happen if policy makers realised all the economically viable potential for energy efficiency that is available with existing technologies”?

In terms of lighting sector’s contribution to global energy efficiency, especially relating to the transformation from ‘traditional’ lighting (bulbs), to the more versatile Internet of Things (IoT), through LiFi, a technology for wireless communication between devices using light to transmit data and position All light fittings and light sources from Signify will be IoT-compatible by 2020. However, there may be a shortfall of technically competent people to implement these installations, opening the opportunity for huge job creation potential. It was stressed that social and environmental challenges go hand-in-hand and should be addressed as such. To increase scalability, a possible business model is for consumers to pay for ‘lighting’ as a ‘service’ and not for the actual technology upgrades, e.g. this model is already underway at Schiphol Airport in the Netherlands.

During the proceedings it was also highlighted that the African Union has signed an agreement with Estonia in 2017 to support e-Governance development throughout Africa.

There’s a need for improved energy efficiency in the aviation and transportation sector in Africa as well as the need for digital transformation, where some of the fastest growing economies in the world are situated.

Though many of the topics discussed are commonly known and already being debated in South Africa, there were a number of new insights into developing innovative solutions to the way the country addresses some of the hurdles associated with the

widespread uptake of energy efficiency, e.g. innovative financing mechanisms for energy efficiency.

The conference provided an excellent platform to network with some of the best global minds in energy efficiency and to obtain a better understanding of where South Africa is placed in its energy efficiency journey, relative to other developed and developing countries around the world. The observation is that South Africa is performing well in this area. However, there are some lessons learned from this conference, which could be considered for South Africa, going forward.

About SANEDI

The South African government established the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI) to direct, monitor and conduct applied energy R&D, demonstration and deployment, as well as to undertake specific measures to promote the uptake of green energy and energy efficiency in South Africa. Its mission is to use applied and energy research and resource efficiency to develop innovative, integrated solutions that will catalyse growth and prosperity to meet its vision of sustainable living for growth and prosperity in Africa. For more information, go to www.sacccs.org.za.