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Energy Secretary Richardson and Mayor Miller to Host Representatives from Forty African Countries in Tucson

Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson and Tucson Mayor George Miller expect over 40 African Energy Ministers to be represented at next month's conference in Tucson, Arizona. The three-day *U.S.-Africa Energy Ministers' Conference: A Partnership for the 21st Century* is aimed at improving investment opportunities in Africa's energy sector. The conference is sponsored by the Department of Energy and the City of Tucson.

"The main ingredient for a productive conference is discussions between my African colleagues and the private sector on sustainable development opportunities in their countries," said Richardson. "We are delighted by the overwhelming response and are looking forward to a successful meeting in Tucson."

Several prominent lawmakers are scheduled to appear at this first U.S. gathering of African energy ministers including, Senator Jon Kyl, Congressmen Jim Kolbe, Ed Pastor, and Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald as well as other senior government officials from Tucson and Arizona.

The conference will focus on creating a positive environment for investment in Africa's energy infrastructure, encouraging new markets for oil and gas development and promoting technologies that will foster economic development and engineer growth in a way which protects Africa's precious environment for the 21st century. There will be plenary and roundtable discussions to address energy issues such as attracting private sector investments in clean energy development and use, regional integration and sustainable energy development. Topics will include oil and gas development, energy efficiency, renewable energy and clean power development of electrification in urban and rural areas.

Between 300-400 participants are expected to attend the event, including African energy ministers, international organizations, senior executives from the private sector, regional African organizations and academic institutions.

A list of countries that will be represented at the conference, a draft agenda, registration information and other details can be found at: <http://www.africaenergy.org>.

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