

**PRESS RELEASE N°035/2014****\$11 million worth of grant agreements under Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility signed at African Union Commission**

**03 March 2014, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia-** Grant agreements worth US\$11 million for financial support for surface studies and exploration drilling programme were signed today between the African Union Commission, Geological Survey (GSE) of Ethiopia and Geothermal Development Corporation (GDC) of Kenya.



Under the agreements, Dofan and Corbetti projects of Ethiopia received \$976 872 and \$5 594 821 respectively; while Bogoria-Silali project of Kenya received \$4 251 652. Mr Tewodros G/Egziabher,

Ethiopian State Minister for Mines signed on behalf of the GSE and Mr. Simon Nyutu Gicharu did the same on behalf of GDC.

The grant agreements were signed within the context of the Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility (GRMF). The facility was established by the African Union Commission (AUC), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund (EU Africa ITF) in cooperation with the German government-owned development bank KFW. The objective of the GRMF is to facilitate and accelerate geothermal development in East African countries and is hosted and managed by the AUC. It encourages public and private sector development by providing partial grants for surface studies, which lead to drilling and grants for reservoir confirmation drilling, in order to mitigate the risk associated with geothermal resource exploration.



Initially targeting 5 countries, the GRMF funding has now been expanded to 11 focus countries, i.e: Burundi, Comoros, Djibout, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia

At the signing ceremony today, AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy Dr Elham Ibrahim congratulated the grant beneficiaries and expressed her wish that all eligible countries become part of the program, so as to accelerate geothermal energy development in the region.

The ceremony was also attended by the Head of the EU delegation to the AU, the Ambassador of Germany to Ethiopia, and Ambassadors of GRMF focus countries. **WZM/**

**For further information contact**

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