Biogas National Conference set to heat up renewable energy debate

Johannesburg, October 25, 2013 – The Department of Energy (DoE), Southern African Biogas Industry Association (SABIA) and Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) will host a National Biogas Conference from 30th – 31st October 2013 at the DBSA campus in Midrand. The conference will bring together government policy makers, local and international industry experts who will deliberate challenges in the biogas industry in South Africa.

Tremendous potential exists in advancing the use of renewable energy in South Africa with the biogas industry in a favourable position to provide energy solutions for a sector that has had challenges in South Africa in the past.

“The biogas industry has the potential to generate 2 500 megawatts of power. This unexploited renewable source of energy could complement the governments Independent Power Producer programme that is currently in place and help meet South Africa’s energy needs. More so, it could also contribute to addressing poverty alleviation; and promoting broad-based economic growth and regional economic integration.”

“The conference will highlight:

- Biogas technology and the benefits of the industry with a focus on added benefits of waste management
- The production of bio surplus thermal energy
- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and the sale of carbon credits
- Exciting prospects around job creation in manufacturing
- Green skills development and skills transfer
- Financing the biogas industry
- Supplying sustainable energy to the rural, municipal, agricultural and commercial sectors

One of the key outcomes of the conference will be the creation of the Southern African Biogas Steering Committee which will comprise key stakeholders to facilitate biogas mainstreaming that will seek to support market research and workshops and conduct case studies that showcase the benefits of biogas.

Ends.

This media Invite is issued by the Development Bank of Southern Africa and the Department of Energy.

Notes to Editors

Kindly see the attached National Biogas Conference Programme

About The Department of Energy

The Department of Energy was established in May 2009 as a result of the decision of the President to separate the Department of Mineral and Energy into two independent departments. This restructuring was informed by the increasing recognition of the importance of achieving energy security in a world dominated by varying and different interests. The aim of the Department of Energy is to formulate and execute overall policies and strategies for the implementation of overall energy policies and to ensure access to affordable and reliable energy by all South Africans and to promote environmental friendly practices.

About Southern African Biogas Industry Association

Southern African Biogas Industry Association was launched in December of 2012 as a representative body for the biogas industry in South Africa. Membership and participation in SABIA covers a wide spectrum from both the private sector, as well as organisations such as the IDD, CIR, SABEA and universities. SABIA’s basic mandate is to promote the establishment of a viable biogas industry in South Africa through educating all sectors about the benefits of biogas and what contributions a new biogas industry can make to the SA economy. SABIA will further focus on identifying barriers and opportunities and find ways to overcome and promote these.

About Development Bank of Southern Africa

The Development Bank of Southern Africa is a leading Development Finance Institution (DFI) in Africa, playing the role of an enabling partner, implementer and integrator. The Bank manages a contribution to sustainable development in the region by mobilising financial, knowledge and human resources to support Government and other development role-players in improving the quality of life of people in the region through funding infrastructure projects; accelerating the sustainable reduction of poverty and inequity; and promoting broad-based economic growth and regional economic integration.

Biogas National Conference 2013

Press release
Date: 25 October 2013
Embargo: None

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