Invited by COMESA Secretariat and Tanzanian Office of UNIDO, a delegation led by Mr. Zhang Zhitong, the chief planner of MWR, visited Zambia and Tanzania. Madam Cheng Xialei visited together as a member of the delegation. This visit aims to strengthen the cooperation between China and Africa on hydro especially small hydro-power development in Africa. It is hoped that through technology transfer, capacity building, policy research and pilot projects, Africa can learn good experience and technologies from China.

During the visit in Zambia, on May 17th, COMESA-ICSHP joint office was established in the headquarters of COMESA. Mr. Sindiso Ngwenya, Secretary-General of COMESA, Mr. Zhang Zhitong and Madam Cheng together attended the ceremony. The Office aims to promote planning, policy research on SHP and information sharing on other renewable energy, and facilitate cooperation in investment and financing of small hydropower projects in the eastern and southern Africa. Mr. Zhang Zhitong hoped that through close cooperation between China and CO-
MESA, African countries can learn good experience and advanced technologies from China, which help their SHP development better. He also gave appraisal for the training course jointly held annually by COMESA and ICSHP and hope relevant training activities may strengthen the capacity building on SHP development for the member countries of COMESA. Mr. Ngwenya said that COMESA has collected a number of potential SHP projects from its member countries and planed to promote them on the 8th Hydropower for Today Forum that will be held in Lusaka next year.

In Tanzania Office of UNIDO

In COMESA office

Visiting Zambian SHP plant
Message from the Director General

Welcome to the first issue of the INSHP Newsletter in 2017. I am so glad to work with all of you! Now the first half of 2017 has just passed, let us review the results of INSHP within this e-newsletter.

This year marked the deepening of South-South cooperation and the strengthening of Sino-African ties. In January 2017, in Tanzania, a small hydropower plant featuring a 230 kW installed capacity was put into operation in Kiliflora with the support of UNIDO.

What’s more, Mr. Sindiso Ngwenya, Secretary-General of COMESA received us on May 17th and the COMESA-ICSHP joint office was established at COMESA headquarters in Zambia. This office will hold training courses to build capacity around SHP. East African countries also got the opportunity to visit China and get a comprehensive training supported by UNIDO exploring best practices and lessons learned in the field of solar, biogas and SHP. In late March, I was delighted to inaugurate the ICSHP Innovation Base in Nanjing, together with Mr. Zhang Zhitong, chief planner of MWR and Mr. Xi Guofu, president of NARI Group Corporation. Their support consolidated the momentum around the development of the new cooperation platform. We also hosted the first editorial board meeting of SHP International Standards in Hangzhou on March 29. The international standards will help promote green and safe small hydropower development worldwide and especially in the belt and road countries.

Finally, our organization was really proud to launch the French, Spanish, Russian and Chinese versions of the World Small Hydropower Development Report 2016 at the Vienna Energy Forum 2017 hosted by UNIDO in May.
ICSHP Activities

ICSHP Innovation Base was established in Nanjing

On March 30th, the 2016 Work Summary Meeting of Core Members and Base Directors of ICSHP was held in Nanjing. Meanwhile, the inauguration ceremony of the Innovation Base of ICSHP—NARI GROUP CORPORATION was convened in Nanjing. Mr. Zhang Zhitong, the chief planner of MWR, Madam Cheng Xialei, DG of ICSHP and Mr. Xi Guofu, the president of NARI unveiled the nameplate of the Innovation Base of ICSHP together.

Mr. Zhang Zhitong gave high appraisal of ICSHP’s contribution. He extended warm congratulations on the successful opening of this meeting and inauguration of the Innovation Base, hoping that NARI, Jiangsu Provincial Department of Water Resources, together with the local government could actively support the development of the Innovation Base, promote advantages of NARI in the world hydropower industry, enhance international cooperation on small hydropower, facilitate innovation in small hydropower technology, operation and management.

Mr. Xi Guofu gave a welcome speech and expressed NARI’s resolve in deepening cooperation with the Center and enhancing support for the Innovation Base. He promised that NARI would uphold the development principle of the Innovation base and constitute a comprehensive cooperation platform for all related parties. NARI Water Resources and Hydropower Company, one of the core members of ICSHP, also the operation institution of the Innovation Base, gave the topic report of Commitment to the Innovation Base, Contribution to the International Small Hydropower.
Prof. Liu Deyou Attending VEF 2017 in Austria

On the invitation of UNIDO, Prof. Liu Deyou, deputy director of ICSHP, attended Vienna Energy Forum 2017 (VEF2017). The Forum this year aims to contribute to the successful implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, with the theme “Sustainable energy for the implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement”.

VEF2017 brought together over 1600 participants, including heads of State, ministers, energy experts, representatives of international and non-governmental organizations, academia, civil society and the private sector. It served as a platform for discussing and highlighting the importance of the linkages between climate and development as well as the synergies among the SDGs, and the importance of joint and integrated approaches for a successful implementation.

During the Forum, on May 12, Mr. Philippe R. Scholtes, Managing Director of UNIDO hosted the launch event of French, Spanish, Russian and Chinese versions of World Small Hydropower Development Report 2016 that comprised 160 national reports and 20 regional reports. Mr. Chen Lei, minister of MWR and Mr. Li Yong, DG of UNIDO all gave highly praise to the new edition of the Report.
International SHP Standards Development and Launch

On March 29, the first editorial board meeting of SHP International Standards was held in Hangzhou. Over 50 representatives from government, research, design and construction institutes attended the meeting. Mr. Zhang Zhitong, chief planner of MWR made concluding remarks.

The meeting gave a proposal for international SHP standards development. All the attendances agreed that the international standards would promote small hydropower development better, especially for those belt and road countries, and also lead China’s experienced companies develop and invest SHP abroad. Many representatives expressed their supports on funds.

The project proposal was also supported by the DG of UNIDO and Minister of MWR. Within the support of UNIDO, MWR also accepted the proposal and would give full support. The project will invite the international experts, scholars, decision makers and stakeholders on small hydropower and standards, and learn the experience of SHP development from developed and developing countries to develop and launch the SHP international standards. We believe that the project will promote green, regulated, order and healthy development of small hydropower, facilitating inclusive and sustainable industrial development, finally realizing the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.
A MOU was signed between ICSHP and Ghana

In April of this year, a delegation from Ghana Energy Commission visited ICSHP. At the same time, UNDP, ICSHP and Ghana Energy Commission signed a MOU that is within the China-Ghana RETT Project, aiming to provide technical support for small hydropower development in Ghana.

In this July, ICSHP welcomed the mission of Ghana to review and finalize the design plans for the pilot small hydro power plant and to provide technical assistance and training on 12-16th, July. The China-Ghana RETT Project is a 4-year project aiming at supporting the access to electricity for rural communities in Ghana by drawing on and sharing the development experiences and good practices learned by China in the field of renewable energy.

The mission arranged by ICSHP also included a two-day visit to three small hydro power sites located in the province of Zhejiang, which allowed the members of the Ghanaian delegation to inspect the facilities and address some common issues raised through the assessment of the design plans and training program.

Following the technical exchange and site visits, ICSHP and the members of the Ghanaian delegation jointly set the following activities for further promoting the transfer of renewable energy technologies from China to Ghana as a form of South-South horizontal cooperation.
Tanzanian SHP plant aided by UNIDO was completed and put into operation

At the end of January 2017, Kiliflora small hydropower plant in Tanzania, assisted by UNIDO, put into operation. The plant is located in Kiliflora farm and the installed capacity is 230kW. The plant not only provides electricity to the surrounding households for producing and living, but also save the diesel fees around USD250,000 a year for the Kiliflora farm. ICSHP mainly provided equipments and installation.

UNIDO International Training on Renewable Energy Technologies in China

From March 20-28 governmental officials from member countries of UNIDO East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE) went on a training supported by UNIDO to explore best practices and lessons learned from solar-, biogas and small hydropower projects for productive use at the industry level.

The training was based around the International Centre on Small Hydro Power (ICSHP) in Hangzhou, the Biogas Institute of Ministry of Agriculture (BIOMA) in Chengdu and the UNIDO International Solar Energy Center for Technology Promotion and Transfer (UNIDO-ISEC) in Lanzhou. It included site visits and tours of equipment manufacturers, presentations, as well as free discussions.
Tibet Diya hydropower plant has been completed ahead of schedule

Diya hydropower plant, located in Ali District of Tibet has been completed 7 months ahead of schedule, and also realized remote intelligent control by Internet- Cloud computing. The total investment of the plant is over RMB 26 million yuan with 2×160 kW of installed capacity. The construction was started from last June. (Source: Tibet.CN, 4 January 2017)

China Green SHP system will be established in 2020

Guidance on Promoting Green SHP Development, issued by MWR, gave an overall goal: by 2020, green small hydro standard and management system will be established; the incentives for green small hydro development will be initially formed and a batch of pilot plants will be established. It is known that the main tasks of green small hydro development include seven aspects, including planning constraint and development optimization, scientific design and construction, refurbishment and eco-operation, improving the monitoring network and protecting ecological water, etc.

The Guidance requires that new and refurbished small hydropower stations must be built according to the approved regional space planning, river basin comprehensive planning and river hydro energy development.

Besides green small hydro development, we should also promote the smart SHP, that is independent research and development, optimization design, new technology applications and other forms of digestion and absorption of domestic and foreign new technologies and materials for hydropower development. (Source: BJX.COM, 24 January 2017)

Guangdong Province will promote the construction of rural hydropower safe production demonstration counties

Since this year, Guangdong province will develop Guangning county as a pilot of rural hydropower safe production, focusing on a comprehensive monitoring system of “monitored by the government, organized by the association and implemented by the owners”. (Source: southcn.com, 18 May 2017)

Training centers to help spread technologies for hydropower

China plans to build water conservancy training centers that could offer tailored training for personnel from countries related with the Belt and Road Initiative, said a senior water resources official. Liu Zhigang, director of the Ministry of Water Resources’ department of international cooperation, science and technology, said that these centers will integrate both scientific research and training. They could offer targeted training on small hydroelectric facilities, electrification of rural areas, flood control and drought relief, water-saving irrigation, planning and management of water conservancy, and the design, construction and operation of water conservancy projects, he said. (Source: China Daily, 15 May 2017)

Belt and Road initiative boosts small hydro along New Silk Road

Hydropower is a clean, reliable, mature and stable energy and currently is the largest proportion of energy sources. Now the installed capacity of global conventional is about 1 billion kilowatts and the annual generation is about 4 trillion kwh. Europe and North America hydropower development degree were 54% and 39%. South America, Asia and Africa hydropower development level were 26%, 20% and 9%. Developed countries have high level of water resources development, such as Switzerland to reach 92%, France 88%, Italy 86%, Germany 74%, Japan 73%, and the United States 67%. The level of hydropower development in developing countries is generally low. The future of global hydropower development will focus on Asia, Africa, South America and other regions that other resources development level is not high.

At present, the level of hydropower development in China is 37% (according to the calculation of power generation), and the installed capacity of hydropower has reached 320 million kilowatts, accounting for 27% of the global hydropower installed capacity, ranking first in the world. Half of the world's small hydropower installed capacity is in China. In recent years, China's hydropower industry is advancing by leaps and bounds. As the world's hydropower giants and the world's hydropower power, China's hydropower has formed the overall industry chain integration capability, including planning, design, construction, equipment manufacturing, power transmission and transformation. "13th Five-Year "hydropower development planning (2016-2020)" clearly pointed out: "adhere to the open development, strengthening international cooperation. With "The Belt and Road construction" as a guide, promote the foreign cooperation in hydropower equipment and technology standards and engineering services."

Small hydropower is green, renewable and is an important field of Chinese and Belt and Road Initiative "along the national energy and infrastructure cooperation. In the majority of developing countries, especially the countries concerned The Belt and Road ", small hydropower development potential and great space for cooperation. Small hydropower, as a mature and practical technology, is very attractive to developing countries. "Belt and Road Initiative along developing hydro energy, small hydropower development policy, power market system is different, the development and utilization of water resources is low, backward management level, the electrification process is slow, especially African countries in promoting industrialization, strengthen the construction of energy infrastructure, the urgent need to enhance the application level of small hydropower. (Source: chinawe.org, 15 June 2017)
Officials break ground on Rwanda's 3.6-MW Musanze small hydropower project
Work on Rwanda's 3.6-MW Musanze hydroelectric project is now under way following a groundbreaking ceremony held earlier this week. The small hydropower plant is to be located on the Mubungo River and will actually be built in two phases. The first, a 2.6 MW project called Rwaza 1, is expected to be completed within 18 months, while a second 1 MW addition being called Rwaza 2 will be constructed later.

The Musanze project is being developed by Rwanda's DC HydroPower, with energy produced by the plants to be sold via a power purchase agreement with the Rwanda Energy Group.

Rwaza 1 and 2 are expected to cost a combined US$17 million, with funding coming from several international sources, including Germany's KfW development bank, Denmark's Frontier Energy and sub-Saharan investment group responsible for hydropower energy holding (RAREH). The United States also provided financial and technical assistance via its Power Africa initiative.

“This power plant might be small in size, but we have no doubt that it will greatly contribute to our bold vision,” Rwanda Minister of Infrastructure James Musoni said during the ceremony, which also included officials from the German and U.S. embassies. “This project could not have come at a more opportune time, as we project our energy demand to soar.” Musanze is part of the Rwandan government's efforts to provide 70% of the African country's population with access to electricity by 2018 – up from about 35% that currently has access. (Source: HydroWorld, 23 June 2017)

Poyry maps small hydro potential in 14 African countries
Poyry has mapped the small hydro potential in 14 Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), working in conjunction with the ECOWAS Observatory for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

In this report, small hydro is considered to have an installed capacity of 1 MW to 30 MW. Key findings of this work include:

- Nigeria has the highest theoretical hydropower potential of the 14 countries studied
- Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia show a high potential for small hydro, while Mali and Niger are unsuitable for small projects
- In most parts of West Africa, no significant change is projected in future mean annual discharge per climate change projections, but there are regional variations

Poyry used GIS technology to map the hydrological conditions, hydropower potential and climate change information for more than 500,000 river reaches. Stakeholders in each country will use the data to identify and implement vital hydropower projects, according to a press release. Strategic development of the countries' hydropower resources “has been constrained by economic conditions but also by the lack of information on river flow, river topography and hydropower potential.”

The region “seeks to develop reliable and sustainable long-term solutions to the energy challenge” but the small hydro potential in West Africa has not been known or exploited. Only about 50 hydro plants are operational in the region, Poyry says. Martin Fuchs, Section Head Hydro Consulting with Poyry, says the work “resulted in a valuable product that is accessible to all stakeholders in the hydropower development process. It is an important source of information for hydropower master planning at the national level and will support potential investors in decision-making, investment planning and risk management.” Poyry is an international consulting and engineering company that delivers solutions across power generation, transmission and distribution, forest industry, chemicals and biorefining, mining and metals, transportation, and water. (Source: HydroWorld, 15 June 2017)

Belarus' 24-MW Polotskaya hydroelectric plant commissioned
Belarusian utility RUP Vitebskenenergo has commissioned its 24-MW Polotskaya hydropower project, located on the West Dvina River in the country's northern region.

The plant was outfitted by manufacturer Mavel, a.s., which supplied five Kaplan turbines, generators, hydraulic units, gearboxes and control systems, in addition to assembly and technical services. Mavel signed the equipment contract in 2010, though flooding at the site in April 2013 caused a number of delays.

The Czech company said the turbines installed at Polotskaya are its KP3000K4 type, which were also selected for installation at the Grodenskaya plant in 2010. Financing for the plant is reported to have come from the Eurasian Development Bank. (Source: HydroWorld, 19 May 2017)

EU invests into Tanzania's small hydropower, renewables sectors
A US$200 million investment from the European Union's Energy for Growth and Sustainable Development program will help Tanzania increase its access to electricity through the construction of small hydropower plants and other renewable projects. The announcement comes days after the EU released a report titled, "Empowering Tanzania," in which it said only about 500 MW of the African country's 4,700 MW of hydropower potential has been exploited.

The funding is part of the EU's development support program, which focuses on energy, agriculture and governance. Specifically, the initiative will help pay for a number of unspecified small hydropower projects in the country's southern regions, in addition to several solar installations, and transmission and distribution infrastructure. Fewer than 1.5 million of the country's 45 million residents are served by national utility Tanzania Electric Supply Co. Ltd., according to EU data, while its cumulative capacity across all forms of generation tally around 1,500 MW. Tanzania has been active in addressing its energy deficit, signing a memorandum of understanding with Malawi to develop a 180-MW hydropower plant earlier this month. The government also recently launched prefeasibility studies for the 300-MW Kidongere plant that would be located along the Ruhuhu River. (Source: HydroWorld, 25 May 2017)
Feasibility study funded for small hydropower project in England

The Staverton Hydro Community Benefit Society this week announced it is using a £20,000 (US$25,000) grant from the Rural Community Energy Fund to begin a feasibility study into replacing a long-closed small hydropower plant with a new 100-kW plant on the River Dart in Devon, England.

Historical information indicates the original 50-kW Staverton Leat – a leat is an open watercourse conducting water to a mill – hydropower project was commissioned in the 1930s. The plant produced power for 40 years via two turbines, 15 kW and 35 kW, until it closed in the early 1970s.

Project developer Tontes Renewable Energy Society (Tresoc) said it set up Staverton Hydro Community Benefit Society to co-develop the new plant in a joint venture with local developer, HydroSense.

If approved for construction, Tresoc said in addition to generating electricity from a single Archimedes screw hydro turbine, the project will rehabilitate the leat and include a new fish pass to help migrating riverine wildlife navigate the project.

In late 2015, HydroSense and Tresoc completed the US$2.5 million 350-kW Totnes Weir project, which uses two 165-kW Archimedes screw hydro turbines that generate power used by local businesses and King Edward VI College. The electricity generated from the new plant will power the Dartington Hall Estate.

Last month, HydroWorld.com reported on the completion of a 99 kW Archimedes screw hydroelectric plant in Sonning. According to the project’s owner, Pridewater Estates Ltd., the Archimedes screw installed at Sonning will offset energy used by Pridewater’s marinas and campgrounds. Power generated at the site is fed directly into the national grid. (Source: HydroWorld, 20 June 2017)

Kenya court puts temporary halt on three small hydro projects

The Kenya Tea Development Agency Ltd. has been stopped from awarding a tender for the construction of three small hydropower projects pending a decision from the African country’s High Court. KTDA had previously awarded the tender to Boom Systems Ltd. and its partner, Hadish Engineering Co. Ltd. However, according to a complaint filed by Hydropower International Ltd. with the High Court, that award is void because Boom Systems replaced Hadish Engineering with a new partner, VS-Hydro Ltd., after the tendering process ended.

The stay is temporary, but will remain in effect until the court determines whether the award should be voided entirely. The projects affected include the 1.8-MW Rupingazi, 2.5-MW Cehmosoi and 3.6-MW Kipsonoi plants, which are planned for three rivers of the same names. (Source: HydroWorld, 15 March 2017)

Chile, China sign MOU to build 5.4-MW Condor small hydro power project

Schwager Energy has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Shenyang Yuanda Commercial & Investment of China for construction of the 5.4-MW Condor small hydro power project in Chile.

According to BNamericas, Schwager has begun detailed engineering that should be complete by May 2017. The company will then calculate the amount of equity needed to develop the project.

The MOU indicates a Chinese commercial bank will finance 85% of the required investment. Schwager may also seek an additional strategic partner to provide a portion of the needed equity.

Condor will be a run-of-river project located in Vilcun in Chile’s southern Araucania region.

Construction is expected to begin in the fourth quarter of 2017, with commercial startup planned for the second half of 2019. It is anticipated to generate 21 GWh of electricity annually.

In November 2016, HydroWorld reported that Schwager and Shenyang Yuanda Commercial & Investment signed an MOU to build the 3-MW Los Pinos small hydroelectric plant in Chile’s Lagos region.

In other news in Chile, Antofagasta recently transferred its share in the 531-MW Alto Maipo hydro facility. (Source: HydroWorld, 23 January 2017)

EPC contract signed for 30-MW Nyadi hydropower project in Nepal

Nyadi Hydropower Ltd. and Zhejiang Hydropower Construction & Installation Company Ltd. of China signed an engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract on Jan. 16 for the 30-MW Nyadi hydropower project, according to local published reports.

The EPC contract covers the construction of civil, hydro-mechanical and electro-mechanical works for the run-of-river project located on the Nyadi River at Bahundanda VDC of Lamjung district, in Western Nepal.

The project is about a six-hour drive north and west from Kathmandu and is estimated to cost about US$88.3 million, according to Butwal Power Co. (BPC). BPC, a public-private partnership owned by the government of Nepal, organized Nyadi Hydropower Ltd. as a special purpose vehicle to develop the project.

According to BPC, in February 2016 a bank consortium agreed to finance the project, which includes Everest Bank Ltd., Nabil Bank Ltd., Global IME Bank Ltd., Himalayan Bank Ltd., Sunrise Bank Ltd. and the state-owned Hydropower Investment and Development Company Ltd.

BPC said the project was first identified in 1993 as part of Nepal’s Small Hydropower Master Plan and the project’s initial installed capacity was 2.8 MW, which was later increased to 30 MW. BPC acquired rights to the project from Lamjung Electricity Development Co. in December 2006.

Published reports indicate construction works will begin in February and will take about 38 months to complete the project, with commissioning planned for April 2020. (Source: HydroWorld, 17 January 2017)
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CONTACT IN-SHP NEWSLETTER TEAM
This e-newsletter is a free publication, keeping hundreds of people and organizations informed on the many factors that affect the development of SHP and their impact on creating a brighter and greener world.