

PHOTO GALLERY



H.E. Marcel De Souza, President, ECOWAS Commission, right, and Ambassador Michel Arion, Head of European Union in Nigeria, when he paid him a courtesy call in Abuja



The ECOWAS delegation led by H.E Marcel De Souza (2nd starting by the right) with H.E Hiroshi KATO, Vice-President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in a group Photograph



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of The Gambia Yam Bamba Njie Keita, and His Excellency Marcel A. De Souza, president of the ECOWAS Commission, exchanging copies of the signed headquarters Agreement for the Regional Competition Authority during the ECOWAS Heads of State Summit on the 4th of June in Dakar - Senegal



H.E. Marcel De Souza, President, ECOWAS Commission, right, and Mr. Jean de Dieu Somda, Representative of the President of Club du SAHEL, when he paid him a courtesy call in Abuja



H.E. Marcel De Souza, President, ECOWAS Commission, right, and SEM. Fulvio Rustico, Ambassador of Italy to Nigeria, when he paid him a courtesy call in Abuja



H.E. Marcel De Souza, President, ECOWAS Commission, right, in a handshake with the Speaker of ECOWAS Parliament, Honourable Moustapha Cisse LO, after giving Report of Activities at the 1st Ordinary Session of ECOWAS Parliament 4th Legislature holding in Abuja, 17th May 2016



L-R : H.E Gaoussou TOURE, of Guinea; H.E. William Azumah Awınador-Kanyirige, of Ghana in Nigeri and H. E. Famara Kassy Gaye, Islamic Republic of The Gambia during ECOWAS Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives in Abuja



S.E. Piabié Firmin Grégoire N'DO of Burkina Faso (left), and the Representative of the Ambassador of Benin during ECOWAS Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives meeting in Abuja

President of the ECOWAS Commission Urges Guinea-Bissau to embrace dialogue as the means to resolve the crisis in the country



ECOWAS President De Souza leading a high level delegation in discussions with the delegation of Guinea - Bissau on Peace Keeping

The President of the ECOWAS Commission, His Excellency Marcel de Souza has paid a two day visit to Guinea Bissau from 14th to 15th August 2016.

During the visit President de Souza met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Soares Sambú, and paid courtesy calls on the Prime Minister Baciro Dja, the Speaker of the Parliament, Cipriano Cassamá and the President of the Republic, José Mário Vaz.

President de Souza's visit to Guinea-Bissau came at a moment that the country is stalled in institutional crisis among the Republic's main institutions which has led to lack of dialogue among the main political stakeholders, with deep impact on the people's daily life.

The Program of the Government and the State Budget bill are yet to

be approved by the National Parliament which is completely divided.

The President of the Commission urged the authorities in Guinea-Bissau to do their best to ratify the ECOWAS protocols, especially the Protocol on Free Movement of People and Goods. President de Souza added that the foundation of the Community is linked to the ideal of the free movement of citizens within the Region.

President de Souza also discussed with the Country's leadership on a number of other issues, among which is the Community Levy arrears.

He urged the financial authorities to address the issue and to honor the country's commitment by approaching the Commission and reschedule the payment plan. The President of the Commission was

deeply briefed on the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB) and was pleased to see the contribution of ECOMIB in the stabilization of the country.

However, Mr. de Souza informed the national authorities on the decision of the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government during the last Summit in Dakar on the 4th of June, 2016 to end the Mission within a year, hence the need to immediately train the Country's defense and Security forces within six months to adequately equip them to maintain stability and ensure the security of lives and property in Guinea-Bissau.

The President of the Commission took advantage of the visit to introduce the new Permanent Representative of the President of the ECOWAS Commission to Guinea-Bissau Mr. Blaise Diplo to the Authorities. ■

PPDU, Experts Validate Study on Dakar – Lagos Corridor “Missing Links”



Dr. Antoinette Weeks and Hon. W. Gyude Moore during the meeting

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Infrastructure Preparation and Development Unit (PPDU), Experts from Member States and other stakeholders workshop on the validation of the Draft Final Report for the study on the Dakar- Lagos Corridor missing links opens today, 6th September, 2016 in Monrovia, Liberia.

Dr. Antoinette Weeks, the Commissioner for Infrastructure, ECOWAS Commission in her welcome address said that the study which will establish a complete inventory of the corridor missing links inhibiting the motorability of the corridor, aims at focusing resources on the rehabilitation of the road corridor which supports regional and inter-regional traffic flow and promotes trade within the sub-region. She added that the study

will also determine an appropriate engineering solution for the upgrading of the entire corridor and undertake an economic, social and environmental appraisal for the consideration of various investment options.

The Minister of Public Works, Republic of Liberia, Honourable W. Gyudé Moore, in his remarks underscored the importance of the Dakar-Lagos Corridor to the development of the entire West African Region. He said that the construction and development of road infrastructure will boost Agriculture and other Trade activities within the sub-region.

The corridor which covers a distance of about 4500 kilometers connecting capitals of eleven ECOWAS Member States, is part of the Trans African Highway (TAH 7) Network with the ECOWAS Region and its

development falls under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). It also connects with other corridors on a north-south axis linking landlocked countries as Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

The study which is being implemented by the ECOWAS PPDU, a specialized agency in charge of preparing bankable regional infrastructure projects and based in Lomé, Togo will also compliment and provide a solid foundation for the upcoming detailed engineering design on the Abidjan- Lagos (Phase I) and Dakar- Abidjan (Phase II) Highways.

The Dakar-Lagos Corridor is one of the seven (7) flagship priority projects selected to be implemented under the ECOWAS Community Development Programme (CDP). ■

ECOWAS Journalists Call For A Network on Renewable Energy Issues



A Group photograph of participants after visiting the Senegalese Solar Energy plant in Diamniadio – Senegal

Media experts have reaffirmed the need for a network of Journalists from ECOWAS Member States to cover the activities of the ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE).

Emerging from a 2-day capacity building workshop of ECOWAS Member States' journalists which ended in Dakar, on Thursday, 23rd June, 2016, participants recommended the setting up of a network to cater for the information need of Community citizens on renewable energy and related issues.

According to the participants, journalists trained by ECREEE should make the network inclusive by setting up mini-networks in

Member States so as to have an extensive coverage of renewable energy issues.

Additionally, the participants called for the establishment of an online newsletter which will be devoted to publishing articles on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency with the collaboration of experts.

The trainees also urged the ECOWAS Commission and ECREEE to produce short documentaries on Renewable Energy in key local languages to cater for citizens who cannot read and write the official languages.

Expressing their delight at the laudable initiative of the Executive Director of ECREEE, Mr. Mahama Kappiah and the ECOWAS

Commission's Director of Communication, Mrs. Sandra Oulate F. Elleingand to train journalists on Renewable Energy, participants urged the directors to facilitate the training of the remaining journalists from other countries who are scheduled to benefit from the second round of the workshop.

In his remarks, a Renewable Energy media expert Mr. Djimingue Nanasta, shared his experience in reporting issues relating to renewable energy and then encouraged participants to embrace and deepen their knowledge in the sector.

He told trainees that since renewable energy is becoming a topical issue in the region, when

widely covered, it will bring favorable behavioral changes as well as play an important role in the region's economic development.

During his presentation at the workshop, the Programme Coordinator of the ECREEE's West Africa Clean Cooking Alliance (WACCA-ECREEE), Mr. Sire Diallo, told participants that actors across the value-chain must ultimately address the barriers preventing a viable market for clean cooking technologies in order to accelerate access to sustainable cooking energy.

Mr. Diallo informed participants that the regional initiative is poised to bring about the required transformation despite the slow response to interventions in order to achieve the objectives of the region. Consequently, he urged ECOWAS Member countries to own the process.

Mr. Yori Handem, another Renewable Energy expert, during his presentation enlightened participants on the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship, a network which provides entrepreneurs information on Renewable energy funds established in 2015 by ECREEE in collaboration with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), ZIE and the Centre for European Research in Microfinance (CERMI) and co-funded by IRENA and the government of Luxemburg.

Mr. Handem explained the benefits of the entrepreneurship as an accelerator for development and improvement of ECOWAS Renewable Energy entrepreneurs as well as a provider for free



Mrs. Oulate Fattoh Elleingand presenting a certificate of participation to one of the Regional Journalist

mentorship and training on business and technical related subjects which assists entrepreneurs in working their project proposals bankable.

Similarly, Mr. Sylla Elhadji, a Programme Officer with ECREEE presented key programmes focusing on the ECOWAS Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policies adopted in 2013 by the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government.

Mr. Sylla explained that the objectives of ECREEE policies, among others, is to ensure that 100% of ECOWAS population have access to efficient, sustainable and modern cooking fuels and equipment by 2030.

Mr. Joarel Barros on behalf of the Communication Unit of ECREEE, presented some aspects of ECREEE's 2015-2020 Communication Strategy, highlighting the important role journalists play in the dissemination of information and sensitizing the populace and then stressed the need for them to widely share the renewable energy news.

Participant visited the Senegalese Solar Energy Plant in Diamniadio, situated on the outskirts of Dakar.

The second round of the workshop will hold in Praia in November 2016. ■

Regional Integration is Moving Forward Despite Obstacles Says De Souza



R-L: Prof. Amadu Sesay, University of Ilorin; Commissioner Laouali Chaibou, Justice Maria de Ceu Silva Monteiro and Commissioner Stephen Nartey during the ECOWAS 41st Year Anniversary Celebration

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) held its 41st Anniversary celebration on the 10th of June 2016 at its Commission Headquarters in Abuja with garlands, tributes and sober reflections.

Welcoming delegates of the development partners and other invited guests to the well-attended occasion, the president of the ECOWAS Commission, His Excellency Marcel de Souza represented by the Commissioner of Trade, Customs and Free Movement Laouali Chaibou paid tributes to the stakeholders of ECOWAS and heads of its institutions for remaining faithful to the ECOWAS project through the years. Expressing his gratitude to the Partners and citizens of West Africa for their unalloyed support of the integration programs and activities, the President enthused

that the execution of the community integration programmes in the area of energy, transport, infrastructure and telecoms would continue to endure because of the commitment by all stakeholders. With such commitment, he added, "the regional integration is moving forward despite the obstacles"

He noted that ECOWAS has set a good example to other Regional Economic Communities (REC) on the continent with the level of progress being made in bringing the Biometric Identity Card into being. This he said would simplify entry and stay in ECOWAS member states.

President de Souza disclosed that monitoring personnel and equipment for inter-state transportation are being installed along the borders in the region to complement the implementation of the Free Movement of Goods,

persons and services. He was full of thanks to God while recognizing the role, diligence and cooperation of all agencies such as the West African Health Organisation (WAHO), national governments and the ECOWAS machinery for working together to put an end to the dreaded Ebola disease.

In his remarks, the ECOWAS Staff Representative Dr. Tony Luka Elumelu praised the ECOWAS' spirit of cooperation saying the zest displayed by staff as the engine room that drives the community economic and integration agenda has been encouraging. He called for a one minute silence in honour of ECOWAS staff who have paid the ultimate price in the course of duty. Guest lecturer professor Amadu Sesay who spoke on the theme: ECOWAS and Peace Support Operations in West Africa: Opportunities and Threats traced the