

EUROPE STUDY TOUR OF GOVERNMENT DELEGATION FROM KENYA TO LEARN FROM EUROPEAN SUCCESS STORIES ON WIND ENERGY

'WinDForce Management Services Private Limited' is providing consulting services to 'Ministry of Energy, Government of Kenya' in preparing a wind power development strategy for the country. Kenya has ambitious plans to increase the installed power generation capacity by an additional 5,000 MW in the next 40 months, and the Government of Kenya wants wind energy to form a substantial portion of this new capacity. In this pursuit, WinDForce is assisting the Ministry of Energy in carrying out Wind Resource Mapping of the entire country, developing a Wind Prospectus and preparing a Wind Energy Development Plan for Kenya.

To learn from the best practices related to wind energy, WinDForce in association with World Wind Energy Association (WWEA) organized a study tour for a high-level government delegation from Kenya to Europe. The government delegation met with wind power practitioners from industry and government in Germany and Denmark, countries pioneer in wind development in the world. The tour helped the delegation in garnering insights necessary for developing their own national wind power strategy.

The delegation comprised representatives from the Ministry of Energy, the Kenya Power and Lighting Company and the Energy Regulatory Commission of Kenya. During the tour, the delegation visited various wind energy stakeholders in Europe including developers, operators and equipment manufacturers, government agencies and international organizations and associations as well as research and training institutes.

Below is what people have to say about the study tour

Mr. Isaac Kiva, Acting Director for Renewable Energy at the Kenyan Ministry for Energy: "Kenya intends to develop its power sector in the near future substantially, primarily by expanding the use of renewable energy. Wind power has to play a key role in this, and we have been glad to hear from the practical experience in Germany and Denmark. The study tour helped us to understand and appreciate the necessary policy and regulatory frameworks, as well as other key drivers for effective wind energy development programs. Key elements of the tour were the understanding of advancement in wind energy grid integration technologies and arrangements, which make it possible to inject higher percentages of wind than previously conservatively stated."

Dr Jami Hossain, Chief Mentor and co-founder of WinDForce: *The wind power potential in Kenya is tremendous and our study has identified many excellent sites in the country which could be used to significantly enhance availability of power in grid-connected and off grid modes. Lessons learned in leading countries like Denmark and Germany in areas of technology, grid integration and regulatory frameworks can be guiding factors for the evolving wind sector in Kenya. With excellent leadership and interest from the Ministry of Energy, we see Kenya emerging as a hub of wind energy developments in East Africa."*

Mr. Stefan Gsänger, WWEA Secretary General: *"We are very pleased about Kenya's ambitious plans in wind power and that we can help the government of Kenya with practical advice from our members on how to implement wind technology in Kenya, both for grid-connected as well as for off grid applications. Given that Kenya is setting up the right policies in the near future, the country is about to become the wind power hub of Eastern Africa."*

Rahul Kandoi, Senior Manager, WinDForce: *"The insights gained from the wind experience of Germany and Denmark will provide guidance to the Government of Kenya to develop strategies for harnessing country's immense wind potential for large utility scale power generation by deploying modern wind turbine technologies. With favorable policy guidelines, Kenya would be able to provide electricity from wind energy to all citizens of the country."*

The study tour is well captured in media across the globe. Here mentioned are a few links related to the study tour as is covered by international renewable energy magazines:

http://www.ae-africa.com/read_article.php?NID=5047

<http://www.windpowermonthly.com/article/1209890/kenya-plans-wind-energy-expansion>

<http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/kenya-to-step-up-wind-energy-investments-2013-08-30>

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2013/08/kenya-to-scale-up-wind-power-programme>

<http://www.powerengineeringint.com/articles/2013/09/kenyan-tour-aimed-at-developing-wind-power.html>

<http://www.internationalsustainableenergy.com/8587/news/kenya-will-scale-up-its-wind-power-programme/>

<http://www.windtech-international.com/industry-news/kenya-plans-to-scale-up-its-wind-power-programme-in-the-near-future>

<http://www.newenergyworldnetwork.com/investor-news/renewable-energy-news/by-technology/solar/kenyans-travel-to-europe-ahead-of-5gw-renewable-investment.html>

<http://www.eip.com/articles/2013/8/kenya-looks-to-expand-wind-energy-program.html>