

# *Launch of the Uganda Association for Energy Economics*

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## The Uganda Association for Energy Economics (UAEE)

### Preamble:

The Uganda Association for Energy Economics (UAEE) was launched on 28th April 2022 at Makerere University Business School (MUBS), Uganda. Since 2008, MUBS has been engaged in developing the capacity to offer quality education and research in energy economics. Using Norwegian Higher Education (NORHED) projects support, which is funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), MUBS developed collaborations with Norwegian Universities including the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). MUBS collaboration with Norwegian Universities and the selfless efforts of Professor Olvar Bergland (former president of the Norwegian Association for Energy Economics-NAEE) led to the establishment of specialized energy economics academic programs, including a bachelor's, masters, and Ph.D. program in energy economics and governance. These are the first of the kind in Uganda and the entire East African region, which is currently undergoing an energy-led economic growth revolution.

To strengthen energy economics education and research, a team of MUBS faculty led by Dr. Livingstone Senyonga, Prof. Muhammed Ngoma, and Mr. Bosco Amerit guided by Prof. Olvar Bergland, and the MUBS management under the leadership of Prof. Waswa Balunywa, founded the Uganda Association for Energy Economics (UAEE). UAEE provides a platform for people and institutions with an active interest in energy economics to network and share knowledge, experiences, practices, and opportunities. The association has a membership including academic faculty, independent researchers, students, and technocrats from government institutions. Its doors are now open to more new members.

The UAEE was registered under the laws of Uganda and the IAEE council formally recognized UAEE as an affiliate on the 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2022. Because of UAEE's affiliation with IAEE, faculty members of the University of Dar-es-salaam have expressed interest to join UAEE as they plan to start their own Tanzania Association for Energy Economics. A program to popularize IAEE activities across East Africa and subsequently have a pan-African energy economics movement is in the works, starting with a joint student's energy modeling training camp between Uganda and Tanzania, which will take place in August 2022.

### a) The launch of UAEE

The UAEE was officiated by the Vice President of IAEE in charge of affiliations, Prof. Roula Inglesi-Lotz, with a well-attended public lecture titled "Emerging Issues from the Current Geopolitics and their Impact on Africa's Energy Sector". The discussant for the public lecture was Prof. Olvar Bergland. The following day Prof. Inglesi-Lotz gave a second lecture to MUBS faculty and graduate students of energy economics and governance on the topic of sustainable energy transitions.

### b) The purpose for forming and launch of UAEE

The lunch was in fulfillment of one of three NORHED II objectives that support the establishment:

- *To develop a professional network along the lines of an International Association for Energy Economics of East Africa, as a mechanism for fostering communication among energy sector analysts and supporting informed discussions on issues related to energy economics and policy.*
- *To use the international network of energy economists to mobilize annual energy economics research conferences and modeling boot camps and workshops.*
- *To support the dissemination of peer-reviewed publications and policy briefs among stakeholders in Uganda and Tanzania.*

UAEE shall provide a platform for people and institutions with an active interest in energy economics to network and share knowledge, experiences, practices, and opportunities. This association is a precursor to the launch of the East African regional association for energy economics.

### c) Launch Activities

#### Public Lecture

A public Lecture on emerging global energy issues associated with the current geopolitics, conflicts, and their possible impact on the energy sector in Africa by Prof. Roula Inglesi-Lotz. The attendance was more than expected.

#### Students' panel discussion

A panel of six Ph.D. students discussed experiences on their Ph.D. journey and shared captivating experiences during their various engagements at the IAEE Doctoral Seminar 8-9 June 2018, Groningen, The Netherlands, and at the Advanced Energy Modeling between July 8-19, 2019 in Beijing, China at the School of Economics and Management, China University of Geosciences, Beijing (SEM-CUGB). The discussion further touched on the issue of gender with female students narrating their experiences of what is involved in being a graduate student, a wife, and a mother.

## UAEE Launched

The Interim President of the UAEE, Dr Livingstone Senyonga presented a brief to the symposium and introduced the interim committee. That the UAEE was a fully registered organization under the laws of Uganda and had been admitted as an affiliate to the worldwide energy economics association, the International Association for Energy Economics (IAEE) on April 27, 2022, as the 29th affiliate.

## Vision of UAEE

A hub for networking and information sharing on energy economics.

## Mission

To enhance knowledge in energy economics through the provision of evidence-based inclusive policies and best practices toward sustainable use of energy sources.

## Objectives

At its launch, the objectives of UAEE included:

- a) Provide for the mutual association of persons interested in energy economics in order to create a forum for professional discussion, through conferences, seminars, and webinars.
- b) Provide a means of professional communication and exchange of experience and ideas among persons interested in energy economics.

- c) Promote professional communication among persons interested in energy economics from different countries, especially in Africa where a revolution of energy-led economic growth is taking place.
- d) Educate the community on energy economics issues by developing and sharing expertise in energy economics that may be useful in adopting public policies and understanding public issues related to energy resources and doing so in an apolitical manner.
- e) Promote higher education, research, and publication in energy economics and bridge the gap between researchers or scholars, and practitioners of energy economics who are the primary users of energy economics research outputs.
- f) Enter into any arrangement or collaborations with Organizations, entities, governments, or authorities that may seem necessary to enhance the attainment of the main objective of UAEE, which is popularizing energy economics education and research to support the formulation and implementation of evidence-based energy resource policies.

## Future plans

1. UAEE is organizing an east Africa-wide energy modeling boot camp to be held in Arusha Tanzania from 10<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> August 2022.
2. Planning to hold a joint meeting between Nigeria and South Africa Associations for Energy Economics to begin discussing the possibilities of holding joint activities including a pan-African conference.



## Scenes from the Launch of the Uganda Association for Energy Economics

