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Renewable energy a solution to Sub-Saharan Africa energy crisis

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As the worldwide demand for energy grows, various studies in the field of energy efficiency are stimulated, and one of them is certainly the use of renewable energy. Sub-Saharan African continent is lacking globally in terms of hydropower development as well as other renewables. Africa is endowed with a huge untapped renewable energy potential yet most of these potential sites are not yet developed. The rural communities within the region have been deprived of electricity for so many years now with even those in the urban centers experiencing a lot of power cut off. Renewable energies (RE) represent a foundation to steer the energy system in the direction of sustainability and supply security. The importance of renewable energy generation for sustainable power based on its capacity to provide electricity to the rural communities along with contributing to the national grid towards alleviating the serious shortage of electricity within the sub-Saharan African continent and ensuring sustainability of renewable energies especially small hydropower. The paper describes various problems faced during renewable energy generation and the approaches used to resolve the problems. The paper also seeks to bring out the current status and future prospects of renewable energy in sub-Saharan Africa together with recognizing the difficulties confronting full scale of its development. Conclusion was drawn on the role of the governments on the renewable energy development in the continent.

Biography

Daniel Adu is a PhD student at the National Research Centre of Pumps, Jiangsu University, China offering Fluid Machinery Engineering in the research area of Small Hydropower Development in Africa. He has his expertise in evaluation and passion in improving electricity situation in Africa. He has done a lot of research into how this electricity crisis in Africa especially sub-Saharan Africa can be solved and found small hydropower as one of the best ways to solve these challenges due to its enormous potential in the continent.

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