Membership
There have been several enquiries recently via African National Standards Bodies expressing interest in establishing national committees and applying to be members of AFSEC. Of the ten position members representing the five sub-regions on the management committee, the following positions remain to be filled, by election:
- East Africa: One seat
- Central Africa: Two seats
- Southern Africa: One seat
The position of Treasurer also remains to be filled. National committees that wish to take part in the management committee are required to apply to be considered for nomination via the secretariat.

Marketing
In November 2008, M. KOUTOUA Claude, the AFSEC President, participated in the IEC General Meeting. Direct contacts were made with representatives from several other African countries, whom have indicated an interest in forming their national committees and becoming members of AFSEC. These are being followed up by correspondence.

M. Koutoua Claude addresses the IEC affiliates at the IEC General meeting in Sao Paulo, in Nov 2008.
[photo courtesy of IEC]

The Executive Secretary visited Tunisia in October 2008 and met with representatives from the electricity & gas utility, STEG and the National Standards Body, INNORPI, with a view to encouraging them to form a National Committee and join AFSEC. An information pack has been sent to INNORPI by the Secretariat to further assist the process.

Executive Secretary at the office of Mesai Girma, MD of SQAE, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Nov 2008.
[photo courtesy of SQAE]

A similar visit was made by the Executive Secretary to QSAE (Ethiopia), in November.
It is hoped that Ethiopia will also be in a position to form its National Committee and also join the AFSEC family in the near future.

The eight RECs recognized by the AU have been send formal letters of invitation to join AFSEC as affiliate members.

An abstract of a paper proposed for ISH2009 (International Symposium on High Voltage Engineering, Cape Town, Aug 2009) has been submitted by the Executive Secretary.

Liaison with other organizations
The charter defining the relationship between AFREC and AFSEC as a subsidiary body has been prepared in final draft form and submitted to AFREC/AU.

Cooperation agreements between IEC and AFSEC and between CENELEC and AFSEC are also being finalized, for ratification at the next General Assembly.
Secretariat and permanent headquarters
Eskom, South Africa continues to provide the secretariat for AFSEC, in the person of the Executive Secretary allocated on a part-time basis to AFSEC activities, with specific services outsourced. This arrangement is expected to continue until a decision of the host country for the AFSEC headquarters has been made.

The intention had been to finalize the decision on the host country by end 2008. The Executive Secretary had meetings at the office of the AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy in November to expedite the invitation to member states. The invitation is expected to be issued soon, but the administrative delay in the process beyond end of 2008 is a cause for concern. The AU Commissioners staff are cooperating and assisting the process by drafting a host country agreement for the AFSEC headquarters.

2009 General Assembly
Planning for the second general assembly has not yet started, mainly because the decision on the host country for the AFSEC HQ needs to be taken before proceeding with a second GA where the operationalization of AFSEC needs to be formalized and for which a fully functional secretariat will be required.

Once the decision of the host country has been made, the Executive Secretary will invite the present membership to submit offers to host the Second General Assembly and workshop, at which it is intended to establish the first technical committees and the conformity assessment committee of AFSEC. It is hoped this will take place not later than end May 2009.

News from the IEC
Africans join the management structure of the IEC
AFSEC is proud to acknowledge the appointment of one of its Vice Presidents, Evah Oduor of KEBS as the IEC Affiliate Coordinator for Africa, as from August 2008.

AFSEC heartily congratulates Thembani Bukula, President of the National Committee of South Africa on his election to the IEC Council Board in November 2008.

Energy Efficiency workshop for developing countries
The IEC held a workshop for developing countries at the general meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil in Nov 2008. The AFSEC President and other attendees were given copies of the presentations, which will be made available on the AFSEC website.

IEC publications recently published
Some recent IEC publications for the period October – December 2008 that might be of interest are listed here. For a full list visit www.iec.ch and search for “recently issued publications”, or subscribe to the IEC email alert service for “just published” to get an update twice a month.

IEC 60076-12 (5 November 2008)
Power transformers - Part 12: Loading guide for dry-type power transformers

IEC 60076-SER (5 November 2008)
Power transformers - ALL PARTS

IEC 60919-2 (5 November 2008)
Performance of high-voltage direct current (HVDC) systems with line-commutated converters - Part 2: Faults and switching

IEC 60700-1 (5 November 2008)
Thyristor valves for high voltage direct current (HVDC) power transmission - Part 1: Electrical testing

IEC 60724 (13 November 2008)
Short-circuit temperature limits of electric cables with rated voltages of 1 kV ($U_m = 1.2$ kV) and 3 kV ($U_m = 3.6$ kV)

IEC 61443 (13 November 2008)
Short-circuit temperature limits of electric cables with rated voltages above 30 kV ($U_m = 36$ kV)

IEC 60986 (13 November 2008)
Short-circuit temperature limits of electric cables with rated voltages from 6 kV ($U_m = 7.2$ kV) up to 30 kV ($U_m = 36$ kV)

IEC 61643-12 (13 November 2008)
Low-voltage surge protective devices - Part 12: Surge protective devices connected to low-voltage power distribution systems - Selection and application principles

IEC 60255-22-5 (17 November 2008)
Measuring relays and protection equipment - Part 22-5: Electrical disturbance tests - Surge immunity test

IECEE 01 (26 November 2008)
IEC System of Conformity Assessment Schemes for Electrotechnical Equipment and Components (IECEE) - Basic Rules
FREE DOWNLOAD

IEC 62271-109 (26 November 2008)
High-voltage switchgear and controlgear - Part 109: Alternating-current series capacitor by-pass switches

IEC 62271-SER (26 November 2008)
High-voltage switchgear and controlgear - ALL PARTS

Contributions to the next newsletter
Members and other partners are encouraged to send any news about activities, events and information of interest to AFSEC members and potential members of AFSEC to the secretariat, for publication in the next newsletter.

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