



Press Release

Evaluation workshop on the Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility (GRMF) and a kick-off meeting of the 5th GRMF Application Round,



Nairobi, Kenya 14 October 2017: The Department of Infrastructure and Energy organized an evaluation workshop on the Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility (GRMF) operationalization and a kick-off meeting of the 5th GRMF Application Round, followed by field visits to geothermal projects, from 10th to 13th October 2017 in Kenya.

The evaluation workshop and a kick-off meeting of the 5th GRMF Application Round took place on the 10-11 October in Nairobi, while the field visits were organized on the 12th for Menengai

drilling site (near Nakuru) and on 13th for Olkaria site (near Naivasha).

The specific objectives of the workshop were: (i) to evaluate and discuss the challenges, successes, lessons learned and way forward about the operationalization of the GRMF since its launching in 2012 ; (ii) to communicate to public and private developers and eligible countries the New GRMF Regulation and Procurement Guidelines; (iii) to launch the 5th GRMF Application Round and (iv) to organize field visits to Menengai and Olkaria geothermal drilling sites and power plants.

The evaluation round table of the GRMF programme which involved the project developers, AUC and donors was very informative for all workshop participants. The developers presented the challenges faced and ways for improvement of the operationalization of GRMF in order to improve the programme both for the involved stakeholders and for the geothermal sector in East Africa. The launching of the 5th GRMF application has been conducted successfully given the big number of participants and the high level discussions which resulted in useful recommendations.

Seventy five (75) participants took part in the workshop including officials and experts from GRMF eligible countries (Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia), representatives of the African Union Commission, Development Partners (KFW, DFID, BGR and New Zealand.) and geothermal developers (public and private).



The tour of the Menengai and Olkaria Geothermal Projects on 12 and 13 October 2017 included: a guided tour to Drilling Rigs, steam gathering system, visit on discharging well, direct use site, visit of laboratories (drilling simulator, cementing lab, geochemistry lab and geology lab) Well Head units, Olkaria I Power Station, Olkaria IV Power Plant and ORMAT Binary Power Plant. The field visits were highly appreciated by the participants as they were very instructive and delivered hands-on experience, as Kenya is the most advanced in

geothermal development among the eleven GRMF eligible countries.

The GRMF is a grant programme designed to cost share exploration work (surface studies and drilling programmes) to encourage public and private investors as well as public private partnerships to develop geothermal prospects for power generation. The programme provides grants for siting, drilling and testing of wells and to assist developers secure financing for subsequent drilling wells. Furthermore, grants for infrastructure costs are foreseen.

The size of the Facility is approximately USD 110 million comprising of contributions by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ), the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund (EU-ITF) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID). The AUC is covering the operation cost of the GRMF Coordination Unit. The Facility is open to contributions from other donors.