

The AFSEC Newsletter

• January 2013 •

AFSEC activities in 2012

Two significant events took place in 2012,

- The AFSEC rural electrification workshop and technical committee meetings –Johannesburg, August 2012. To view all the photographs taken at the workshop please click on the following link:
<http://www.afsec-africa.org/photos/afsec-workshop-jhb-28-30-aug-2012/>



Delegates at the AFSEC rural electrification workshop at House of Pharaohs in South Africa

- The IEC-AFSEC Seminar on Conformity assessment for equipment in explosive atmospheres – Abidjan, November 2012. This was a first for Africa and would not have been possible without the close collaboration of industry in Cote d'Ivoire, AFSEC and IEC.



Peter Thurnherr, Françoise Rauser and Thierry Houeix at the IEC-AFSEC Seminar

During August 2012, the AFSEC President paid a courtesy visit to the South African Bureau of standards headquarters, which is the new temporary seat for the AFSEC Secretariat, following the retirement of Paul Johnson from Eskom, South Africa in March 2012. Paul continues in the role of AFSEC Executive Secretary while now in the position of National Secretary for the South African National Committee.



M. Claude Koutoua (AFSEC President) with Thabisa Mbungwana (Senior Manager International Relations at SABS) and Paul Johnson (AFSEC Executive Secretary)

AFSEC was represented in a number of events in 2012:

- The SADCSTAN meeting – Lilongwe, Malawi March 2012, where the Executive Secretary lobbied for more SADC members to join AFSEC.
- The IEC General meeting, Oslo, Norway October 2012, which included a meeting of members of the AFSEC Executive with the new IEC General Secretary Frans Vreeswijk; also a meeting with the President and representatives of CENELEC, the European committee for electrotechnical standardization to follow up on the actions resulting from the MoU signed in 2011.



Members of the AFSEC Executive with IEC General Secretary Frans Vreeswijk



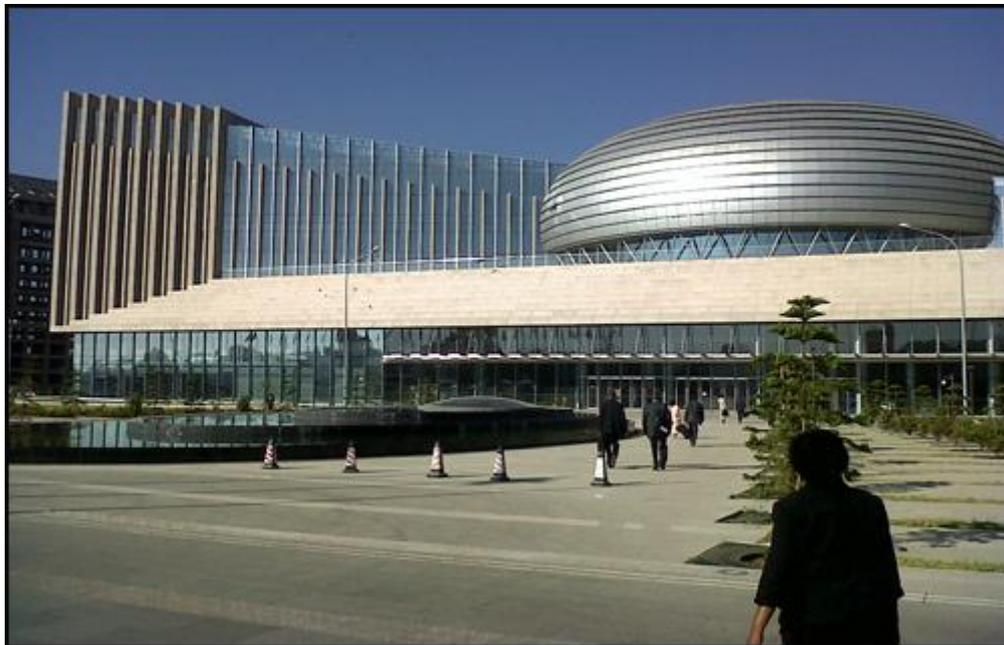
**The African Electrotechnical
Standardization Commission
Commission
Electrotechnique Africaine
de Normalisation**

Also at the IEC general meeting, AFSEC was pleased to sign a cooperation agreement with DKE, the German Commission for Electrical, Electronic & Information Technologies of DIN and VDE. It is intended that the agreement will pave the way for valuable information exchange and capacity building.



**AFSEC President M. Claude Koutoua and
Dr Bernhard Thies Chairman of the Board
of Directors of DKE**

- The Conference of African Ministers of Energy, Addis Ababa, November 2012 at the AUC Conference centre, where AFSEC shared an exhibition stand with the African Energy Commission.



The AUC Conference Centre in Addis Ababa

- An important meeting of Executive representatives of the pan-African Quality infrastructure institutions: AFRAC, AFRIMETS, AFSEC and ARSO, which was held in Addis Ababa in November 2012, with the support of PTB Germany, and NEPAD. It is intended that a multilateral MoU among these institutions will be finalized soon.



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Membership

In 2012, the national committee of the D R of Congo applied to be a member of AFSEC as did the national committee of Zambia in 2013. This will bring the number of African countries registered as statutory members via their national committees to fourteen. Congratulations to both these National Committees for taking the initiative to join AFSEC.

Events planned for 2013

For 2013, the main activity being planned is the third general assembly. It is hoped that several other African National Committees will also be able to commit to membership of AFSEC at this general assembly. AFSEC technical committees are expected to present their first recommendations for common adoption of IEC standards for approval by the AFSEC Council during this general assembly.

All AFSEC members and representatives of African countries in the IEC affiliate country programme are encouraged to participate in this important event, where key decisions will have to be made concerning the development of AFSEC. Further details to confirm the date and venue of the 2013 general assembly will be sent to members and posted on the AFSEC website in due course.

Following on the success of the training on the IECEx conformity assessment system for equipment in explosive atmospheres, AFSEC will again join with IEC to organize the first African capacity building seminar on the IECEE conformity assessment system for electronic equipment. This will take place in Kenya in August 2013.

"The French version of the AFSEC website is live"

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.
