

/ REPORT



Ethiopia's first 40 metre wind measuring mast being erected in Aysha in January 2010. The certified mast was made possible through funds and technical know-how transfer from the PPP

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR FOR ETHIOPIA'S ENERGY SECTOR

A new GTZ managed PPP is expanding Ethiopia's energy options

Around 95 per cent of Ethiopia's current electrical energy supply is generated from hydropower, supplemented by diesel generators.

To end this reliance, GTZ has initiated a public private partnership (PPP) to develop a local wind energy industry in Ethiopia.

This PPP will support Ethiopia's continued and significant economic growth by reducing frequent energy shortages and providing energy for its economy's and population's needs. Over the past years, only 70 per cent of the total energy demand has been met, which damages productivity and creates economic costs of between USD 500-800 million per year.

Ethiopia's current reliance is a risky and expensive strategy: hydropower is too unreliable. In times of drought and during periods of high demand it cannot supply enough electricity. With recent studies showing that Ethiopia needs a 38-fold increase in its electricity supply by 2030 to maintain its current economic growth, new sources of energy are urgently needed. This 30 GW increase at current methods costs USD

60 billion and points to the needs for a serious local alternative.

The answer to this may lie in the wind. Ethiopia's strong and reliable winds can generate a substantial amount of electricity at a reasonable cost - which can even be exported to neighbouring countries. The north, central, east and southwest of Ethiopia provide the greatest potential for wind energy. However, to fulfil the localization requirement and make wind energy a lasting success, a local wind energy industry has to develop.

Wind in Ethiopia's sails

The new PPP is between GTZ and three European Companies (wind park developer EnerVest, service and maintenance expert RenewCo and civil engineering company Consortio Stabile Consta). According to Sebastian Herzig, project manager: "Wind energy is the most favourable second energy leg for the country. The PPP helps to build the foundation

from which the Ethiopian wind energy industry will evolve." Wind energy is particularly suited to Ethiopia since it complements hydropower: wind is anti-cyclical, as it is stronger during the dry seasons when dams' water levels are lowest and daily wind energy production is at its highest during peak loads.

In addition to the GTZ PPP, the consortium of private companies, together with their local partner Aethiopic Energy (an Ethio-German Joint Venture), will also develop a 300 MW wind park in Aysha, close to the Djibouti border. This project, which will cost approximately USD 600 million, is developed on the basis of technology transfer to enable Ethiopian companies to participate in value creation and provide substantial local added value for Ethiopia, as well as export potentials to neighbouring countries.

Marthe Berlin
Photo: Wind Energy Office

/ GTZ ETHIOPIA NEWS

● ecbp Tweets

As in the rest of the world, the Internet has become a critical means of communication in Ethiopia in recent years. Twitter, a micro-blogging website, has become the latest trend in keeping up to date on global news and industry trends amongst other things. ecbp has recognised the importance of this growing source of information and has created its own accounts to keep stakeholders informed and share ecbp's reforms.

Twitter lets you post messages of up to 140 characters which are displayed on that user's page as well as in the feeds of users who choose to 'follow' or subscribe to the posts. For example, if you have a Twitter account and choose to follow ecbp you will receive all posts via whatever means you configure (just on your Twitter page, sent to your email, etc.). Twitter not only helps inform partners, but fosters direct outreach to and collaboration with stakeholders. For these reasons ecbp

has 3 Twitter accounts, one 'tweeting' about the overall programme and operated by the PR department (@BuildEthiopia) (www.twitter.com/BuildEthiopia) while the other 2 are run by ecbp's on.e | eCapacity Development team to reach the Ethiopian university community (@Ethio_eLearning) and the private sector (@thinkethiopia) for ICT enabled learning and business processes.