

## **WAPIC 2012 NEWS**

### **Metering**

Measuring how important metering is in the Utility (Power) industry and how consumers can have access to them, and the positive effect metering and meters have on revenue generation in the Nigerian society took the centre stage at the West Africa Power Industry Convention that was held in Lagos between 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012.

New agreement with the Bank of Industry is being worked on to get meters, which measure electricity consumption. According to the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission, this effort is to make sure that Meters are provided for every customer. The commission adds that payment for these meters would be made gradual by government because meters are meant to be free for consumers.

It has given a 2013 deadline to complete installation of meters. So far, there is no regulation on provision of meters.

### **New Power Target**

Meanwhile, efforts to improve power generation has a new target—40GW, stated in the Vision 20:2020.

A report by the Presidential Taskforce on power said “post plan on electricity improvement is relying mostly on the NIPP agenda of vision 20-2020 target of 40GW.” NIPP is expected to add 23-25MW to the grid by the end of 2013.

The plans are expected to be completed by the start of 2014, after which all 10 gas plants would be sold to builders currently working on them.

Chairman of the taskforce, Engr. Dagogo-Jack, said the taskforce’s mandate is to spur a single interest “among all Nigerians to work together to achieve the power sector reform.” Their slogan is “**One leadership, one sector, one mission**”

Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission also expects that by 2013 all Discos (Distribution companies) would have been in private hands in the hope of making the electricity market robust.

A new scheme, Embedded Generation, is expected to churn out an additional 20MW and distribute to localities without “going through transmission process of the Grid,” according to the commission.

## Alternative power

Alternative power sources also featured at the convention, and sessions considered the feasibility of sources of renewable energy. e.g. coal power.

Renewable energy, as well as efficiency required in its workings, will require several commitments in policies, according to energy policy analyst Hyacinth Elayo.

In a presentation, Elayo said that the Ecowas Regional Centre for Renewable & Energy Efficiency (ECREE) emphasized policies;

1. to improve energy efficiency to international standard by 2020
2. to reduce average loss in distribution by 2030
3. remove non existent or weak policy measures for a level playing field.

For more on the ECREE energy policy, logon to [www.ecreee.org](http://www.ecreee.org) or [www.wapicforum.com](http://www.wapicforum.com) for the ECREE presentation by Hyacinth Elayo

Engr. Akamnonu, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Power Holding Company of Nigeria, Ikeja, in an address at the convention pointed out that current low-level power generation may be causing cash flow problems in the sector.

The convention also considered questions raised about the power sector reform, expressing doubts on the sincerity behind the moves.

Participants called for consistency in the power agenda to achieve planned reforms. They also called for significant financing for distribution and generation companies.

The Executive Director, Market Operations enlightened participants on the role of the Market Operator in the Nigeria electricity industry and also gave a status report on the achievement of this sector in line with the Market Rules in his presentation: **“THE ROLE OF THE MARKET OPERATOR IN THE NIGERIAN ELECTRICITY SUPPLY INDUSTRY”**