



2nd Sub Saharan Africa Solar Summit Starts in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The 2nd Sub Saharan Africa Solar Summit has kicked off in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Department of Physics is represented by Dr. Justus Simiyu and Mr. Charles Obure in the two-day summit that is being held at Golden Tulip Hotel. The theme of the summit is to discuss the emerging technologies in renewable energy and more so emphasis on mini grids, energy storage and battery technology. This is with main focus on Sub Saharan Africa's rural communities. In his opening remarks, the summit chairman, Prof Abubakr Bahaj of University of Southampton, UK stressed the need for access to reliable energy for development. For this to be successful, one of the key issues is capacity building in the area of renewable energy (solar energy in this context). The summit has brought together entrepreneurs, funding agencies, energy regulators, education and researchers from around the world.

The summit will cover topics on initiatives and projects towards sustaining solar energy in the east African region of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia, participation of governments in promotion of vibrant, commercial and efficient solar energy industry. Other key aspects like climate change, off-grid solutions, mini grids, financing of projects will also be discussed. Not to forget challenges in large-scale energy storage in Africa, Hybrid systems will also be discussed. Notable speakers in the summit are Mr. Lee Okombe of ERC who speaks about sustainability of Solar in Kenya and Mr. Mark Hankins of Africa Solar Designs both of whom are close partners with the department in the area of capacity building.

The participation of Dr. Simiyu and Mr. Obure in the summit is definitely a boost to the department's push for capacity building in solar energy as they will definitely gather the needed knowledge on higher levels of training mainly in T3 which is being developed by the department.



Dr Simiyu during a health break out of the summit outside the hotel



Mr. Obure during a health break out of the summit outside the hotel