



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

GEOHERMAL TRAINING PROGRAMME



KenGen

Kenya Electricity Generating Co., Ltd.

OPENING SPEECH

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The Deputy Director United Nations University Geothermal Training Programme,
Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I am with you here today to open this important training workshop. Let me take this opportunity to welcome and thank all the participants for having accepted to attend this training workshop on Surface Exploration of Geothermal Resources. I am told that the workshop has brought participants from Iceland, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Eritrea, Djibouti, Rwanda, Egypt, Comoros, Algeria, Yemen and Kenya.

Reliable, cost effective and affordable energy services play a crucial role in our daily lives and in contributing to the competitiveness of services and products in the international trade arena. It is therefore imperative that we prudently and efficiently exploit new and renewable sources of energy including geothermal resources, which are very abundant in our region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are all aware, geothermal is a renewable and environmentally friendly energy resource that offers enormous opportunity in provision of least cost electrical power supply and direct energy uses, through emerging cost effective and environmentally sound technologies. The Rift system in East and Central Africa has abundant geothermal energy potential capable of generating over 7000 MW. Despite all this potential being well distributed in our region, it has only been exploited in Kenya and, to a lesser degree, in Ethiopia. Kenya currently has an installed capacity of 130 MW, representing only 10% of the total installed generating capacity.

This potential can only be useful if it is exploited and developed at a pace consistent with rising demand. Exploitation, on the other hand, can only be accelerated if we have trained local experts who can handle most of the activities at various stages of development. Kenya is keen on further development of geothermal energy and has therefore taken a lot of interest in training its manpower and provision of budgetary support for geothermal resource assessment. It is further keen in sharing its expertise with other countries in the region.

This training workshop is therefore timely as it will give the participants an opportunity to know the basics of exploration methods and will serve as an important milestone. I am aware that the workshop is the second in the series of those planned for the next few years by United Nations University, Geothermal Training Programme in collaboration with UNEP and Institutions and Governments of ARGeo countries. The first training workshop was held here in Naivasha in November 2005 and was aimed at Decision makers and prime movers of the geothermal activities. Last year we had our first group of trainees.

We in Kenya are very pleased to be the host. I wish to take this opportunity to thank UNU-GTP for making it possible to hold the training here and all the trainers for their valuable contribution in preparation of the training materials and coming personally to give the lectures. I also thank the organizing committee for the good work they have done.

Finally, I would like to once again welcome you all to our beautiful country and wish you a fruitful learning experience during the training. I also wish you a safe journey back to your respective countries. For those who will be able, I invite you to take advantage of your presence here to sample our natural heritage, especially national parks and beaches.

With those few remarks, it is now my pleasure to declare this workshop officially open.