



ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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Commission Congratulates Kenya Regulator for Honors after his Work with ACC

(Phoenix) The Arizona Corporation Commission congratulates Eustace Murithi Njeru, for being honored as the Association of Energy Engineers' 2016 Energy Engineer of the Year for the Sub-Saharan Africa Region. Njeru, a member of the Kenya Regulatory Commission, was recognized for his work developing and implementing the Energy Regulations 2012, in Kenya. Njeru credited much of his success to the intense work he did at the Arizona Corporation Commission learning about energy efficiency, regulatory development, and the technical standards of effective enforcement.

"There is a lot of stakeholder consultation in Arizona, and we learned to intensify that in Kenya," said Njeru in a National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC) article. "Even though there used to be stakeholder consultation in Kenya, in Arizona it was more intensive, and more people are involved, hence more input in the development of regulations."

Njeru was selected to participate in (NARUC's Clean Energy International Partnership Program sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and came to the ACC on a short-term internship in 2011. Arizona Corporation Commission Staff are often chosen to participate in international programs which has taken Staff members all over the world to aid countries facing energy crisis.

"It is a two way conversation" said Utilities Division Director Elijah Abinah. "They learn and we learn. Mr. Njeru's work here is an example of how we are able to come together to find solutions for developing countries and find new perspectives on our own processes.

Abinah has traveled to several African nations including Uganda and his home country of Nigeria. Abinah is highly recognized by NARUC and USAID for his level of expertise which is helping African countries develop and implement stable electricity for the residents and sound policy. Other Commission Staff have traveled to Ukraine, Mexico, and Vietnam.

"The development of utilities around the world is critical and it also provides a lot of opportunities for U.S. and Arizona businesses for international commerce and investment," said Chairman Tom Forese. "Our Staff has the reputation of being problem solvers and they are helping open doors."

The Arizona Corporation Commission Consumer Services Manager Connie Walczak traveled with other Commission members to Ukraine last year. The delegates from the Ukraine then visited the Commission a few months after, to further expand the lessons learned through a job shadow program.

"During the visits they were very interested in how we handled, tracked, and responded to customer calls," said Walczak. "In less than a year, we are hearing now that they have developed a pilot program that is already proving to be successful. It is so exciting to have been a part of this positive step into Ukraine's future."

“There is a process in which NARUC selects the candidates,” said Abinah. “The fact that they reach out to Arizona time and time again demonstrates the ability and knowledge our staff possesses. NARUC recognizes our expertise.”

Established by Article 15 of the state’s constitution, the Arizona Corporation Commission is responsible for the regulation of public utilities, overseeing the incorporation or registration of companies wishing to do business in Arizona. Additionally, the Corporation Commission registers and oversees securities offerings and dealers, and enforces railroad and pipeline safety. The five commissioners that make up the Commission are elected by the people of Arizona for a four-year term, with the option of serving for two consecutive terms. To learn more about the Arizona Corporation Commission and the Commissioners, please check out <http://www.azcc.gov/Divisions/Administration/about.asp>