



# The AFSEC Newsletter

• July 2012 •

## Message from the President

Following the AFSEC workshop and Executive Committee meeting in Nairobi, the year 2012 was marked by a significant growth of our organization.

Indeed, the five technical committees (TC8, TC13, TC56, TC64, TC77) established in Nairobi on the basis of business plans, started their work on harmonization of electrotechnical standards. In this context, the Executive Secretariat has been working to monitor and provide assistance. Thus, the second meeting of the technical committees to be held in Johannesburg from 28 to 31 August 2012 should allow us to review the progress achieved and do an in-depth study of the work accomplished.

Furthermore, at the request of AFREC and its affiliates, we will take the opportunity of the Johannesburg workshop for mobilizing the community of African experts to reflect on the establishment of a guide on rural electrification in Africa. We would like to thank AFREC for the help and support in organizing this event.



**M. Claude Koutoua,  
AFSEC President**

At the Executive Secretariat level, the departure of Paul Johnson from Eskom has meant the end of direct assistance from Eskom to the benefit of AFSEC.

We wish once again to thank Eskom for the help and assistance given to our important institution from March 2008 to March 2012 to run the AFSEC secretariat. It should be noted that without their support we would not have accomplished anything. Eskom deserves our respect and our gratitude.

Paul Johnson's move to the SABS as technical secretary of the IEC, offers us a new opportunity of fruitful relations with this institution. We thank the SABS for having accepted that Paul works for AFSEC in the same conditions as at Eskom. We shall take the opportunity during our next trip to Johannesburg to meet the leaders of this institution for the bilateral strengthening of our cooperation.

The Executive Secretary and I attended the General Assembly of UPDEA in Hammamet, Tunis from 28 to 31 May 2012. This meeting was an opportunity to alert all utilities, manufacturers of electrical equipment, on the mission and the role of AFSEC. Furthermore, the presentation of upcoming events helped encourage participants to make their experts available on the local and regional electrotechnical standardization committees and in the AFSEC technical committees.

The signature of the Memorandum of Understanding with CENELEC on 25 October 2011 offers us the opportunity to organize joint activities on electrotechnical standardization. Thus, in Oslo, in October 2012 at the AGM of the IEC, we will agree on a program of activities which is expected to start implementation in 2013.

In our plan to promote conformity assessment, AFSEC and the IEC System of Certification of Standards relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres (IECEx) in collaboration with the African Energy Commission of the African Union (AFREC), Union of Producers, Transporters and Distributors of Electric Power in Africa (UPDEA), the Côte d'Ivoire national standardization body (CODINORM), in partnership with CIE (Compagnie Ivoirienne d'Electricité) and CIPREL (Compagnie Ivoirienne de Production d'Electricité) will organize an international event for the benefit of Africa from 28 to 30 November 2012 in Abidjan. This seminar will provide an opportunity for industries using electrical equipment on the African continent to



become better acquainted and learn how they can benefit from the IEC System of Conformity Assessment in explosive atmospheres.

Moreover, regarding the finalization of dossiers relating to our relationship with AU and AFREC and the permanent seat of AFSEC, the resolution of these issues requires that we engage in direct talks at the headquarters of the AU with the Administration, the Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, the Commissioner for Trade & Industry and the Legal Adviser, etc. ...

The changes in the administration of the AU with the appointment of a new Commissioner for Trade & Industry, and may be the election of a new president, are not very conducive to a possible negotiation. We must give them time to take cognizance of the dossiers.

After careful consideration, and taking into account additional information received from the Director General of AFREC, we are looking into organizing the third AFSEC General Assembly at the AFSEC headquarters in Addis-Abeba in early November 2012 or early 2013. This strategic orientation aims to help achieve the necessary lobbying at all levels to advance our files and to benefit from the patronage of high officials of the AU.

From 2008 to 2012, AFSEC showed its ability to develop itself. It has become a mature institution, standing and recognized. It can now provide the necessary assistance to the African continent faced with many problems in order to progress. Many opportunities exist, so that the African people can gain from the benefits of electrotechnical standards.

AFSEC is counting on you.

**Thank you**  
**Koutoua Claude**  
**AFSEC President**

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## **Recent news on interventions to promote and market AFSEC**

### **SADCSTAN – Malawi March 2012**

21 March 2012: The Executive Secretary represented AFSEC at the 2012 annual meeting of the SADC expert group on standardization SADCSTAN, which took place during the week of SADCSQAM infrastructure meetings held in Lilongwe, Malawi in March 2012.

Several contacts were made and renewed with senior managers from the national standard bodies from a number of SADC member countries: notably Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Botswana. Each has received an invitation to initiate membership of AFSEC through their respective National Electrotechnical Committees.



**Paul Johnson**

### **African Utility Week – South African May 2012**

21-23 May 2012: The annual African Utility Week conference and exhibition took place in the National Exhibition Centre (NASREC), near Soccer City in Johannesburg. AFSEC in collaboration with the African Energy Commission set up an exhibition stand to promote awareness of the two commissions among the delegates and other exhibitors. Paul Johnson, Executive Secretary gave a presentation of the role of AFSEC and its technical committees in facilitating the development of the pan-African electricity infrastructure.



### **17th UPDEA Congress –Tunisia May 2012**

28-30 May 2012: The 17th UPDEA Congress was held in Hammamet, Tunisia, providing an opportunity for AFSEC, represented by the AFSEC President, M KUOTOUA Claude and the Executive Secretary, Paul Johnson to give feedback on the progress of AFSEC to UPDEA members and the plans for the future. An exhibition of equipment suppliers took place at the same venue, and this provided additional opportunities for industry stakeholders to be informed about AFSEC. A highlight of the gala dinner was the presentation of awards to UPDEA study committee members who were recognised as having given exceptional service to UPDEA. Such awards were presented to both M KOUTOUA and Mr Johnson for their contributions to the establishment of AFSEC, as members of the UPDEA Study Committee on Standardization.



## **Forthcoming events**

### **AFSEC Workshop on Rural Electrification and AFSEC Technical Committee meetings 28-31 August 2012, Johannesburg, South Africa**

#### **Background and objective**

Few African countries have already reached relatively high levels of electrification: in Sub-Saharan Africa, with a present estimated population of over 550 million and growing, the overall electrification rate remains at around 25%, despite the efforts of several countries to increase the levels of access to electricity.

Many rural electrification projects employing various technologies have already been attempted in a number of Africa countries; not all have been as successful as had been expected. New technologies and improvements in existing technologies and the associated standards are continuously evolving. AFSEC, in collaboration with AFREC and its affiliated organisations will provide a framework for collating and analysing the information and compiling it into a guide for rural electrification in Africa.

The objective of the guide will be to inform and direct implementation agencies and partners such that future rural electrification projects are successfully implemented and are sustainable.

#### **Outline of the project to develop a guide for rural electrification**

In August 2012, AFSEC will facilitate a workshop for stakeholders and practitioners to share the existing knowledge on what standards and practices exist to support rural electrification. Presentations on case studies from Africa will be invited and examined to understand what has been successful or otherwise and to understand why. The workshop will be co-located with meetings of the AFSEC technical committees to maximize the exchange of information among technical experts.

Subsequently a project team of experts from the stakeholders will develop the material in a draft guide, with the aim of publishing the guide during 2013.

#### **Delegates to the workshop:**

Participation is encouraged from all organizations contributing to the electrification of rural areas in Africa, in particular:

African electricity supply companies, rural electrification authorities, and Government departments responsible for electrification

All members of AFSEC and participants in the IEC affiliate country programme for developing countries should attend and contribute.



### **Costs**

There will be no costs to attend the workshop or the technical committee meetings.  
Unless otherwise agreed for designated officials, delegates will be required to fund their own travel and accommodation costs

### **Meetings of the AFSEC Technical Committees (TC 8, TC 13, TC 57, TC 64, TC 77)**

The AFSEC Secretariat has organized that the second meetings of the AFSEC technical committees (TC 8, TC 13, TC 57, TC 64, and TC 77) should be co-located with the workshop, followed by a report back meeting to members of the AFSEC Executive.

### **Objectives**

- To review the Strategic Business Plan of each TC and the progress with the associated actions plans,
- To capacitate AFSEC TC members to review relevant working documents from IEC technical committees

### **Delegates to the AFSEC technical committee meetings**

In addition to the existing members of the AFSEC TCs, all AFSEC members and African National Committees that participate in the IEC affiliate country programme are invited to send delegates to the meetings of the TCs.

A meeting of members of the AFSEC Executive with the AFSEC TC Chairmen and secretaries will be convened on 31 August to receive the reports of the AFSEC TCs.

The workshop and all meetings will be provided with simultaneous English < > French translation.

On-line registration is now open, but please note that space is limited. You are invited to participate by offering a case study and experience with rural electrification in your country. Please visit the AFSEC website for full registration details and to submit a presentation at the workshop, or contact:

**Paul Johnson, Executive Secretary**

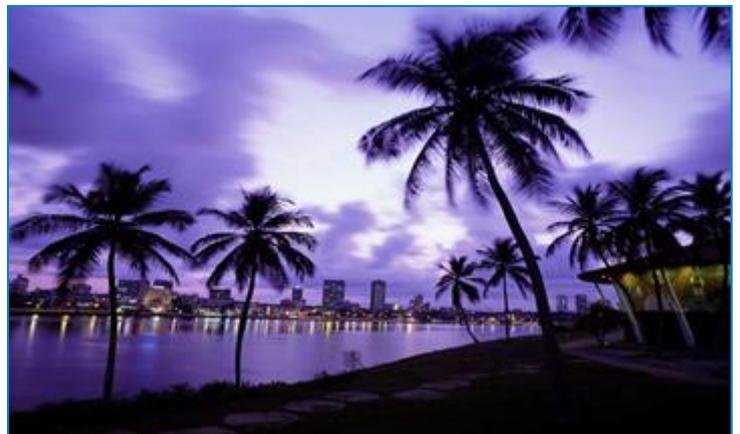
**Email: [Secretariat@afsec-africa.org](mailto:Secretariat@afsec-africa.org)**

**Fax: +2712 428 7647**

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### **AFSEC – IECEx International Seminar**

The African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission (AFSEC) and the International Electrotechnical Commission System for Certification to Standards relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres (IECEx) in collaboration with the African Energy Commission of the African Union (AFREC), Union of Producers, Transporters and Distributors of Electric Power in Africa (UPDEA), the Côte d'Ivoire national standardization body (CODINORM), in partnership with the electrical utilities CIE (Compagnie Ivoirienne d'Electricité) and CIPREL ( Compagnie Ivoirienne de Production d'Electricité) organize an international event for the benefit of Africa.





**Topic**

Certification to IEC International Standards relating to electrical equipment and services in explosive atmospheres.

**Date**

- Wednesday, 28 November – Friday, 30 November 2012 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

This three day seminar will be a unique opportunity for industries using electrical equipment on the African continent to get more familiar and to discover the benefits of using IEC conformity assessment system in explosive atmospheres.



**Location**

The I'AFSEC – IECEX event in Côte d'Ivoire will take place in two near locations:

- CIE-DPE site (Direction de la Production d'Electricité de la Compagnie Ivoirienne d'Electricité) located near the Vridi canal with 1 00 MW gas turbines in operation.



- CIPREL site (Compagnie Ivoirienne de Production d'Electricité) located Rue des Textiles in Vridi, with 330 MW gas turbine installations.



### **Purpose**

The seminar will aim at

- Capacity building for African experts from the oil, gas and electrical sectors
- Learn to apply five IEC International Standards in the IEC 60079 series relating to the certification of electrical equipment and services in explosive atmospheres. [IEC 60079 series
- Practical exercises on the sites of CIE (Compagnie Ivoirienne d'Electricité) and of CIPREL (Compagnie Ivoirienne de production d'Electricité).
- Learn to draft an evaluation report

### **Target audience**

The seminar will address experts, senior staff and professionals from the electrical, oil and gas sectors on the African continent who are involved in the standardization, manufacturing, inspection, repair, exploitation, maintenance and overhaul of equipment as well as system evaluation and certification of personnel competence.

### **Organization of the seminar**

This will be a unique opportunity for gas and electrical industries on the African continent to get more familiar and to discover the benefits of using IEC Conformity Assessment System for explosive atmospheres. The seminar will also enable the participants to make valuable contacts and to network with experts in this field.

There will be two sessions of 30 participants each, in English and in French

The number of participants being limited, we will ask participants to register early indicating which is their working language and if they would be prepared to attend the training in either of both languages.

The seminar will be conducted by Peter THURNHERR et Thierry HOUEIX two IECEx experts who will

- make presentations,
- carry out site audits with the participants,
- share their experience and knowledge
- answer questions to meet the need of the participants, and
- give participants advice, information and background material.

For full details please visit the AFSEC website.

**"The French version of the AFSEC website is live"**

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As the bulletin carries the objective of keeping its readers up-to-date with the latest happenings and developments in the Industry we welcome and encourage you to send us your thoughts and comments. *Please note that the views do not necessarily represent those of AFSEC.*

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