

African nations challenged to come up with more energy sources

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN governments were on Tuesday challenged to collaborate with other partners to ensure that there are reliable, affordable and sustainable sources of energy to fuel development.

“Without reliable energy, developing countries will not realise their development

objectives and dreams,” said Prof Joseph Kuzilwa, one of the key players in the ‘Project and Intellectual Property Management’ workshop that started yesterday at Mzumbe University, Dar es Salaam campus.

The two-day workshop is taking place under the Enhancing Energy Accessibility and Efficiency through establishing sustainable Science, Technology

and Innovation (STI) Support National Networks with a regional dimension in East African projects.

The project is co-financed by the European Commission on the framework of the ACP-EU Co-operation programme in science and technology.

Kuzilwa, who is the immediate former Vice Chancellor, Mzumbe University, said Africa was lagging behind in reliable energy

provision, something he said derails development endeavours.

He said the project in short called ENRICH, seeks to promote regional cooperation in the energy and environment sectors in East African countries by establishing three national networks to support STI and a regional portal with an experts data base.

He said quality STI support services will be promoted in

Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda and that cooperation links will be strengthened in the energy sector among academia, researchers, industrialists and policy makers.

The project is run with experts from University of Alicante in Spain, Glasgow Caledonian University, African Virtual University and Moi University in Kenya, Mzumbe University and Uganda’s Makerere University.

Also involved Inter University

Council for East Africa and science commissions from East African countries.

Noelia Lopez from Alicante University said the workshop wants to introduce successful projects management and provide an introduction to intellectual property rights. It targets managers and researchers, particularly in the energy field from EA partner states.

“Participants will be involved

in the establishment of STI support national network,” she said.

For her part, Prof Anne Nangulu from Moi University said through innovation, Africa can solve the challenges of energy and realise progress.

“We are trying to think of the best ways science, technology and innovation can help and how these innovations can be patented,” she said.