

November 12 & 13 2020

# 13TH ANNUAL ENERGY AFRICA CONFERENCE: INVESTING IN AFRICA'S ENERGY FUTURE IN THE NEW NORMAL

[www.energyafricaconference.com](http://www.energyafricaconference.com)





# Message from the Executive Director

This year marks the 13th anniversary of the Energy Africa Conference. We are excited to reach yet another milestone and look forward to many more. The conference is held in Denver, Colorado because Colorado is one of the leading states in the nation in developing and disseminating clean energy policies and practices. We hope to share this experience with the conference participants and use it as a springboard for solutions and connecting United States and firms across the globe to the business opportunities in the African power sector. This year, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the conference will be held in a virtual format. Even more important, this year admission is free.

The purpose of the Energy African Conference, a cost recovery organization, is to connect a community of project developers, investors, policy makers, service providers and other professionals in the energy space from around the globe and Africa, to form partnerships, identify projects in Africa and collaboratively actualize them in line with the Power Africa Initiative and the United Nations Sustainability Goals, to increase access to energy and recast the lives of the citizens on the continent. Under the theme, "Investing in Africa's Energy Future in the New Normal", this year's conference will focus on investing in Africa and why you should do so. Come and hear high level decision-makers from national governments, business, academia, and civil society make the case for Africa and discuss the many business opportunities in this sector. Whether you are an investor, a project developer, an EPC, a development organization or a professional, consider investing in Africa while expanding your business.

I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the many people that have helped the conference grow over the years. I would like to thank Pius Kamau, who has been a champion of the conference and Shari Plantz-Masters, the Dean of the College of Business and Computing for supporting us.

I would also like to thank the sponsors for their generous support without which this conference would not be possible.

Sincerely,

Luka Powanga, Ph.D.

Professor, Regis University, Founder and Executive Director, Energy Africa Conference





# Day One: November 12th Schedule of Events

**Conference Begins at 8:00AM (MST)/10:00AM(EST)**

## **Welcome Remarks**

- Luka Powanga, Professor, Regis University & Founder of the Energy Africa Conference
- Shari Plant-Masters, Professor & Dean, College of Business and Computing, Regis University
- Yihemba Yikona, Energy Team, Power Africa
- Robert Stoner, Conference Chairman, Deputy Director, MIT Energy Initiative

## **Fireside Chat: Micro-grids for Energy Access: Pathways to Scale**

- Ian Baring-Gould, Technology Development Manager & Senior Engineer, National Renewable Energy Laboratories (NREL)
- Eric Lockhart, Project Leader at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
- Tim Reber, Project lead, International Program, National Renewable Energy Laboratories

## **Energy Storage: A Case Study of a Mining Company in Africa**

- Chris Joubert, Director, Africa Energy Storage Solutions

## **African Energy Access**

- Robert Stoner, Conference Chairman, Deputy Director, MIT Energy Initiative

## **Rare Earth Metals and Solar Power**

- Jerome Tinianow, Proprietor, Western Urban Sustainability Advisors







# Day One: November 12th Schedule of Events

## **Keynote: Reconstructing the Puerto Rican Electricity Grid-Lessons for Africa**

- David K. Owens, Retired Executive, Edison Electric Institute

## **Keynote: Role of the Diaspora in Increasing Energy Access**

- Africana Chihombori-Quao, CEO & Founder of Bell Family Medical Centers in the United States, and Former African Union Representative to the United States

## **Fireside Chat: Untapped Opportunities for the Cleantech and Clean Energy Sector in Africa**

- Helen El Mallakh, Executive Director, Colorado Cleantech Industries Association
- Rocio Perez, CEO, Inventiva Consulting

## **Keynote: New/Smart Cities as Catalysts for Energy Access - Unveils some of the new cities and how they increase energy access in Africa**

- Akon, Musician, Entrepreneur, Businessman & Philanthropist, Founder of Akon Lighting
- Julius Mwale, Principal, Mwale Medical and Technology City







# Day One: November 12th Schedule of Events

## Panel: Women as Facilitators of Energy Access

- **Moderator:** Amanda Fong, Private Sector Engagement Team Lead, Power Africa
- **Panelists:**
  - Filagot Tesfaye, Managing Director of ON ENERGY Consult & President of Ethiopian Women in Energy
  - Claire Nelson, USAID/Rwanda Energy Officer
  - Francine Munyaneza, Chief Executive Officer & Founder, MunyaxEco
  - Julie Ndwiga, Gender Advisor, USAID - funded East Africa Energy Program

## Panel: Closing the Gap: Ending Energy Poverty

- **Moderator:** Robert Stoner, Deputy Director, MIT Energy Initiative, Secretary, Global Commission to End Energy Poverty
- **Panelists:**
  - Ignacio J. Perez-Arriaga, Visiting Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
  - Ashvin Dayal, Senior Vice President, Power Initiatives, Rockefeller Foundation

## Panel: Resources for International Business

- **Moderator:** Paul Bergman, Director, U.S. Export Assistance Center, Denver
- **Panelists:**
  - Ashley Nadir, Foreign Commercial Service Officer, U.S. Department of Commerce
  - Patricia (Patty) Brewer, Export Finance Manager, Small Business Administration
  - Karen Gerwitz, CEO, World Trade Center, Denver





# Day Two: November 13th Schedule of Events

**Conference Begins at 8:00AM (MST)/10:00AM(EST)**

**Welcome and Keynote Address: Why Invest in Africa**

- Makhtar Diop, Vice President, Infrastructure, World Bank

**Keynote: Zambian President's Energy Vision for the Country**

- H.E. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia

**Keynote: Energy Regulation in Zambia and Business Opportunities**

The presentation focuses on the Energy Regulation Act of 2019 which allowed Independent Power Producers to enter the Zambian energy sector to increase energy access.

- Hon. Matthews, Nkhuwa, Minister of Energy, Zambia
- Luka Powanga, Professor, Regis University and Founder, Energy Africa Conference

**Keynote: Business Opportunities in the Zambian Energy Sector**

- H.E. Lazarous Kapambwe, Zambian Ambassador to the United States

**Keynote: Business Opportunities in Ghana**

- Hon. Joseph Cudjoe, Deputy Minister of Energy, Finance and Infrastructure, Republic of Ghana







# Day Two: November 13th Schedule of Events

## Losing Energy Amidst Shortage: What Drives the Electricity Losses in Ghana

- Paul Adjei Kwakwa, Senior Lecturer, Presbyterian University College, Ghana

## Keynote: The Case for Investing in Africa

- Salma Okonkwo, Founder, Blue Power

## Panel: Investing in Africa

Discusses investing and deploying energy projects in Africa, and how to navigate around the hurdles including COVID-19.

- **Moderator:**
  - David K. Owens, Retired Executive, Edison Electric Institute
- **Panelists**
  - Peter Oldacre, Head of Origination and Investments, Bushveld Energy
  - Chalker Kansteiner, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, GridX Africa
  - Frank Spencer, Chief Operating Officer, Mettle Solar
  - Taolo Modisi, Chief Executive Officer, Alpha Reign





# Day Two: November 13th Schedule of Events

## **Keynote: Project Risk Assessment**

- Bhavtik Vallabhjee, Head, Power Utilities & Infrastructure, ABSA

## **Keynote: Zambian Business Landscape: Focus on the Energy Sector**

- Dr. Nevers Mumba, Former Vice President of Zambia

## **Operating in Africa: Voice of Experience**

- Valerie Levkov, Vice President Middle East and Africa, Electricité de France

## **Wrap Up and Ending Remarks**

- Patrice Barber, Chief Executive Officer, Career ConX







# Speaker Bios



## Akon Musician, Entrepreneur, Businessman & Philanthropist

Akon is a musician, entrepreneur, businessman and philanthropist. He came into prominence after the release of his song 'Locked Up' from his debut album 'Trouble.'. Born in an African musicians' family, he has always been grateful to his family's musical background as it paved the way for his success in the American music industry. His big break came soon after forming a friendship and mentorship with music mogul Devyne Stephens, who helmed the careers of Usher and Alicia Keys. Later, Akon started his own label, Kon Live Distribution, under Interscope Records. Akon has collaborated with Eminem, Snoop Dog and lady Gaga. He has also earned Grammy nominations for Best Rap/Sung Collaboration. He cowrote the Lady Gaga hit "Just Dance," which earned a Grammy nomination for Best Dance Recording, and following the death of close friend Michael Jackson, he released their duet "Hold My Hand." He also collaborated with house music icon David Guetta.

Apart from his music success, Akon has several projects and charities in Africa. He founded Akon Lighting Africa, a solar power initiative that provides electricity in 14 African countries, and he established the Konfidence Foundation to support underprivileged Senegalese children. He also owns a conflict-free diamond mine in South Africa. His latest initiative is the Akon city to be built in Senegal.





# Speaker Bios



## Ignacio J. Perez-Arriaga Visint Professor Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Ignacio J. Perez-Arriaga is a visiting professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology since 2008. He is the professor and director of the BP Chair on Sustainable Development at Comillas University as well as the director of Energy Training at the Florence School of Regulation. Dr. Perez-Arriaga is the Principal Investigator for the Utility of the Future study published by the MIT Energy Initiative.

Dr. Perez-Arriaga served for five years as commissioner at the Spanish Electricity Regulatory Commission and was the independent member of the Single Electricity Market Committee of Ireland. He was also a member of the Board of Appeal of the Agency for the Coordination of Energy Regulators in the EU.







# Speaker Bios



## Patrice Barber Chief Executive Officer Career Con-X

Patrice Barber, is a recovering engineer, digital marketing tech leader, serial entrepreneur and international speaker. She is Founder/ CEO of Career Con-X, a SaaS Personal Branding Platform that connects business leaders to their Top 100 influencers for mission driven opportunities taking 87% of executives from "looking" to "landed" in under 90 days. Career Con-X platform provides a contact management app, online accelerator program and personal branding services to build a powerful sphere of influence with 20-50% more engagement in 15 minutes a day, attracting hidden opportunities, Starting and scaling new business ventures driven by personal brand. Patrice has been featured in CoBiz Magazine, Denver Business Journal, Denver Post. Prospector, KNUS radio, is a frequent speaker at international entrepreneurial events, and guest lecturer at University of Denver and Regis University's MBA programs. Over 25 years' experience in both corporate leadership for teams from 3 to 300 and building multiple startups with clients spanning five countries. Successfully sold three firms with one generating over \$5M in gross revenue in 18 months. Her high-energy, actionable presentations bring audiences to action. Over 25 years' experience in both corporate leadership for teams from 3 to 300 and building multiple startups with clients spanning five countries. Successfully sold three firms with one generating over \$5M in gross revenue in 18 months. Keynote presenter, frequently sharing proven strategies and cutting edge tactics for digital marketing, CRM implementations, entrepreneurship, and personal branding with people all over the world. Board Chair for TIE Denver, Pitch coach and mentor for TechStars, Rockies Venture Club, State Director Clean Tech Open, guest lecturer at Regis and Denver University's MBA programs. Developed the entrepreneurship program in 2008 selected by the U.S. government for the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) for veterans transitioning into the civilian work force. Fun facts, Patrice has climbed 10 of the 14,000 ft mountains in Colorado, grew up in 7 different countries, Conversationally speaks 5 languages, enjoys single track biking and exotic beaches with scuba sites nearby to toast the sunset with family and friends.





# Speaker Bios



## Paul Berman Director U.S. Export Assistance Center, Denver

Paul is the Director of the U. S. Export Assistance Center in Denver. He has worked for the U.S. Departments of State and Commerce for more than 43 years. Paul served as the first U.S. Foreign Commercial Service Officer of the U. S. Department of Commerce in Bucharest, and returned to Romania during the summer of 2001 in the role of Acting Senior Commercial Officer. Paul has worked in and visited over thirty-five countries, including acting as the Senior Commercial Officer in Tel Aviv, Israel in the summer of 2006 and a recent tour as the Acting Commercial Counselor in Lagos, Nigeria.

Paul currently serves on the World Trade Center Denver Board and its Executive Committee, has served two terms on the Advisory Board for the State of Colorado on International Trade, and has completed three terms as President of the International Trade Association of Colorado. Consequently, Paul has received an award for "Outstanding Service to the Community" from the International Trade Association of Colorado and was given a lifetime membership to the Association. He also has served on the Board of Advisors for the Denver Foreign Trade Zone and on the Governor of Colorado's Task Force on Latin America.

A 1971 graduate of Regis College in Denver, Paul received a Master's Degree in International Management from Thunderbird Graduate School of International Management in Phoenix, Arizona in 1973, and has completed post graduate doctorate studies at the University of Denver. Paul's interest in education led him to serve as an adjunct professor at several Colorado universities and his love of basketball has resulted in coaching positions at local high schools.







# Speaker Bios



## Patricia (Patty) Brewer Export Finance Manager Small Business Administration

Paul is the Director of the U. S. Export Assistance Center in Denver. He has worked for the U.S. Departments of State and Commerce for more than 43 years. Paul served as the first U.S. Foreign Commercial Service Officer of the U. S. Department of Commerce in Bucharest, and returned to Romania during the summer of 2001 in the role of Acting Senior Commercial Officer. Paul has worked in and visited over thirty-five countries, including acting as the Senior Commercial Officer in Tel Aviv, Israel in the summer of 2006 and a recent tour as the Acting Commercial Counselor in Lagos, Nigeria.

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# Speaker Bios



## Hon. Joseph Cudjoe Deputy Minister of Energy, Finance and Infrastructure

Hon Cudjoe was the Investment Manager of Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) for eight and a half years. Before joining COCOBOD, Hon Joseph Cudjoe worked as a Senior Consultant with SEM International Associates.

Earlier he had worked as the Financial Analysis and Planning Manager at the Ghana branch office of ENO International, LLC, (a U.S based finance, investments and pre-financed procurements company) where he gained hands-on experience in reviewing of business plans, development of new businesses, financial planning and analysis, investment appraisals, modelling of financial decisions, credit and credit risk management, and financial projections. Hon. Cudjoe, has to his credit, the development of the pricing formula for the Government of Ghana Index Linked Bonds (GGILBs) during the government's domestic debt restructuring in 2001 when N.P.P came into power to meet excessive debt level.

From 2003 until he veered into politics, Hon Cudjoe was an instructor at the Ghana Stock Exchange and delivered training in corporate finance and investment analysis. His professional experience spans industrial training, financial investment management consultancy, and data analysis, an experience that he built through the lecturing of Financial and Investment Management, Quantitative Techniques, Statistics, and Production and Operations Management.

Hon. Cudjoe holds BSc. Mathematics and MBA Finance degrees from University of Science and Technology, and the University of Ghana respectively, after pursuing his secondary education at Fijai Secondary School.







# Speaker Bios



## Ashvin Dayal Senior Vice President, Power Initiative, Rockefeller Foundation

Ashvin Dayal leads The Rockefeller Foundation's global power initiative aimed at scaling up energy access in order to drive economic and social development. He has overseen the Foundation's pioneering investments in the renewable energy mini-grid space in India and the establishment of Smart Power India, a dedicated platform to support the acceleration of last-mile electrification. He is now building out a portfolio in sub-Saharan Africa where the Foundation will support innovative models to integrate grid and off-grid solutions in order to accelerate the pace and reduce the cost of electrification. As one of the Foundation's long-term priorities, Ashvin is responsible for shaping its global power investments with an ambitious goal of ending energy poverty and improving the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people over the next decade.

Mr. Dayal joined the Rockefeller Foundation in 2008 as its Asia Managing Director, running the Foundation's regional office in Bangkok, Thailand. From there he led the Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network, a major nine-year partnership that equipped over 50 Asian cities to better cope with climate change impacts. He also oversaw the Foundation's global Inclusive Economies portfolio, a policy and research effort to advance development and impact investments that drive more broadly shared prosperity. Before joining the Foundation, he held a range of senior leadership roles over 15 years with Oxfam in Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. This included leading its largest-ever relief and recovery effort in the aftermath of the 2004 Asian Tsunami, and overseeing the creation of Oxfam India. Ashvin holds a bachelor's degree from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, and a master's degree from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins.





# Speaker Bios



## Makhtar Diop Vice President, Infrastructure The World Bank

Ashvin Dayal leads The Rockefeller Foundation's global power initiative aimed at scaling up energy access in order to drive economic and social development. He has overseen the Foundation's pioneering investments in the renewable energy mini-grid space in India and the establishment of Smart Power India, a dedicated platform to support the acceleration of last-mile electrification. He is now building out a portfolio in sub-Saharan Africa where the Foundation will support innovative models to integrate grid and off-grid solutions in order to accelerate the pace and reduce the cost of electrification. As one of the Foundation's long-term priorities, Ashvin is responsible for shaping its global power investments with an ambitious goal of ending energy poverty and improving the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people over the next decade.

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# Speaker Bios



## Karen Gerwitz CEO and President World Trade Center Denver

Karen Gerwitz joined the World Trade Center Denver in August 2010. She brings 25 years' experience in international business and communications to the organization. Ms. Gerwitz recently served as Director of Communications for the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies and Director of Board Relations for the State Board of Education. She was also Manager of Communications for Raytheon in Aurora. Her international experience includes Chief of Protocol for the Colorado International Trade Office, where she planned the official visits of the Emperor and Empress of Japan, the G8 Summit, the Western Hemisphere Ministerial Summit, and hundreds of other delegations. Other international experience includes: Information Office for a science institute in Vienna, Austria; Operations Manager for a sawmill in Ghana, West Africa; Business Development Director for Attache International Marketing; and International Marketing Specialist for UNISYS. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in International Business and her Masters of Public Administration from the University of Colorado. She lives in North City Park with her husband, Elie, and serves on several community boards.





# Speaker Bios



## Chris Joubert Director Africa Energy Storage Solutions

Chris served as Senior Test Engineer with the Datsun-Nissan factory in South Africa and then moved on to Somchem as a Senior Quality Engineer involved in quality planning and testing of explosives and propellants. This was followed by a period of lecturing at tertiary level in Statistics, Work Study and Programming and subsequently as Head of Development, Production and Marketing of educational software with a leading educational publisher. He subsequently returned to Somchem to specialize in statistical modelling and optimization of chemical processes. This was followed by a five-year period in the design, manufacturing, and marketing of agricultural vehicles before joining Dimension Data as a business analyst and business consultant in the customer service industry. In this role, he specialized in strategic planning and Customer Experience, consulting in the USA, Europe, Australia, and South Africa. After 17 years, Chris retired from Dimension Data and established Joubert Konsult, subsequently setting up Africa Energy Storage Solutions (AESS) with engineering partners Francois Visagie and Wessie van der Westhuizen to follow his passion for renewable energy and the development of the people of Africa.

At AESS, the focus is on clean, long-duration energy storage solutions that are safe and contain no toxic elements while offering ease of operation and maintenance under African conditions. Chris earned his Nat. Dipl. (Mechanical Engineering) – Pretoria College for Advanced Technical Training, Certified Quality Engineer – American Society for Quality Control, B.Sc. (Statistics, Operations Research) – Unisa, and Certificates from University of Stellenbosch Business School and University of Witwatersrand Business School.







# Speaker Bios



## H.E. Lazarous Kapambwe Ambassador to the U.S. Republic of Zambia

Mr. Lazarous Kapambwe is the 17th Ambassador of the Republic of Zambia to the United States of America since January, 2020. He is also concurrently accredited, on a non-residential basis, to Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama. Before taking up this appointment, Mr. Kapambwe served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations in New York from 18 June 2007 to 31st December 2019.

His Excellency Lazarous Kapambwe was elected sixty-seventh President of the Economic and Social Council on 18 January 2011. Mr. Kapambwe served as co-facilitator of the Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Working Group of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis in 2009-2010.

Prior to the United Nations, he served as Zambia's Ambassador to Ethiopia and the African Union, from June 2003 to June 2007. He was concurrently accredited as Ambassador of Zambia to Sudan, Yemen, Djibouti and Somalia. Before holding that post, he was Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs from 2002 to 2003, after serving as Deputy Permanent Secretary responsible for Asia, Africa and the Middle East from 2000 to 2002. He was the Director for Africa and Organization of African Unity Affairs from 1996 to 2000, after two months as Director for European Affairs from June to August 1996.

Mr. Kapambwe also held posts in Europe and the United States, as Counsellor and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Zambian Embassies in Bonn, Germany, from 1993 to 1996, and in Washington, D.C., from 1988 to 1993. He was Counsellor for Political Affairs at the Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations from 1987 to 1988. Prior to bilateral and multilateral postings, Mr. Kapambwe held several posts in Government. During his career, Mr. Kapambwe represented Zambia in major multilateral and regional meetings of the United Nations, Organization of African Unity, African Union, Southern African Development Community (SADC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Great Lakes region and the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD).





# Speaker Bios



## Chalker Kansteiner Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer GridX Africa

Chalker Co-Founded GridX in order to focus on servicing the power demand of commercial and industrial power consumers across Africa and to update the conventional utility-scale approach to power development in Africa. Chalker has led successful fundraising and project development processes from inception through to closure. Chalker is an American national that has spent several years living and working in Africa, successfully developing renewable power projects in Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique. Chalker's background bridges the gap between global capital market investment appetite into African energy and operating on the ground to develop bankable power projects to financial close.

Chalker previously worked for Blackstone's large-scale African energy project developer, Black Rhino.







# Speaker Bios



## Paul Adjei Kwakwa Senior Lecturer Presbyterian University College, Ghana

Paul Adjei Kwakwa is a Senior Lecturer with Presbyterian University College, Ghana where he handles economics and economics-related subjects. The passionate drive he has for seeing massive economic transformation on the African continent urges him to research on economic growth, economic development, health, energy, environmental and resource economic issues on African countries.

Paul has contributed many articles for publication in renowned energy and environment economics journals including Journal of Energy and Development, OPEC Energy Review, The International Journal of Energy Economics and Policy, The Journal of Rural and Industrial Development, Renewable and Sustainable Energy Review and Journal of environmental Management. He holds a PhD in Economics degree from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana and MPhil and BA in Economics from the University of Ghana.

He is a member of the African Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, an international scientific association whose main purpose is to promote research, capacity building, collaboration, information sharing, advocacy, visibility and impact of environmental and natural resource economics.





# Speaker Bios



## Valerie Levkov Senior Vice President Africa and Middle East Electricité de France

Valérie Levkov holds Master degrees in Engineering and Business Management. She began her professional career with EDF in 1987. She started her career in the R&D Division, where she held several positions, from researcher and project manager to head of a division of 150 engineers, all dedicated to the introduction of new IT technologies in power plants. From 2001 to 2005 she worked in the Purchasing Division, and was in charge of the first cost reduction program within EDF Group. In 2005 she became the executive assistant to the Group CFO before becoming in 2008 head of Internal Communications for the EDF Group. In May 2009, she was appointed Vice President in charge of the development of new nuclear projects worldwide. In July 2015, she became the Senior Vice President Africa & Middle East. From June 2018 she is Senior Vice President Africa, Middle East, Turkey and Balkans.







# Speaker Bios



## Eric Lockhart Leader, Off-Grid Microgrid National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

Eric Lockhart is a project leader at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). He leads off-grid micro-grid research and technical assistance efforts, with topics including approaches to system design, community agreements, and pathways to developing sustainable business models. Eric is also the principal investigator for the Solar Energy Innovation Network (SEIN), which is a project focused on novel applications of solar and storage in domestic settings. His work through SEIN includes projects focused on resilience benefits that micro-grids can provide and potential synergies between distributed solar and electric vehicle charging. He has an MBA, MA in Global Affairs, and BA in Economics from Yale University.





# Speaker Bios



## H.E. Edgar Chagwa Lungu President of the Republic of Zambia

H.E Edgar Chagwa Lungu became the 6th President of the Republic of Zambia on January 25, 2015. Prior to becoming President, he served in various private and public sector positions including Minister of Justice and Minister of Defense.







# Speaker Bios



## Helen El Mallakh Executive Director Colorado Cleantech Industries Association

As CCIA's new Executive Director, Helen comes to this role with extensive non-profit management experience and expertise in global sustainability issues, energy cleantech, natural resource management, and stakeholder engagement. She has served as the Managing Director of a Colorado-based research and sustainable development non-profit (International Research Center for Energy and Economic Development) and Managing Editor of The Journal of Energy and Development. Much of Helen's research has centered on the linkages between environment and economic development in Africa. She has previously worked for Shell, ConocoPhillips, and Saudi Aramco.





# Speaker Bios



## Shari Plantz-Masters Dean Regis University, College of Business & Computing

Dr. Shari Plantz-Masters, Academic Dean of the Anderson College of Business and Computing at Regis University in Denver has broad experience in industry and academia. Dr. Plantz-Masters worked at the Research and Development Labs of U S WEST where she directed engineering teams that designed and deployed network-based products including Voice Messaging, and Internet based product including early Business Video Network Applications such as Video Conferencing and Switched Video services. Before taking on the role of Vice President of Network Planning with the responsibilities for the U S WEST Public Switched Network, Dr. Plantz-Masters led the marketing team that developed conferencing services for U S WEST.

Prior to joining the Regis University faculty, Dr. Plantz-Masters ran a management consulting firm in which she provided project management leadership for Software Development organizations. She was appointed the founding Academic Dean of the College of Computer & Information Sciences in May 2015. Her research interests focus on the impact of technology on people, organizations and societies. She spearheaded the creation of the Center of Common Good Computing that brings together industry, government, and academia to focus on closing the tech talent gap in the industry and on applying tech for the betterment of society.

Shari holds a bachelor of arts in economics and political science and masters in telecommunications from the University of Colorado and Ph.D in Educational technology from the University of Northern Colorado.







# Speaker Bios



## Taolo Modisi Investor/Founder Alpha Reign

Taolo Modisi is an Investor and the founder of Alpha Reign, a capital markets advisory and investment firm. Prior to founding Alpha Reign, Taolo headed up Debt Capital Markets for Southern & Central Africa in Standard Bank South Africa, which included eleven different countries across Sub-Saharan Africa. Taolo also worked for Investec Bank South Africa as a Senior Consultant in the Africa Finance team covering Sub-Saharan Africa. Taolo has significant experience in Debt Capital Markets, Lending and Investment Banking. She has placed USD billions of issues and advised various Sovereigns, Multinationals, State Owned Entities, Banks, and Corporates. Her transactions have received awards from the likes of EMEA Finance Magazine, The Credit Magazine and The Banker.

Taolo has originated several firsts in various countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. She originated the first commodity-linked note in Africa (ex South Africa), the first issues for government, corporate and commercial paper in several countries across Sub-Saharan Africa..

Taolo's successes in Investment Banking Africa reign from her passion in developing the Capital Markets across the continent.





# Speaker Bios



## Nevers S. Mumba Former Vice President Republic of Zambia

Dr. Nevers Mumba, a philanthropist, diplomat and pastor, served as Vice-President of Zambia from 2003-2004 under President Levy Mwanawasa. He also founded evangelistic campaigns and ministries and once served as pastor of the Victory Bible Church. He was Zambia's High Commissioner to Canada from 2009 until 2011. He founded evangelistic promotions and ministries and offered as pastor from the Success Bible Cathedral. He was elected Leader of the Motion for Multiparty Democracy in 2012. Dr. Nevers Mumba studied theology in the United States and for close to two decades he has pulled in huge crowds, preaching with eloquence a message of hope and dignity through Christ.







# Speaker Bios



## Julius Mwale Principal Mwale Medical and Technology City

Mr. Julius Mwale is a successful industrial entrepreneur and investor with more than 20 years of proven track record in innovative investments in Technology, Energy, Health, retail and construction industries. Mr. Mwale is currently the principal of the US \$2 billion Mwale Medical and Technology City (MMTC) based in Western Kenya where he was the lead investor. The City is built on 100% green concept and started construction in 2014 with 80% complete as of August 2019 and expected to be fully completed by December 2020.

Prior to that in early 2000s Mr. Mwale Founded and was the Chairman and President of SBA Technologies Inc. A New York based biometric company that pioneered string based biometric security technology that revolutionized the biometric industry worldwide.

Mr. Mwale's education background is in Telecommunications engineering and sits on the boards mostly as chairman of more than 10 companies in Technology, retail, pharmaceutical, Health, Construction, Hospitality, Human resources, Energy and Engineering industries.

Since 2007 Mr. Mwale has been the Chairman of the American Institute for African Development Based in New York which works to promote good governance, universal healthcare and education access in 54 countries in Africa. It further promotes sustainable development in both rural and urban communities around the continent. Mr. Mwale is married to Kaila and they are blessed with three boys and two girls.





# Speaker Bios



## Ashley Nadir Foreign Commercial Service Officer U.S. Department of Commerce

Ashley Nadir recently joined the U.S. Department of Commerce as a Foreign Commercial Service Officer where she will serve her domestic assignment with the Denver U.S. Export Assistance Center. Ashley joins the team after having worked as the Deputy Program Director for the U.S. Energy Association (USEA) where she worked on Power Africa partnerships funded through USAID. Prior to her position with USEA, Ashley had the opportunity to work with the USAID mission in Ethiopia on the Private Sector Engagement team and Power Africa.

Ashley possesses a wealth of international experience having lived or worked for over a decade in sub-Saharan Africa as well as the Eastern Mediterranean. She served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Cameroon (09-11) and holds a Master's degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Global Human Development and a bachelor's degree from The Colorado College in Economics and Business.







# Speaker Bios



## Julie Ndwiga Gender Advisor USAID - funded East Africa Energy Program

Julie Ndwiga has 10 years of experience in gender mainstreaming. In her current role as a gender advisor in RTI's Energy program, she provides gender advice for the East Africa Energy Program. Prior to joining RTI International, Ms. Ndwiga worked with Alliance for a Green Revolution, a Pan African Organization, as the gender coordinator responsible for developing gender plans for new programs, supporting development of proposals, and training partners and grantees on gender. Ms. Ndwiga has supported gender mainstreaming efforts for a few other multilateral organizations, including United Nations Women, United Nations Development Program, and the World Food Program..





# Speaker Bios



Honorable Matthew  
Nkhuwa  
Minister of Energy  
Republic of Zambia

Honorable Matthew Nkhuwa was appointed Minister of Energy by President Edgar Lungu of the Republic of Zambia. Prior to his becoming Minister of Energy, he served as Minister of Works and Supply. Honorable Matthew Nkhuwa is also a Member of Parliament for Chingola on the Copperbelt. In that capacity he has served on various parliamentary committees including the committee on legal affairs, Human Rights, National Guidance, Gender and Governance.







# Speaker Bios



## Francine Munyaneza Chief Executive Officer and Founder MunyaxEco

Francine is the founder and CEO of MunyaxEco, a company that provides various off-grid solar products and mini-grids. Prior to moving back to Rwanda, her home country, Francine spent 20 years working internationally, including 11 years at ICRC managing projects. Francine has a master's degree in business administration and finance from Louvain University in Belgium.





# Speaker Bios



## Salma Okonkwo Founder Blue Power Energy

Salma Okonkwo is the founder of Blue Power Energy, an alternative energy conglomerate developing a \$200m solar farm project in Northern Ghana. Blue Power has installed 40MW of solar capacity and manages a utility-scale solar energy project in Bolgatanga, Ghana.

Prior to Blue Power, Salma built UBI Group, a billion-dollar conglomerate in Ghana's downstream oil and gas downstream sector. UBI Group is the only Ghanaian company to date to fully integrate its operations across the value chain of the downstream petroleum sector. Salma is currently the Managing Director of UBI Petroleum; Founder and Chairwoman of Puma Energy Ghana; Founder and Board Member of Blue Star Exploration; and Ghana Country Director for Sahara Energy.

Outside of her work in energy, Salma runs Mother's Heart Foundation, a charitable organization that provides accommodation, clothing, food, healthcare, and education for its beneficiaries.







# Speaker Bios



## Peter Oldacre Head of Origination and Investment Bushveld Energy

Peter is a Professionally qualified individual having worked in the sustainability and climate change sector for Deloitte, and over the last 15 years having worked in emerging markets for an independent power producer in wind and solar. In this role Peter worked across India, SE Asia, and Africa with notable experience in the development and management of investment into both small- and large-scale clean and renewable energy projects.

Peter's current experience is as the Head of Origination and Investment for a London listed vanadium business whose strategy has been focused on the forward vertical integration of the value chain, and the development of the supply chain to include the investment into vanadium redox flow battery projects. The strategy has been to bring battery energy storage to a commercial level focusing on investment into hybrid mini and micro grids across emerging markets.

Peter is experienced and professionally qualified in the private equity environment as a financial modeler and valuations analyst. He holds a Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst qualification, with experience supplementing these qualifications having spent a decade as a hedge fund manager managing and valuing exchange-based commodities and financial instruments.

Peter has complimentary degrees in Science and in Economics and Complex Systems Theory and holds an MBA from Henley Business School in the United Kingdom.





# Speaker Bios



## David K. Owens Retired Executive Vice President Edison Electric Institute, President of Da'Vas LLC.

David K. Owens is an accomplished executive with extensive experience in public policies surrounding utility operations, strategic planning, technology development, rate making and regulation.

He is recognized as one of the foremost authorities on electric utility issues, industry restructuring and transformation. His experience in the electricity sector includes leading the Edison Electric Institute's (EEI's) efforts over a broad set of issues that affect the future structure of the electric industry, and new rules in evolving competitive markets.

He was responsible over the strategic areas of energy supply and finance, environment, energy delivery, energy services, state regulatory issues, and international affairs. He also spearheaded efforts to enhance the public policy climate for investments in America's electric infrastructure with emphasis on the role of new electrification technologies to address climate change, and to enhance energy efficiency through smart buildings, smart appliances, smart meters, and smart electric grids.

Mr. Owens retired from EEI in June 2017 with four decades of utility experience. He remains an advisor to EEI and serves on the Board of Xcel Energy. He also chairs the Transformation Advisory Council providing insights in the new design of the Puerto Rico electric systems.







# Speaker Bios



## Rocio Perez Principal Inventiva Consulting LLC.

Rocío Pérez is the Principal of Inventiva Consulting, LLC. Ms. Pérez is an expert with more than 20 years in developing talent and energizing teams, designing and executing business & marketing strategies. Ms. Pérez helps companies design a strategic and profitable future by saving them time, energy and money while increasing their productivity and profits. She is the former President and CEO, Definitive Marketing, LLC, a multicultural marketing consulting firm.

Ms. Pérez's core competency and experience includes:

- Guiding leaders through change management process
- Coaching leaders and individuals with their professional development needs
- Assessing organizational needs and implementing innovative solutions
- Creating strategic and congruent marketing strategies

Ms. Pérez holds the following degrees: a B.S. in International Business (University of Colorado), a Dual MBA in International Business and Marketing (Regis University), and a Certificate in International Entrepreneurship (University of Colorado).





# Speaker Bios



## Luka Powanga Professor Regis University, Anderson College of Business and Computing

Dr. Luka Powanga is a professor of Economics in the Anderson College of Business and Computing at Regis University. He is the co-founder of the Energy Africa Conference (<http://energyafricaconference.com>) to help Africa meet its Energy Demand. He is also the founding member of the Denver Chapter of the Angel capital Group (<https://theangelcapitalgroup.com>) in addition to the Powanga Group (<http://thepowangagroup.com>), focused on connecting US investors to Projects in Africa. He is also, the cofounder of the Africa Healthcare Group focused on improving the quality and access to healthcare in Africa. He worked in the mining and telecommunications industry at local and international levels. He taught at Colorado School of Mines before transitioning to Regis University. He consults in economic development, mining, energy, international business management, healthcare and education. He has spoken at many business forums.

Dr. Powanga, holds a BSC degree in Metallurgy and Mineral Processing from the University of Zambia, Masters and PhD degrees in Mineral Economics from Colorado School of Mines USA, with a minor in Finance from Denver University. He also holds a Masters degree in Computer Information Technology (MSCIT) and Graduate Certificate in Object Oriented Programming from Regis University.







# Speaker Bios



## Arikana Chihombori Quao Chief Executive Officer & Founder Bell Family Medical Centers

Arikana Chihombori-Quao is a medical doctor and activist. She is a public speaker, educator, diplomat, founder of medical clinics, and an entrepreneur. She moved to the United States after living many years in Zimbabwe. She is the CEO and founder of Bell Family Medical Centers in the United States.

She was appointed the African Union representative to the United States in 2017, a position she left two years

later. She holds a bachelor's degree in General Chemistry, a master's degree in organic chemistry, and a Doctor of Medicine degree. Chihombori was a family medicine specialist in Tennessee. She practiced medicine for 29 years in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Chihombori is outspoken about the implications of the Berlin Conference that took place in Berlin, Germany, in 1885. She lectures about the outcome of the divisions on the continent of Africa that were made. She sees these divisions as a cause of some of Africa's problems that are still in effect today. She seeks to reunite African states, and Africans in the Diaspora.





# Speaker Bios



## Tim Reber Project Lead, International Programs National Renewable Energy Laboratories

Tim Reber is a Project Lead for International Programs at the U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory. He leads a diverse portfolio aimed at accelerating deployment of renewable energy and increasing access to reliable, clean and affordable electricity with partners around the world, with a primary focus in sub-Saharan Africa. His responsibilities include leading technical assistance, capacity building and knowledge-sharing for minigrids and off-grid energy access in collaboration with the Africa LEDS Partnership and Power Africa, supporting implementation of Low-Emission Development Strategies under the LEDS Global Partnership, and leading several bilateral clean power initiatives in support of the USAID-NREL Partnership, CIFF and other clients. His work touches a variety of topics including power sector transformation and reform, minigrid scale-up approaches, LEDS planning and implementation, variable renewable energy integration, and related policy and institutional issues. He has worked with countries around the world, including South Africa, Ghana, Kenya, Indonesia, Haiti and elsewhere. Prior to joining NREL, Tim worked as a community energy consultant in Karnataka, India, supporting small-scale clean energy technologies and micro-finance for small farmers. He holds a master's degree in sustainable energy and earth science from Cornell University.







# Speaker Bios



Frank Spencer  
Chief Operating Officer  
Mettle Solar

Frank Spencer is a well known Renewable Energy personality in the Southern African Solar PV Space. He currently is the Chief Operations Officer of Mettle Solar (a subsidiary of the CDC Group), a pan-African Commercial & Industrial Solar PV funding and EPC company, where he also heads up Business Development for the company. He has a Master's Engineering degree in Electrical Engineering as well as a Philosophy degree in Sustainable development. He is passionate about addressing the multi-faceted challenges of Climate Change, Rural Electrification and Poverty in Africa. He built his first solar project while still at school, and his first commercial grid-tied solar project in 2002. Since then, he has been active across all aspects of Solar projects, from manufacturing, to project EPC, to finance and business development.





# Speaker Bios



## Robert Stoner Deputy Director of MIT Energy Initiative/Executive Director of MIT-Tsinghua - Cambridge Low Carbon Energy University Alliance

After earning his Ph.D. in condensed matter physics at Brown University in 1992, Dr. Stoner joined the Microprocessor Development Group at Intel Corporation. In 1995, he formed Cooper Mountain Corporation, which developed the first commercial instruments to incorporate ultrafast pulsed lasers. These instruments, based on the picosecond ultrasonic method which he co-invented, are now extensively used to characterize computer chips during production. He subsequently founded Vinestone Corporation, a UK-based peer-to-peer database and workflow software developer. Dr. Stoner later held a number of senior executive positions and served as Chairman of the Technical Advisory Board at Zygo Corporation, a developer of precision optical systems and instruments for the global consumer electronics, aerospace and semiconductor industries.

Dr. Stoner received a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering Physics from Queen's University, Canada. He was a National Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada Scholar, and holds US patents in the fields of semiconductor devices, optical measurement and imaging systems, optical devices, network computing, and acoustics. His current technical interests include high resolution imaging techniques, distributed computing, and energy distribution and storage technology and policy for developing countries.







# Speaker Bios



## Filagot Tesfaye Managing Director ON Energy Consult

Filagot Tesfaye is an energy consultant with a strong engineering and leadership background. With 13 years engagement in the business, she has diverse experience in the construction, manufacturing, energy, and consultancy sectors in Ethiopia. Filagot is a founder and managing director of ON ENERGY Consult which is a local business engaged in electrical engineering and energy consulting services. As a licensed engineer, Filagot has a profound technical experience in the electricity sector and renewable energy projects including hydropower, wind, and solar energy. Besides, Filagot has a particular interest in solar energy and has conducted various researches for her clients.

Filagot is a founder and the current president of Ethiopian women in Energy (EWiEn) where she regularly advocates the role of women in the energy industry. She speaks on various national and international events and highlights the importance of gender diversity in the energy sector as women are major energy users of the community. Driven by passion, Filagot is engaged in mentoring young girls who enter into the energy sector and in teaching renewable energy and energy conservation issues for diverse groups of her community. Filagot also contributes articles to the sector. On top of that,

Filagot has been selected by various prestigious programs. She was named as a winner in the Women4Climate Mentorship Program of C40 cities. Filagot is also a 2019 Mandela Washington Fellow, 2019 Open Africa Power alumni, 2018 Women in African power, and a mentor at GWNET and Meri program.





# Speaker Bios



## Jerry Tinianow Proprietor Western Urban Sustainability

Jerry Tinianow is the proprietor of Western Urban Sustainability Advisors, LLC. WestUrb assists local governments in creating and improving sustainability programs. It also works with vendors that sell products or services to such programs and interest groups that want to improve local sustainability policies.

Jerry's work at WestUrb reflects the successes he achieved as Denver's first Chief Sustainability Officer (2012-19). Under his leadership Denver became the fifth U.S. city certified at the Platinum Level of the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED for Cities program. During his tenure Denver was also included in the "A List" of top-performing cities in climate change reporting and action by the international climate change organization CDP.

Jerry previously served as a national officer of both the Sierra Club and the National Audubon Society, and directed the Center for Energy and Environment at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. The Sierra Club designated him a national "Environmental Hero" during its centennial celebration. Prior to his sustainability career Jerry was a partner and commercial trial attorney with two of Ohio's largest law firms.

Jerry received his undergraduate and law degrees from George Washington University. He was the 2018 winner of the Wirth Chair Sustainability Award given by the University of Colorado.







# Speaker Bios



## Bhavtik Vallabhjee Head, Power Utilities, and Infrastructure ABSA Bank

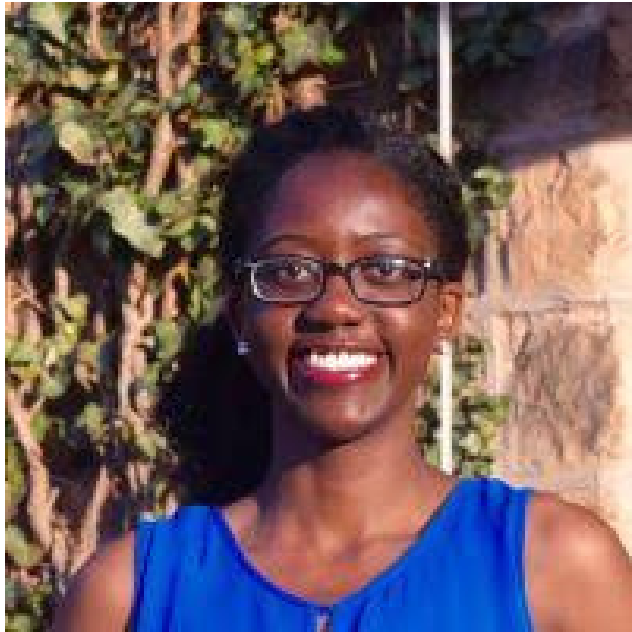
Bhavtik C. Vallabhjee is head of the Power Utilities and Infrastructure and ABSA. He has over 24 years of Corporate & Merchant Banking experience in South Africa and in the Middle East. He has been engaged in structuring major project finance transactions in sectors such as power (incl. Renewable Energy), water, oil & gas, telecoms, transportation, healthcare & industrial projects. He has worked on several deals in the Middle East and a number of African countries. He has been involved in executing transactions with an aggregate value in excess of US \$23billion in his career. He spent 5 years in the Middle East at the height of its infrastructure spending boom where he was a Project Finance banker there. After returning to South Africa in 2010, he joined a leading Investment Banking franchise where he specifically focused on Renewable Energy and was part of the team that successfully closed 17 projects with total debt underwrites of ZAR15bn. He is currently Head of Absa Corporate & Investment Banking Power, Utilities & Infrastructure team and works across conventional & renewable power technologies in Africa. Most recently, he is part of the team that have closed 12 projects across technologies in renewables with a R22 bn debt commitment. He is based in London.

He is a qualified Chartered Management Accountant (UK), has an MBA in Finance from Stellenbosch Business School in Cape Town, South Africa, two Honours and a Bachelors degree in Accountancy & Finance.





# Speaker Bios



Yihemba Yikona  
Energy Team  
Power Africa

Yihemba Yikona is a member of Power Africa's Energy Team. Her portfolio focuses on furthering Power Africa's work across the continent in improving the enabling environment for private sector investment in the energy sector. Prior to Power Africa, she led communications at a girls' education NGO in Guatemala and provided project management support at Management Systems International for a USAID-funded governance program in Colombia. She graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor's degree in Politics from Princeton University.







# Conference Committee Chairs

## **Conference Chairman**

Robert Stoner, Deputy Director, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Energy Initiative

## **Conference Founder**

Luka Powanga, Professor, Anderson College of Business

## **Program Committee Members**

Mark Safty, Chair Wirth Chair in Sustainable Development, School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado Denver

Paul Ndione, Research Scientist, National Renewable Laboratories, NREL

Ambassador Irene-Giner-Reichl, President, Global Forum on Sustainable Energy and Austrian Ambassador to Brazil

Philip Mshelbila, CEO, Atlantic LNG

James Chisenga, Counsellor-Economic, The Embassy of Zambia

David Owens, Executive Vice President (Retired), Edison Electric Institute

Luka Powanga, Professor, Anderson College of Business and Founder, Energy Africa Conference

Victor Ngoma, Senior Partner, North American Development Group





# Conference Committee Chairs

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Atupele Powanga, Project Manager and Social Media Consultant and co- founder, Energy Africa Conference

Rocio Perez, President and Chief Executive Officer, Inventiva Consulting

Ebony Graham, Marketing Professional

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Michael Allender, Project Manager, HP (retired)







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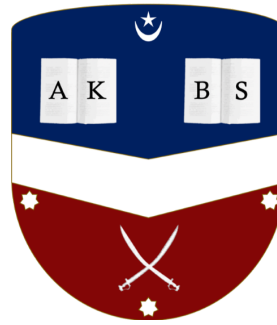
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