

Press Release

Brussels, 15 June 2021

2nd Sustainable Energy Forum for East Africa to Kick-off on 22-24 June

The East African Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy and Efficiency (EACREEE) and the Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE) will be co-organising the second edition of the Sustainable Energy Forum for East Africa ([SEFEA](#)) virtually on 22 to 24 June 2021. The event is supported by GET.invest, a European programme supported by the European Union, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Austria; and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The event will be held in English and French with simultaneous translations.

With over 50 experts expected to speak and more than 800 registered participants, the event constitutes a prime opportunity for DRE businesses to showcase their solutions and find partners via the GET.invest matchmaking services.

SEFEA will also raise awareness about the progress made by East African Community (EAC) member states toward achieving sustainable energy targets set for 2030. It will also focus on achieving the vision of the EAC for a prosperous regional sustainable energy market, which is contingent upon harnessing the region's vast renewable energy and energy efficiency potentials. A particular focus will be given to the role of decentralised renewable energy (DRE) in powering the EAC region.

Throughout the three days, the event will feature presentations from public sector, corporate and civil society stakeholders, interactive topical discussions, pitches from private sector companies and start-ups offering innovative DRE solutions and business models, and virtual 1:1 meetings during the GET.invest Matchmaking taking place between 15-30 June 2021. In addition, ARE will for the first time shine a spotlight on DRE in Burundi by hosting a dedicated deep-dive workshop.

David Lecoque, CEO of ARE underlined that: *“SEFEA is part of ARE's Sustainable Energy Forum series and we are excited to be collaborating with EACREEE, GET.invest and UNIDO on the East African edition. With more than 1,000+ expected participants, state-of-the-art matchmaking facilities and 50+ key speakers, we expect this major show to further catalyse business partnerships for DRE in the East African region and help accelerate markets in line with ARE's mission.”*

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For further information or request images please contact:

Ling Ng
Director of Communications & Marketing
+32 2 400 10 00
l.ng@ruralelec.org

Note to the editor

The Alliance for Rural Electrification ([ARE](#)) is an international business association with the aim to promote a sustainable decentralised renewable energy industry for the 21st century, activating markets for affordable energy services, and creating local jobs and inclusive economies. ARE enables improved energy access through business development support for more than 175 Members along the whole value chain for off-grid technologies.

East African Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy and Efficiency ([EACREEE](#)) plays a key role in promoting renewable energies and energy efficiency in the East African Community (EAC) region. Through its activities in the areas of policy, capacity development, knowledge management, and awareness raising, as well as business and investment promotion, EACREEE aims to create an enabling environment by mitigating existing barriers and in promoting a competitive sustainable energy market, as well as economies of scale in the EAC region. EACREEE will continue to execute regional projects programmes and activities in the above areas and in addition showing leadership in the coordination and harmonization of donor activities and acting as a regional hub for the SEforALL initiative.

[GET.invest](#) is a European programme which supports investments in decentralised renewable energy. The programme targets private sector business and project developers, financiers and regulators to build sustainable energy markets in developing countries. Services include market information, a funding database, matchmaking events and access-to-finance advisory. The programme is supported by the European Union, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Austria, and works closely with initiatives and business associations in the energy sector.

[UNIDO](#) is the specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability. The mission of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), as described in the Lima Declaration adopted at the fifteenth session of the UNIDO General Conference in 2013, as well as the Abu Dhabi Declaration adopted at the eighteenth session of the UNIDO General Conference in 2019, is to promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in Member States.

