

Workshop Explores the Power of Water in Africa

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) and the Water Research Commission hosted a successful African Hydrology and Hydropower Training Workshop in Pretoria. The workshop investigated the use of hydropower as an alternative energy source on the African continent. To date, the African continent has used less than 10% of its potential to generate hydropower, thus signifying great potential for the future development and use of this energy source. The workshop evolved

from the need to increase the utilisation of Africa's favourable hydrology and climate to generate sustainable and reliable power on the continent. Participants deliberated a number of topical issues on the importance of hydropower amidst a global and regional move towards diversified and renewable energy technology solutions, including regional hydrology, climate change and energy security, established hydropower schemes, and potential new schemes in Africa, among others.

Left and below: Workshop participants were treated to a site visit to the new R80-million hydropower project currently under construction outside Bethlehem, in the Free State, which is expected to be commissioned before the end of the year.



Left: Workshop participants visited the Lesotho Highlands Water Project Ash River Outfall, situated 8 km outside Clarens, in the Free State. Above: Workshop participants included specialists from ten African countries, representing their respective government, and various energy sector and academic institutions.