



Editorial

By Professor Ignacio Pérez-Arriaga - ASR Interim Director

This is the second Newsletter of the ASR, presenting the progress made by the initiative to create the African School of Regulation during the first quarter of 2023. New developments have taken place in the successful organisation of training activities, the search for the institution that will host the ASR, and the selection and hiring of new staff.

The two major events (described below) organized by ASR during this period have demonstrated, first, the interest of African professionals in the provision of regulatory capacity building on African energy issues and, second, the competence of the ASR team in designing and implementing these activities.

Much effort has been put into the selection of the African organization(s) that will host the ASR. Obviously, this is a critical step for the future ASR, and several interesting possibilities for organization and governance are now open, based on the excellent and diverse proposals that have been received.

The selection process of new recruits for the ASR staff has continued, and two more research assistants have been invited to join the ASR. Due to administrative delays and the lengthy process of obtaining visas to work in Europe, they will join the ASR team in the second quarter of 2023. Since February 2023 the ASR has been operating without a General Manager. The corresponding responsibilities have been distributed among the members of the ASR team,

including the three external experts provided by the EU DG INTPA Technical Assistance Facility and the part-time support of two members of the Enel Foundation.

New contacts have been established with organisations that are active in capacity building in energy regulation in Africa. Members of the ASR have been invited to participate in international meetings relevant to the ASR objectives, including the “7th minigrid action learning event” organised by ESMAP, AMDA and the Government of Kenya (Carol Ofafa, Louise Mathu and Ignacio Pérez-Arriaga) and the “High-Level Public-Private Dialogue on Private Sector Investment in Electricity and Infrastructure Development in Africa, organized by UN ECA and RES4Africa (Elias Zigah and Ignacio Pérez-Arriaga).

Progress has been made in the preparation of events and other training activities to take place during the rest of the year: the continuation of policy dialogues and 3-Day virtual conferences on assorted topics, a training course on “Power sector regulation in Africa”, a podcast on “A Sustainable Energy Future for Africa”, among other activities being considered.

Details on all of this can be found in this newsletter.

The Search for the ASR Hosting Organisation(s)

In October 2022, the ASR issued a public announcement inviting institutions and organizations to apply to host the school. Subsequently, on January 19, a well-attended public meeting was held to address inquiries from potential host institutions and to ensure clarity of the announcement. The deadline for submitting proposals was extended to February 24, and 15 applications were received, some of which included multi-member consortia.

The number and quality of the proposals is a clear indication of the interest generated by the ASR initiative. Since February 24, the ASR team has met with each of the candidate institutions to get a full understanding of their proposals, discussed the different ways to structure the governance of the future ASR once the candidate host institutions are known, and prepared a detailed report for the members of the ASR Knowledge Partnership to decide. Further interviews with the preliminarily selected organization(s) will take place during the second quarter of 2023.

It is expected that the selection of the ASR host will also open the possibility of partnerships with the other candidates, allowing the ASR to be present in all African regions and to adapt to the very diverse conditions of the energy sector throughout the continent.

To stay up to date on the latest developments, visit the ASR website:

<https://africanschoolregulation.org/tag/news/>

The Implementation of the Programme of Activities

The implementation of the programme of activities for 2023 is underway. Some important events have been successfully held so far.

The first was an online conference on “Sustainable and Scalable Mini-grid Business Models”. The conference took place over three consecutive days, three hours per day, from January 23-25, 2023. Nearly 500 people from over 60 countries registered, and between 100 and 200 participants attended each day of the conference.

The format of the conference was based on panel discussions of approximately one hour duration among a reduced number of invited experts. The panels covered the various regulatory aspects that can enable the deployment of the minigrids that must be deployed in Africa to achieve electricity access for all and with sustainable business models.

All materials from the conference - an ASR position paper, relevant documents from reputable organizations, PPT presentations and the nine hours of recordings - are available on the ASR website. [Read More](#)

This series of virtual conferences (see the resources developed during the first conference, which was devoted to concessions in the power sector [here](#)) is dedicated to current hot topics in the African energy sector. The lessons learned at these events will be used by the ASR in the development of its training resources.



The second event the ASR organised was the in-person Policy Dialogue on renewable generation and regional power trade in Africa, held as a side event at the International Renewable Energy Conference (IREC) 2023 dubbed SPIREC in Madrid, Spain, on February 20, 21 and 22.

The discussions of the policy dialogue spread over the duration of the SPIREC conference, where broader discussions, interactions and networking were leveraged on the same days with participants of the conference. This event was fully funded by the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP).

The Policy Dialogue addressed the need for strong regional institutions and enabling regulations to realize the potential benefits of regional power trading to meet the continent's acute energy needs. The Policy Dialogue brought together experienced participants from power pools, system operators, ministries, regulators, development finance institutions, think tanks, private companies and academia, who discussed under the Chatham House Rule. Participants discussed the key institutional and regulatory improvements needed, explored ways to implement them, and identified capacity building needs to disseminate and adapt best international practices in the African context.

This Policy Dialogue was organised by the African School of Regulation ([ASR](#)) in collaboration with the Africa-EU Energy Partnership ([AEEP](#)), the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change ([TBI](#)), [REN21](#), [GET.transform](#), the Institute for Research in Technology at Comillas ([IIT](#)), [RES4Africa](#), the Enel Foundation ([EF](#)), and the Florence School of Regulation ([FSR](#)).

For more information visit: <https://africanschoolregulation.org> and ASR social: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/african-school-of-regulation/> where the ASR position

papers, other relevant background documents and a brief summing up the three days of dialogue can be found.



The ASR website (still in an incipient stage) also contains other resources, such as webinars, interviews and diverse documents on the topics of interest for the ASR, which are available to any interested party.

Forging ASR Partnerships and Collaborations

The ASR is an emerging institution (still under the initiative phase) that has been launched by a [partnership of leading institutions](#) in energy and climate change. Progress has been made during the first quarter of 2023, in establishing the different roles of the founding members in view of the important decisions to be made and the responsibilities to be taken during the selection of the ASR host and the definition of the ASR governance.

Partnerships and collaborations form a strong basis upon which the African School of Regulation (ASR) will operate. Since it was established, the ASR has widened and deepened its partnerships and collaborations with other organizations interested in energy regulation. This effort has continued during the first quarter of 2023. Conversations have continued with organisations that had been previously contacted as well as with new ones, such as the GIZ Group jointly with AEEP, the International Solar Alliance (ISA), the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), the African Energy Commission (AFREC), the Energy Regulators Association of East Africa (EREA), the OECD Equitable Framework and Finance for Extractive-Based Countries in Transition (EFFECT), INENSUS, Regulatory Energy Transition Accelerator (RETA), and Husk Power.

These contacts are necessary both for technical cooperation and to explore the possibility of obtaining in-kind or financial support for the ASR.



ASR Programme of Activities 2023

A calendar of activities covering the period from January to December 2023 has been prepared and adopted under the ASR initiative. It includes training, research, policy dialogues and development of the training platform. This program will be periodically reviewed and modified to adapt to opportunities that may arise during the year to better achieve the objectives of the ASR.

The initial program will also serve to facilitate a coordinated approach to the work to be undertaken by the staff/team working on the initiative to establish the ASR, as well as to enable coordination with the FSR, which will provide logistical support for hosting activities and events.

The team will also provide the Parties and other institutions and organizations interested in working with the Initiative with a clear calendar of planned events and activities. This will assist in fundraising and sponsorship activities for the ASR by enabling Parties, partners and sponsors to identify specific events or activities that they could fund or otherwise support.

When fully implemented, the 2023 calendar of activities will provide a foundation upon which a potentially more robust program can be developed in future years, once the ASR is fully established.

Upcoming Events

International On-line Conference

May 9th, 10th and 11th, 2023; 2:00pm to 5:00pm

Topic: Power pools in Africa: Releasing the potential of regional power trade.

(prolongation of the Madrid conference but online and so open to larger public)

This three-day virtual conference is the next one in the series the ASR is organising to address the most pressing topics in energy regulation in Africa. The conference can be seen as an extension of the previous Policy Dialogue, with a different format that allows treating the topics in more depth and that is open to the public. The format, which is becoming standard for the ASR, is the same that has been used in the conferences on concessions and on minigrids - no formal presentations, but in-depth debates among a small number of experts on the diverse aspects of the topic under consideration. Only a reduced number of experts are invited to debate, but online access to the conference and all the related resources will be free of charge to any interested registered participants.

To participate register [here](#) and access the information posted in our web for the 3-day conference.

Online French Webinar Series (targeting Francophone Africa)

Wednesday, May 24th 2023, 10am to 1pm (CAT)

Topic: Power Utility Distribution Concessions: A Look at Francophone Africa.

The African School of Regulation (ASR) will be hosting a series of webinars conducted entirely in French, with simultaneous translation in English. This is the first webinar in the series and it will provide an opportunity for a small group of selected experts in distribution concessions to share their unique country experiences and explore ways in which the concession model could be improved upon and implemented, with a particular emphasis on the important role of regulation in facilitating their successful adoption.

Podcasts Series

Starting June 2023

Theme: “A Sustainable Energy Future for Africa”

The podcast series will consist of 4 seasons, each comprising about 7 episodes sharing a common theme. The first season focuses on energy access, the major immediate challenge faced by the energy sector of many countries in Africa. The podcast will discuss how universal energy access can be achieved, meeting Africa’s climate and energy goals, rethinking energy regulation in Africa and regional energy integration in Africa. Interviewees include leaders of industry, academics, experts, policy makers, environmental groups, consumer representatives and African youth.



ASR 's Regulation of the Power Sector in Africa Flagship 10 weeks Course set to improve Energy Regulation and Policy in Africa

The ASR will launch its course "Regulation of the Power Sector in Africa" in 2023.

In this 10-week interactive online course, participants will learn the regulatory principles of electric power systems and their implementation, and they will examine real-world case studies in the African context. The course is structured in a flexible e-learning environment that provides in-depth learning through live lectures and discussions with the course instructors and other participants.

This course is designed for professionals working in the power sector, including regulators, policy makers, power utilities, government agencies, as well as those in academia, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and others who wish to gain an in-depth and practical understanding of the regulatory aspects of the power sector in Africa.

The course content is currently being developed. A detailed syllabus has been shared with some key stakeholders involved in energy regulatory capacity building in Africa who can provide instructors and other resources for the course. The virtual course will conclude with an optional face-to-face week, which will provide an opportunity for participants to meet and interact with each other and some of the trainers, facilitating networking and sharing of experiences from different countries.

The course will provide a foundation upon which more specific courses can be developed, building on a solid regulatory knowledge base and focusing more directly on the topics of interest.

For More Information

Subscribe to the ASR newsletter to get timely updates, opinions, features and guidance on energy regulation in Africa. [Click here to subscribe](#)

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