



KEREA
Kenya Renewable Energy Association

REPORT ON THE SOLAR PV TRAINING SUBSIDY SUPPORTED BY TERI/DFID

The publication was produced by the Kenya Renewable Energy Association (KEREA) for review by TERI/DFID

INTRODUCTION

The Solar PV regulations which were gazetted by the Energy Regulatory Commission in 2012 require for any design and Installation of Solar PV system you need a trained technician licensed by Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).

Kenya Renewable Energy Association (KEREAA) as an independent non-profit association is dedicated to facilitating the growth and development of renewable energy business in Kenya.

To support importers, vendors, distributors and contractors comply with these regulations, the association has undertaken a number of capacity building activities to have Solar PV training offered in Technical Training Institutions (TTIs) to technicians.

KEREAA facilitated a training of trainers for the electrical lectures within the Institutions with the support from JICA/JKUAT. The trainers will use the approved Solar PV curriculum that was developed by KEREAA through support from UNDP's Energy Access Program. The curriculum has a topic on the Solar PV regulations, which the trainees are to be trained on how to apply for the license through ERC's online system.

The Association mobilized equipment sponsorship from its members and procured more through UNDP's Energy Access Program to build the training capacity of 13 Technical Training Institutesⁱ across the country.

The first set of trainings were conducted between December 2013 and January 2014. After evaluation, it emerged that the fees for the two week course was out of reach for majority of practicing technicians as evidenced by the low turnout.

Through the support of TERI/DFID in co-financing a portion of the course fees for 100 technicians, KEREAA would further contribute to the fast tracking of the training and licensing of an optimum number of technicians to ensure effective delivery of solar PV, design, installation and maintenance services. To encourage uptake, KEREAA needed to inform the market of the training courses offered at the Institutions. The market was informed by way of newspaper advertisements, via KEREAA bulk SMS to technicians and emails to KEREAA's e-mail database of solar PV technicians and vendors across the country.

During KEREAA's visits to the Institutions, discussions were held with the principal and with the trainers where the programme was introduced. The subsidy was described as being useful for enabling practicing technicians be compliant with regulatory requirements as well as enhancing local technical capacity for the design, installation, maintenance and troubleshooting of solar PV systems in Kenya.

KEREAA signed an agreement with each Institution. The participating institutions are to provide to KEREAA information on scheduled trainings as well as credentials of training applicants to enable participation in the subsidy programme.

TRAINING REPORT

A newspaper advert was placed in the Daily Nation of 7th November 2014 and led to enrolment and training of more than 100 technicians between the period of October 2014 and February 2015 across the thirteen participating TTIs

The TTIs indicated two observations that they made over the course of the subsidized training. One observation was that students undertaking electrical courses at both the certificate or diploma levels were interested but as the subsidy program targeted practicing technicians, these students would not benefit from the subsidy. The students were encouraged to take the training and pay the full amount of the fees.

Another observation was that the practicing technicians who were the target of this subsidy only have free time in the evening as they work during the day. To accommodate their needs the institutions introduced evening training sessions that ran from 5:00 p.m to 8:30 p.m on weekdays with practicals being carried out all day Saturday.

The approach was to have the trained technicians tested and assessed by the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) immediately or shortly after the completion of the course so as to fast track the process of licensing with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).

As the subsidy is inclusive of the NITA trade test fees, NITA and respective Institutions opted to set an assessment date where the trainees will be assessed at the Institution where they were trained. The institutions however were concerned that NITA takes longer than desired to release assessments results which delays licensing.

The program has been considered a success as the TTIs have reported there is more uptake and interest of the training courses and the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) reported the number of technicians whom have been tested and licensed has increased.

¹ Coast Institute of Technology, Meru Technical Training Institute, Nyeri Technical Training Institute, Nairobi Technical Training Institute, Kenya Industrial Training Institute, Kitale Technical Training Institute, Ramogi Institute of Advanced Technology, Wote Technical Training Institute, Rwika Technical Training Institute, Kiirua Technical Training Institute, Kaiboi Technical Training Institute, Rift valley Technical Training Institute, Kisiwa Technical Training Institute.

List of participating technical training institutions with training dates and number of participants

Institution	Location	Training Dates	No. of Participants	Contact
Coast Institute of Technology	Voi	2 nd -12 th December,2014	6 Participants	Contact Person: Joseph Malechwanz Mobile No. 0727407724 P.O Box 34 – 80300,Voi josephmuthiani@yahoo.com
Meru Technical Training Institute	Meru	24 th Nov- 6 th December,2014	10 Participants	Contact Person: John Meme Mobile No:0720215994 P.O Box 111-60200 Meru merutechnical@yahoo.com , merutechnical2012@gmail.com
		9 th -28 th February,2015	16 Participants	
Nairobi Technical Training Institute	Nairobi	12 th -31 st January,2015	9 Participants	Contact Person: John Mbugua Mobile No: 0721331706 P.O Box 30039 – 00100,Nairobi Info@ntti.ac.ke , jmbugua@yahoo.com
		9 th – 28 th February,2015	12 Participants	
Rift Valley Technical Training Institute	Eldoret	4 rd -15 th November,2014	9 Participants	Contact Person: Eunice Kuto Mobile No: 0725474379 P.O Box 654 – 30100,Eldoret Info@rvtti.ac.ke
Rwika Technical Training Institute	Embu	10 th -21 st November,2014	10 Participants	Contact Person:Mr.Kivulai Mobile No:0724326004 P.O Box 1264 – 60100,Embu rwikati@yahoo.com
		1 st -13 th December,2015	7 Participants	
Kaiboi Technical Training Institute	Nandi	24 th Nov– 5 th December	11 Participants	Contact Person: Richard Lelei Mobile No:0724568756 P.O Box 937 Eldoret kaiboi@kaiboitech.ac.ke
Nyeri Technical Training Institute	Nyeri	27 th – 30 th January,2015	7 Participants	Contact Person: Samuel Mugeca Mobile No: 0731284108 P.O Box 465 – 10200,Nyeri nyeritti@yahoo.com

Kenya Industrial Training Institute	Nakuru	24 th Nov- 5 th December,20 14	3 Participants	Contact Person: Davis Wasike Mobile No: 0720548429 P.O Box 280-20100 ,Nakuru directorkiti@yahoo.com
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