

WAPIC 2011 a huge success!

With close to 500 attendees in Abuja two weeks ago, Nigeria's Minister of Power – **Professor Bart Nnaji and the Bureau of Public Enterprise Director General Mrs Bolanle A. Onagoruwa**, gave compelling presentations updating the audience on where the Nigeria power sector privatization is at the moment, what has been done, and what still needs to happen to complete the reform.

The principle objective of the reform is to promote competition and attract investment into the sector, improving the industry's overall operational efficiency. Their aim is to reach 6MW of reliable electricity by January 2012.

“Public Private Partnerships” was a hot topic for the closing session with **Chidi Izuwah from PPP Resource Centre in the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC in Nigeria)** present on the panel. ‘What needs to be done to unleash PPPs?’ was the question to the audience - a clear consistent regulatory framework, efficiency improvements and a defined return on investment and incentives for private sector participation.

The pre-conference day was very busy with more than 70 people in attendance for workshops on Access to Finance, Ideal Investment Climates, Renewable Energy and an SAP Africa workshop on Technology enablement for Power Sector Utilities.

Ije Ikoku from IFC was bombarded with questions after her very enlightening case study presentation on the project finance examples in Cameroon and the post privatisation activity there. The Investment climate session focussed on the key economic, social and political elements that can entice more private sector funds.

So what is the ideal investment environment?

Adesuji Adesugba from Industrial Arbitration Panel had an excellent slide which demonstrated the Global competitiveness index for investment climates. Nigeria is ranked 99 out of 147. Singapore has the best investment environment. Economic elements, such as sound and stable economic policy and good management of the economy, an enabling legal and regulatory environment, fair competition and physical infrastructure all encourage investment into the country and create a healthy investment climate for international investors.

The Siemens site visit to Geregu Power station was an all round success and an enlightening experience for the participants. PHCN management have maintained high quality standards at Geregu I and we hope that a follow up site visit can be planned once Geregu II is fully operational and connected to the National grid.

Statistics for WAPIC 2011:

- 442 delegates attended from more than 27 countries to discuss the challenges facing the West African electricity power sector. We had power sector experts, consultants, solution providers and West African utilities fly into Abuja two weeks ago for 3 days of conference.
- There were 3 Platinum sponsors, 6 Gold sponsors, 1 Silver sponsor and 7 Bronze sponsors in Abuja and 29 exhibitors.
- Sponsors and Exhibitors were:
Aiteo Group, Taleveras Group, TCN, ABB, AG Energy Partners, Maschinenfabrik Reinhausen Germany, SAP Africa, Siemens, Sudden Impact, Koncar, Chemo-Technics Nigeria Ltd., Genesis Electricity, Interplast Ghana, Itron, Karpower International, Megger, Omicron, Aberdare Cables, Alstom Grid, Chris-Ejik International Nigeria, Conlog, DeltaAfrik/WorleyParsons, Depagne France, Kanohar Electrical Limited, Kafue Gorge

Regional Training Centre (KGRTC), Landis+Gyr, Manoa Holdings, McDonald Live Line Technology, Momas Systems Nigeria, Syntell, Tractebel Engineering, Vergokan and Vergnet.

Key speakers on the programme were:

- Professor Bart Nnaji, Nigeria's Minister of Power
- Mrs Bolanle Onagoruwa, Director General, Bureau of Public Enterprise
- Kweku Awotwi, CEO, Volta River Authority, Ghana
- Babatunde Adeyemo, Co-ordinator, West African Power Pool
- Theo Sackey, Power Sector Specialist, Africa Finance Corporation
- Marie Françoise Marie-Nelly, Country Director, World Bank
- Ije Ikoku, Team Lead Infrastructure & Energy Investments, IFC

What did our delegates think of WAPIC 2011?

"This is the best WAPIC ever" <i>Marius Grobelaar, Sudden Impact</i>
"Worthwhile attendance, best leads from a single event" <i>Andrew Strachan, SAP South Africa</i>
"The papers were delivered were quite instructive and the exhibition revealing. I am convinced that the WAPIC experience can revolutionise electric power generation, transmission, distribution and retail in Nigeria" <i>Obasi Kingsley, Transmission Company of Nigeria</i>
"Have had a wonderful experience and have learnt about the power sector reform, the energy mix and the renewables resources of Nigeria and case studies of PPPs in West Africa and other parts of the world" <i>Emmanuel Afagbegee, Volta River Authority</i>

Spintelligent, part of Clarion Events is a global business to business events and media company with key publications in Energy, Metering and Mining. We are an established strategic information provider to the global metering and utilities industries, with events and magazines in African infrastructure, focusing on power and mining. WAPIC was held in Nigeria in 2008 and 2011 was a great success.

We will be returning to Nigeria – to the industrial and commercial capital Lagos to engage with the investment community and manufacturing sectors.

Save the dates now. WAPIC 2012 is 12th to 14th November 2012!

Register now to get the 2011 rates. Offer valid until 31st March 2012.

See www.wapicforum.com for more information about the 2011 conference. For enquiries, please contact Michelle Fanus on 0044 7817 701413 or email michelle.fanus@spintelligent.com

See you in Lagos!