

IRES 2015 - KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIORAPHIES



Al-Mas Sendegeya

Al-Mas Sendegeya holds a PhD in Power Systems specialising in modelling rural electricity from Makerere University (Uganda), Technical Licentiate in Power Systems from Royal Institute of Technology (KTH, Sweden), MSc. Renewable Energy from Oldenburg University (Germany), BSc. Electrical Engineering from Makerere University (Uganda), Advanced Certificates in Solar Engineering India) and Advanced Certificate in Small Hydropower Engineering Development (Japan). Currently he is the Head of Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in the School of Engineering, Polytechnic of Namibia. Dr Sendegeya has provided various consultancy services in the field of Sustainable Energy e.g. Energy Audit, Solar Energy training and rural energy development with GIZ Uganda. He is an active member on the management and board of an NGO (East African Energy Technology Development Network-Uganda) promoting Renewable Energy and Appropriate technologies in Uganda.



Clement S. Shonhiwa

Clement. S. Shonhiwa holds a MSc Degree in Renewable Energy and a MSc. Degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Zimbabwe and University of Las Villas Santa Clara Cuba respectively. He is a registered professional engineer with the Zimbabwe Institute of Engineers. He is also in his final year of Doctor of Philosophy in Science at University of Zimbabwe. He has over 21 years' experience in engineering design and manufacturing and over 12 years' experience teaching Renewable Energy, Process Engineering, Thermodynamics, Power Plants, and Engineering Mathematics at University of Zimbabwe. He is currently the Renewable Energy Coordinator at University of Zimbabwe. He is also the founder of the BSc. Honours Degree Programme in Fuels and Energy at Chinhoyi University of Technology. He pioneered the Zimbabwe National Biodiesel Programme and patented The Jatropha Biodiesel Processing Plant. For the past two years he has been working on the resuscitation of MSc Degree in Renewable at University of Zimbabwe.



Cornelia Schenk

Cornelia Schenk is an expert with extensive experience in European and international projects, energy economics and infrastructure, as well as energy and climate policy. He holds a Master of Science in Environmental Technology and International Affairs from the Technical University of Vienna/Diplomatic Academy and a Master of Legal Studies from the University of Vienna.



Margaret Mutschler

Margaret Mutschler holds a degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Stellenbosch and a Masters' degree in Finance and Financial Law. She has served as a factory engineer at an export and EU approved red meat abattoir and has extensive consultancy experience in project development, management and continuous improvement initiatives. She was employed by the Polytechnic of Namibia in 1998 to establish and lead the electrical engineering department. In July 2003 she was recruited as the Head of Generation to NamPower's executive management. Her responsibilities included that of Kudu gas to power project leader from 2004 to 2009. Since 2007 she is part of the NamPower business unit responsible for the implementation of capital projects where she is heading the division implementing new power station projects, conventional and renewable, as well as NamPower's national Demand Side Management Project. She is serving on a number of multi-disciplinary steering committees in the Namibian electricity supply industry, giving guidance to development and representing NamPower.



Harald Schütt

Harald Schütt is actively involved with the Namibian cause since 1983. He founded the Organisation “Practical Solidarity International” 1985 in Bremen, Germany, which is still contributing in various ways to National development in Namibia. In 1997 he was seconded by German Development Service (DED=GIZ) to Valombola Vocational Training Centre in Ongwediva; in 2000 promoted to be Programme Coordinator for DED. Since 2002 he is running Amusha Consultancy Services, working mainly with issues around sustainable management and Renewable Energy as well as Energy Efficiency. In 2006 he was appointed coordinator for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Institute (REEEI) at Polytechnic of Namibia, while leading the programme “Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Capacity Building” (REEECAP). Currently, he is an independent consultant coordinating the Climate Change programme for Konrad Adenauer Stiftung as well as the activities of Renewable Energy Industry Association of Namibia (REIAoN). He is also partnering with a German Company in a programme to measure the intensity of sunshine at three strategic points in Namibia.



Kudakwashe Ndhlokula

Kudakwashe (Kuda) Ndhlokula is presently a consultant/energy infrastructure expert for a number of organisations including, AfDB, IRENA and UNDP. Previously he was Programme Officer – Capacity Building for the IRENA in Abu Dhabi since November 2012. In this position, he managed various projects including the Africa Clean Energy Corridor, Photovoltaics Promotion in West Africa and Capacity Building in Small Hydropower Development. Before joining IRENA, Kuda was the Director/Coordinator of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Institute (REEEI) in Namibia where he formulated and executed various projects on concentrated solar power, wind mapping, renewable energy and energy policy and regulatory frameworks, Green Building Council Namibia, training of installers and energy experts, amongst many others. Kuda is a Certified Energy Manager and Certified Energy Auditor. He possesses an MSc in Renewable Energy Engineering and an MBA, amongst other qualifications.



Miika Rämä

Miika Rämä (MSc.) works as research scientist in VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland and has over 10 years of professional experience in both domestic and international research projects. Rämä’s main competences include considerable know-how on general energy technologies, applied thermodynamics, energy systems modelling and analysis. He also has special expertise in district heating and cooling as a technology and on its role in an energy system. During the recent years Rämä has been involved in research work concerning the development of the Namibian energy sector. In cooperation project with Ministry of Mines and Energy, VTT and a team led by Rämä was tasked to support the effort to update the energy policy of Namibia. As one of the main results of the project, national energy statistics for Namibia was founded. Currently, Rämä is working with the Namibian fishing industry to evaluate available renewable energy options and to identify energy efficiency improvement opportunities.



Thembakazi Mali

Thembakazi Mali holds a Ph. D in Chemistry and a Graduate Diploma in Engineering in Environmental Engineering from the University of the Witwatersrand. Her career spans over a decade in the chemical and petrochemical fields. Presently, she is the Senior Manager: Clean Energy Solutions (Renewable Energy and Alternative Energy) at the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI), which is a state-funded energy research organisation that focuses on public interest energy R&D that seeks to assist government in meeting the national goals of economic development and the improvement of quality of life of all citizens. She serves as the South African representative and executive committee member to the International Energy Agency’s (IEA) Implementing Agreements on Ocean Energy Systems, Bioenergy and Solar Cooling and Heating. She is the director of the Southern African Regional Secretariat for the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) which is hosted by SANEDI.



Werner Weiss

Werner WEISS is a mechanical engineer and director of AEE – Institute for Sustainable Technologies (AEE INTEC) in Austria. He was chairman of the Solar Heating and Cooling Programme of the International Energy Agency (IEA) from June 2010 to May 2014. Furthermore he is a board member of the European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling. He has been project coordinator of more than 50 national, European and international solar thermal energy projects. His main research activities are on solar combi-systems and solar heat for industrial processes. Since 2007 he is lecturer at Vienna University of Technology and faculty member of the continuing education centre. Werner Weiss also has 20 years of experience with a number of training and capacity building projects in Africa, South and Central America and other developing countries.



Wotan Swiegers

Dr Wotan Swiegers MBChB FCFP MFOM DTM&H DOM PhD is the current and inaugural Director of the Namibian Uranium Institute and Chairperson of the Atomic Energy Board of Namibia and an Advisory Board Member of the Namibian Energy Institute (NEI). He is a previous Manager of Health, Environment and Water Management of Rössing Uranium and previous Director of the MRC (RSA) Research Institute for Environmental Diseases (REID). He spearheads the Namibia Uranium Stewardship programme and is an Adjunct Professor at the School of Health and Applied Sciences at the Namibian University of Science and Technology (NUST).