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Launch of the Third Application Round for the Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility



Arusha, Tanzania 30 October, 2014: The African Union Commission, Department of Infrastructure and Energy launched the Third Application Round for the Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility (GRMF) on 30 October, 2014 as a side event during the Fifth African Rift Geothermal Conference (ARGeo-C5) in Arusha, Tanzania.

The Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility (GRMF) is one of the remarkable projects managed by the Department of Infrastructure and Energy of the African Union offering financial support for geothermal projects in Eastern Africa to public and private developers and public-private partnership developers.

The AUC has in the past successfully launched the First and Second Application Rounds for the GRMF programme. The First application round, which was launched in October 2012, produced five (5) grant beneficiaries, selected from projects in two (2) of the five (5) pilot countries, and were awarded GRMF grants totalling Twenty Two million USD.

Following the successes of the First Application Round, the AUC launched the Second Application Round of the GRMF programme in October, 2013, About eight (8) applications from five (5) GRMF countries out of the eleven GRMF member countries have already submitted full applications whose evaluation will be completed in December 2014 and grant signing with successful applicants will take place in January 2015.

The Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy (CIE) H.E. Dr. Elham M.A. Ibrahim in her address congratulated and commended the efforts of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation, the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund and KfW Entwicklungsbank (KfW) for their partnership in establishing the GRMF as well as their continuing efforts in ensuring the success of the Programme. The CIE emphasized that for the African Union Commission, the GRMF programme is a crucial Initiative in improving and expanding access to modern energy

services in Africa while the continent still remains the least-electrified and also ranks the lowest in energy supply and consumption among other regions of the world. This situation is one of the biggest constraints to socio economic development as well as being a constraint to achieving our objectives in human development and poverty alleviation.

The UK Department for International Development (DFID) as guest of honour and future donor for the GRMF announced that a Financing Agreement for 48 million Pounds will be signed with the AUC before the end of 2014 and an additional 6 million Pounds will be allocated for Technical Assistance for policy, regulatory and Institutional set-up guidance as well as capacity building in GRMF countries.

The launch of the Third Application Round for the GRMF brought together more than eighty participants and among those who graced the launch are: The Minister of Energy for Comoros H.E. Mr. Abdou Nassur Madi, The Minister for Natural Resources, Energy and Mines of Malawi, H.E. Mr. Alipele Muluzi, development partners from KfW, DFID, African Development Bank, BGR, ICEIDA, Nordic Development Fund, UNEP developers from both public and private sector from Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

Expressions of Interest for the 3rd Application Round for the GRMF are expected to be received by 08 January 2015. The side event was a great success as it was well attended and given the rich discussions and responses provided by AUC experts and the project Technical Consultant.

For further information contact

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