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Press Release

East African Regional Training Course on Operation and Maintenance of Small-scale Hydro Power Plants (SHPP) officially opened at the College of Engineering and Technology, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The East African Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy and Efficiency (EACREEE), in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), International Centre for Hydropower (ICH) and University of Dar es Salaam (College of Engineering and Technology) officially opened the East African Regional Training Course on Operation and Maintenance of Small-scale Hydro Power Plants (SHPP), on 26th November, 2018. The five-day regional capacity building training course is hosted by the Small Hydropower (SHP) Centre, College of Engineering & Technology COET), University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The training course aims at enhancing the competence of the specialized aspect of operation and maintenance of hydropower station including basics of the electro-mechanical equipment, upkeep, operation and maintenance during the operation of the plant.

The opening session was moderated by Dr Bakari Mwinyiwiwa – Principal College of Engineering and Technology, University of Dar es Salaam who emphasized the importance of sharing and gaining new knowledge in the energy sector.

Statement on behalf of UNIDO was delivered by Mr Victor Akim – National Expert on Energy and environment. He said that UNIDO focusses on promoting industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability. In his statement, he also expressed satisfaction with achievements registered through UNIDO support to the Centre. More notable, was the support provided to the demonstration sites which resulted in a

total of approximately 4.0MW of installed capacity and the transfer of technology for the fabrication of micro-turbines which had been demonstrated by the Centre as well as through individual entrepreneurs who had fabricated and installed various turbines ranging up to 150 KW. In his statement, he also acknowledged the close cooperation that had helped project objectives to be met successfully, on the part of the Vice President's Office-Division of Environment, the Ministry of Energy, the Rural Energy Agency (REA) and TANESCO.

Mr Fred Ishugah – Sustainable Energy Expert, EACREEE, appreciated all participants. He also appreciated the International Centre for Hydropower (ICH), UNIDO, and University of Dar es Salaam for making this training workshop a reality. He noted that the EAC region has a huge potential for small hydropower that remains untapped. "Technical and economic potential of small hydropower in the EAC region stands at 4,097 MW while only 518MW is being exploited," said Mr Ishugah. He added that small can be an important resource in trying to achieve Sustainable Development Goal seven (SDG7) addition to being climate change responsive.

Ms Carole Rosenlund – International Centre for Hydropower, Norway noted that Operation and Maintenance need to be considered at the very initial stage of development of both small and large hydropower. She appreciated the presence of a number of women participating in this workshop. "Women are key stakeholders in such workshops that have traditionally been male-dominated," said Ms Rosenlund. She expressed confidence that there is much to learn from each other's experience in addition to what will be gained from the experts.

Mr Emilian Nyanda, Energy Officer at the Ministry of Energy Tanzania in his intervention cited the efforts of the Government in the promotion of renewable energy. He thanked the organizers for this initiative of conducting this important workshop as a means to enhance the capacities of operators to be able to deliver sustainable energy services. Furthermore, he talked of the Government of Tanzania desire to see a big proportion of renewable energy in the energy mix and willingness to support investment together with the private sector and donor organizations or countries.

The workshop was officially opened by Dr Ambrose Joseph Itika – Director Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre, University of Dar es Salaam. In his speech, Dr Itika welcomed all the participants and appreciated UNIDO for continued trust in the college of Engineering and Technology through their support as a Centre for training in Small Hydropower. He further appreciated all the organizers for making this training workshop a reality. He informed the participants that it is now time to focus on delivering sustainable energy services, including exploiting huge untapped potential small hydropower has in the region. He noted that other than being clean if all environmental aspects are considered, hydropower energy is cheap as compared to generation from other sources.

The technical sessions of this training workshop will be composed of theoretical training and practical visits to small hydropower plants. Participants to the workshop include 26 small hydropower project representatives from East Africa (17 from Tanzania, 5 from Uganda, 2 from Burundi, 1 from Rwanda and 1 from Kenya).