



Minister of Energy, Alhaji Kanja Sesay Presenting a Certificate to one of the Training Beneficiaries

In line with the Government of Sierra Leone's (GoSL) vision to rapidly restore and expand power generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure to support overall economic growth, the Millennium Challenge Coordinating Unit (MCCU) has partnered with the Ministry of Energy to build the capacity of 15 staff from different entities within the sector on Power Sector Expansion Planning.

AF Mercados EMI a consultancy firm that was contracted by MCCU to support the Ministry of Energy in implementing a rational planning process and coordinate with key sector institutions to conduct critical sector planning and provide capacity building training. To this end, a three-weeks intensive training for 15 staff from the Ministry of Energy, Electricity Generation and Transmission Company, Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority and the Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission was held.

The training was aimed at building the capacities of participants in understanding

the fundamentals of electricity demand forecasting (load forecast), power flow analysis, and integrated generation and transmission expansion planning.

Speaking at the certification ceremony at the end of the training, the Chief Executive Officer of MCCU, Ndeye Fatu Koroma said the training will give an opportunity to participants to understand and plan for the future electricity demand of the country and determine what projects the Government needs to invest in so that it can address the growing electricity needs of the people.

Team Leader of AF- Mercados, Babatunde Adeyemo recommended that the Ministry consider establishing a training center for the sector as this will contribute to sustainable knowledge sharing and development.

Delivering the keynote address during the certification ceremony, the Minister of Energy, Alhaji Kanja Sesay said the availability of reliable and affordable energy is essential to development. This is why the New Direction has identified four main pillars to transform the energy sector:

- I. Improving governance at all levels of the sector by developing responsible leadership and culture;
- II. Securing a robust reform in the sector through changing how is conducted and implement project efficiently;
- III. Restoring electricity supply to all district headquarter towns by improving energy access outside of Freetown; and
- IV. Investing in low-cost renewable energy projects like solar, hydro, wind and biomass.

The Minister further stated that his Ministry is working closely with MCCU and other development partners to achieve the goals of the New Direction and the MCCU in particular; through its Threshold Program has developed a Power Sector Roadmap and Action Plan that defines the reform strategy for the sector for the next twelve years. In order to fully realize the transformation of the sector especially within the Ministry, they saw the need to establish a central planning unit that is responsible not only for the overarching supervision of the generation, transmission distribution planning but one that will also conduct monitoring and

evaluation of ongoing projects to ensure they are being implemented in accordance with stipulated guidelines, specifications and regulations. The Minister commended participants for successfully going through the three weeks intensive training exercise adding that the knowledge and insight gained during the training will go a long way to impact their institutions and the sector as a whole. The Minister concluded by assuring the trainees saying:

“We will do our best to make sure that there is continuity in developing your skills as planners because we need a sector that is well planned and efficient.”