

# SPECIAL EDITION NEWS LETTER





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## Welcome to the EWiEn Newsletter!

We're excited to share updates from the Ethiopian Women in Energy Association. In this edition, you'll find highlights of our recent activities, events, and achievements over the past three months.

EWiEn is dedicated to promoting gender equality in the energy sector and enhancing the role of women in this field. We appreciate the support of our members, partners, and sponsors in creating a more inclusive energy landscape. Together, we can continue to make a significant impact and empower women to succeed in the energy sector.

## Message from the President

Dear Partners and Members,

I'm excited to share our recent progress at the Ethiopian Women in Energy Association. Our goal of increasing women's participation in the energy sector is yielding results.

We successfully held the fourth Annual Women in Energy event and honored the winners of the Influential Women in Energy Award 2024. Additionally, we signed a contract with the Ethiopian German Energy Cooperation and GIZ-EnDev to further our initiatives. Our session on "Enhancing Women's Participation in Renewable Energy Investments: Policy Pathways" sparked valuable discussions.

I encourage you to read the rest of our newsletter to learn more about our projects. Together, we are building a more innovative and inclusive energy sector in Ethiopia.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

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## The Annual Women in Energy 2024 event

The Annual Women in Energy 2024 event

On December 5, 2024, the Ethiopian Women in Energy (EWiEn) Association hosted the Annual Women in Energy 2024 event, supported by Endev, EEP, Veritas Consulting, and Skylight Hotel. The event gathered close to 150 attendees to celebrate the fourth Influential Women in Energy Award.

One of the founders of the Ethiopia Women in Energy (EWiEn) Association, Ms. Filagot Tesfaye, moderated the event. She welcomed attendees, provided an overview of the program, and allowed the association's president, Ms. Adey Getachew, to give a welcome speech.



The Annual Women in Energy 2024 event opened with a speech by Ms. Adey Getachew, President of the Ethiopian Women in Energy Association (EWiEn). She expressed gratitude to guests, sponsors, and colleagues, highlighting the event's mission to promote women's roles in the energy sector. Ms. Getachew acknowledged EWiEn's partners, including GIZ Ethiopia and EnDev, and thanked sponsors such as Skylight Hotel, Ethiopian Electric Power, and Veritas Consulting for their support.





## The Annual Women in Energy 2024 event

At the Annual Women in Energy 2024 event Mr. Stephan Lidsba, Deputy Country Director of GIZ Ethiopia, opened with a speech celebrating GIZ's partnership with EWiEn. He emphasized the event's purpose of honoring women's contributions, linking it to the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

The first Keynote speaker Ato Gosaye Mengstu, Energy Development Advisor, praised EWiEn for reducing gender inequality and inspiring young women to enter the energy sector.



The second keynote speaker was Ms. Semege Ayalew, representing Engineer Ashebir Balch, CEO of EEP, acknowledged EWiEn's role in closing the gender gap and congratulated this year's award recipients.

Ms. Yodit Gebremaryam, member of EWiEn executive committee, detailed the nomination process for the Influential Women in Energy Awards. A public call on social media garnered 28 nominees between April 20 and June 2024. This list was narrowed to 12, then 10, before being submitted to an external jury, who evaluated nominees based on experience and societal impact.



Ms. Yodit Gebremaryam, a subcommittee member, detailed the nomination process for the Influential Women in Energy Awards. A public call on social media garnered 28 nominees between April 20 and June 2024. This list was narrowed to 12, then 10, before being submitted to an external jury, who evaluated nominees based on experience and societal impact.

# Influential Women in Energy Award 2024 Winners



## **Hiwote Teshome Influential Women in Energy Award 2024 winner**

For the last 30 years, Hiwote has led the East African energy sector in clean cooking and renewable energy. She started her career working on biogas projects at the Ministry of Mines & Energy before earning her Master's degree in Renewable Energy in Germany.

Hiwote spearheaded projects that advance cutting-edge cook stove technologies, enhancing people's lives and standard of living in Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Mozambique. She is currently the Energy Sector Lead for SNV Ethiopia.

Her efforts have earned her recognition from donors and development partners.

In addition to her career accomplishments, Hiwote is a passionate mother to her daughter and an advocate for education and reading. Discover the inspiring story of her life journey in this mini documentary. [Watch it here.](#)



**Lensie Edae Influential Women in Energy Award 2024 winner** From the Arsi Region of Ethiopia, Lensie Edae's journey is a testament to perseverance and passion! With a father who fiercely advocated for her education, she overcame societal pressures and she became a leader in the energy sector.

Lensie's career began with a strong foundation in public service at the Addis Ababa City Administration. Her journey took a pivotal turn when she joined Ethiopian Electric Utility, and later, in 2004, she became part of Ethiopian Electric Power.

As she climbed the corporate ladder, Lensie took on various roles, showcasing her expertise in human resources as both a Human Resource & Recruitment Manager and an Human Resource Director. In 2020, she embraced her current position as the Directress of Women & Children's Affairs at Ethiopian Electric Power.

She is a devoted mother of four, Lensie understands the complexities of balancing a thriving career with family life. Her ability to lead with passion and purpose makes her an inspiration to women.

She dedicated herself to empowering women by establishing systems to narrow the gender gap in hiring and promotion, enabling females to reach the highest management levels at Ethiopian Electric Power. Additionally, she worked to create a supportive work environment for working mothers by implementing a daycare service and taking a leadership role in its management. Discover the inspiring story of her life journey in this mini documentary. [Watch it here](#)



**Tirhas Mebrahtu Influential Women in Energy Award 2024 winner**, her journey in environmental protection began after she earned her Bachelor's degree in Forestry Science from Wondo Genet College. She started her career in Allamata Wereda, focusing on agroforestry, which inspired her to pursue a Master's in Natural Resource Conservation at Mekelle University.

Today, as the Chief Executive Officer of Environmental System Establishment and Administration at the Environmental Protection Authority, Tirhas is spearheading a \$50 million project to replace diesel-powered well systems with solar pumps in Oromia and Amhara Regions. Her commitment to renewable energy is not just about innovation; it's about ensuring clean water access for countless communities.

Not only did she contribute to Ethiopia's environmental policies, but she also represented her country at international climate negotiations, including COP15, where the historic Paris Agreement was established.

Beyond her professional success, Tirhas is a devoted mother, balancing her career with family life. Her story is a powerful reminder of perseverance and women's impact in environmental conservation. Discover the inspiring story of her life journey in this mini documentary. [Watch it here](#)





## Influential Women in Energy Award 2024 Winners & Nominees



Hiwote Teshome  
Winner



Tirhas Mebrahtu  
Winner



Lensie Edae  
winner



Enkenyelesh Alemu  
Nominee



Mihret Desta  
Nominee



Frehiwot Girma (Ph.D.)  
Nominee



Hawi Tesfaye  
Nominee



Meseret Mare  
Nominee



Haimanot Tefera  
Nominee



Etsegenet Sitotaw  
Nominee

H.E Dr. Ing. Sultan Wali, State Minister for Energy Development at the Ministry of Water and Energy delivered a congratulatory speech to the awardees, during his speech he emphasized the importance of the energy sector, noting that lack of access to electricity and use of traditional energy means significantly affect the quality of lives of mothers and children. He stated that women's participation in the energy field is crucial for the country's growth. He congratulated the award recipients, expressing his belief that their achievements will lead to significant future changes. He is optimistic that the gender gap will soon close, allowing women to make remarkable contributions in the sector.



Dr. Firehiwot Girma expressed heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the event. She acknowledged our collaborators and their role in empowering women, highlighting the inspiring stories of the award recipients. She emphasized that this award serves as a call to action to continue advocating for gender equality and empowerment in the energy sector. She thanked the external jury members, the EWiEn management team, and all exhibitors, partners, and attendees for their participation.



## The Annual Women in Energy 2024 event exhibition



At the 4th Annual Women in Energy 2024 Event there was a showcase of innovative energy solutions presented by prominent companies. Notable participants included Ethiopian Electric Power, Green Scene Energy PLC, Lydetco plc, ON Energy Consulting, VERITAS Consulting, Gorgeous Solar Solution, INCODE Engineering Solution PLC, and Caritas Switzerland. These organizations displayed cutting-edge technologies aimed at empowering women and addressing societal challenges.





# The Annual Women in Energy 2024 event

## Picture





## EWiEn Workshop on Enhancing Women's Participation in Renewable Energy Investments: Policy Pathways

Ethiopian Women in Energy Association (EWiEn) present Thematic Workshop on Enhancing Women's Participation in Renewable Energy Investments: Policy Pathways, which was organized in partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and held on October 24, 2024, at Capital Hotel and Spa in Addis Ababa.

The workshop, the event brought 64 participants together stakeholders from government, development agencies, and the private sector to discuss ways for overcoming obstacles to women's involvement in the renewable energy sector.

The workshop starts with a welcome from Selamawit Beneber, a member of EWiEn, who set the stage for the day's agenda. Dr. Firehiwot Girma, EWiEn Vice Chairperson, opened the workshop by highlighting the EWiEn's progress and highlighting its mission, programmatic areas, and achievements. She emphasized that capacity building and networking opportunities are crucial for narrowing the gender gap in the energy sector.

Ato Darge Adenew, UNDP's Program Specialist for Renewable Energy, shared a compelling presentation on "Gender Equality and Sustainable Energy," shedding light on the challenges faced by women in accessing energy resources and the crucial role of inclusive policies in driving positive change.

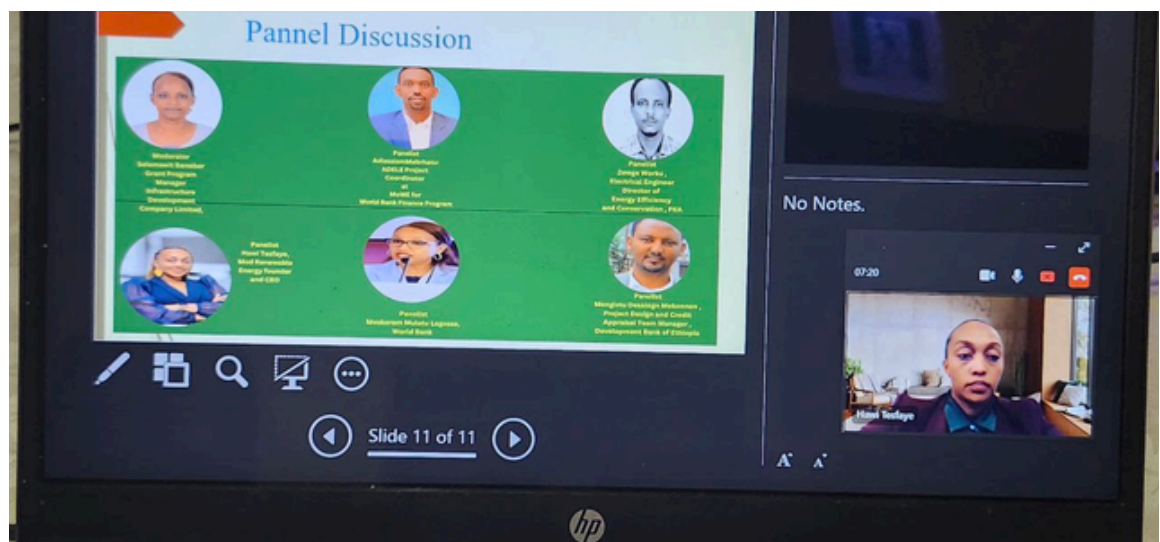


# EWiEn Workshop Panel discussion



The workshop featured a panel discussion moderated by Selamawit Beneberu, with expert's panelists, Mr. Adissalem Mebrhatu, Mr. Mengistu Desalegn, Meskerem Mulatu, and Hawi Tesfaye, engaged in thought-provoking conversations on empowering women in renewable energy, addressing policy gaps, and enhancing financial literacy among female entrepreneurs.

As we look back on the resounding success of our recent workshop, it is evident that creating a supportive environment for women in the energy sector is paramount to driving positive change. Through the sharing of successful case studies, advocating for gender-inclusive policies, and offering tailored training programs, we have the opportunity to shape a more inclusive and sustainable future for all involved.



# Contract Agreement with GIZ- EnDev and Ethiopian German Energy Cooperation

## Contract Agreement with Energising Development (EnDev)

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), through its EnDev project, has signed a contract with the Ethiopian Women in Energy Association. This agreement runs from November 1, 2024, to January 31, 2025. The funding aims to boost women's participation in the energy sector, highlighting their contributions and encouraging greater involvement in the energy sector.



## contract Agreement with Ethiopian German Energy Cooperation



The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) has a renewed partnership with the Ethiopian Women in Energy Association to implement the Ethiopian German Energy Cooperation project. This local subsidy will support the project from October 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. The primary goal of this subsidy is to enhance leadership excellence and promote continuous knowledge development within the energy sector..



# Thematic Workshop on Hydropower Scheduling, Operation and Climate Impact



EWiEn: Ethiopian Women in Energy, in collaboration with the Ethiopian-German Energy Cooperation, successfully hosted a workshop on Hydropower Scheduling, Operation, and Climate Impact on January 11, 2025.

The workshop aimed to provide a general audience with an overview of different aspects of hydropower generation in Ethiopia and around the world. The workshop panelists were Dr. Belete Berehau, Associate Professor at AAIT, Dr. Meron Tesfaye, Senior Policy Analyst at Energy for Growth Hub, Dr. Frehiwot Girma, consultant and researcher at INCODE Engineering Solutions PLC, and Mr. Abdu Yimam, Technical Support Manager in the Generation Operations Department of EEP. Dr. Atsede Gualu, Senior Energy modeller at EAPP moderated the panel discussions.



Dr. Firehowt, vice Chair Person of EWiEn, presented results from her research on stochastic hydropower scheduling model and compared it to the one currently used by Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP), which is based on historical generation pattern.

A panel discussion followed the presentation on hydro power scheduling and operation as well as related topics such as climate impact, hydro power resource potential, up/downstream water uses, financing, and environmental impacts. You can read more details on the discussion on our LinkedIn page.

# Ethiopian Women in Energy Association( EWiEn)Achievements



The National Consultation Workshop on Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA), organized by Ethiopia's Ministry of Water and Energy partnership with IRENA, gathered key stakeholders to accelerate Ethiopia's clean energy transition. Participants included government officials, energy experts, private sector representatives, and development partners. Chairperson of EWiEn Dr Atsede Gualu and the Vice President Atikilt Bekele spoke on behalf of the Ethiopian Women in Energy Association by moderating discussions and delivering presentations on the role of private sector participation in the energy sector.

APRA, launched during the Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi in September 2023, is a coalition led by Kenya with Ethiopia, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe. It aims to overcome financing challenges and institutional barriers to achieve ambitious renewable energy targets.



# Ethiopian Women in Energy Association( EWiEn)Achievements



The Expert Group Meeting on Electricity Infrastructure Services, focusing on the Role of Regional Power Pools in Africa's Energy Transition and Energy Security Framework, was held on May 17 and May 23, 2024. Selam Beneberu was a panelist at the event, alongside the vice president of Ethiopian women energy Association Atikilt Bekele, was presenter on the event.



Selamawit Beneberu participated as one of the panellists at the Global South-South Summit from May 22-23, 2024. The panel focused on the role of Productive Use of Renewable Energy (PURE) in Women empowerment and gender equality. It was discussed that energy access is a gender issue that impacts women and men differently and how reliable energy reduces "time poverty," improves healthcare, enhances safety, and reduces health risks from indoor pollution, benefiting women who often bear household responsibilities. Beyond being consumers, women play a crucial role across the energy sector as providers, policymakers, and decision-makers, driving economic growth and gender equality.

# Ethiopian Women in Energy Association( EWiEn)Achievements

EWiEn co-organized December's monthly event hosted by the Association of Women in Boldness (AWiB) under the theme "Innovation towards a Sustainable Environment." The event brought together passionate individuals who are committed to creating change. Speaking on behalf of EWiEn, Amen Aniley, Ethiopian Women in Energy Association Executive Committee Secretary, the event moderator, set the stage for an insightful discussion about the concept of innovative sustainability. Amen emphasized the importance of developing solutions that positively affect not only the environment but also social and economic structures. One of the highlights of the event was the lineup of speakers, all of whom were esteemed members of EWiEn.



EWiEn was honored for their key role in evaluating applications for the Innovation Challenge Fund in Ethiopia's clean cooking sector. Ambassador of Ethiopian Women in Energy Association Ms. Yemisrach led the assessment process, focusing on the evaluation criteria, including eligibility, technical feasibility, potential impact, sustainability, and financial viability, which were meticulously assessed to identify innovative proposals for cleaner cooking solutions in Ethiopian households. The multi-level evaluation process was held at Endev's office.

