South Africa at the forefront in Energy Efficiency

South Africa is one of only a handful of countries with a nationwide strategy for energy efficiency. This emerged at the recent international ‘Sustainable and Energy Efficient Building in Africa’ workshop, hosted by the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA). 120 delegates from a diverse range of African and European stakeholder groups met to appraise and promote renewable energy in South Africa. This workshop was held as part of the DBSA’s initiative of sharing knowledge, experience and information relevant to promoting sustainable development in Africa.

The workshop highlighted the Bank’s intention to become more proactive in promoting developments that take environmental matters into consideration,” said Dr Patrick Karani, DBSA’s environmental strategist. “In partnership with the World Bank Carbon Fund, DBSA promotes clean energy use through several projects, including the Darling Wind Farm, the Hydro in Zambia and the Solar Heating Housing initiative, as well as several feasibility studies on landfill site management to reduce emissions.

The workshop featured exhibits of best environmental practices in energy efficient building in Africa. It also reflected the significant renewable energy developments that have taken place over the past two years in SA

“These were practical case studies demonstrating the potential of developments that promote sustainable energy,” said Karani. “The exhibits also addressed challenges, including technology, resource and financial constraints as well as skills shortages.“

“The two-day event was valuable for all participants: several opportunities for collaboration and capacity building were identified during the workshop. It opened opportunities for venturing into environmentally conscious developments that encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy,” concluded Karani.

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