

Symposium and Annual General Meeting

The FISUEL Symposium and Annual General Meeting were held on 20th and 21st May 2014 in Dakar (Senegal), preceded on 19th May by the reunions of the three working groups (Africa, Asia and Europe) and of the Board of Directors.

The location was the King Fahd Palace Hotel in Dakar, on the theme "**For safe and effective access to electricity by users**".

120 persons were present on the first day, and 90 on the second.

These three Fisual days were filled with emotion, with the tribute to our friend Adiouma Dione, and the change of President of our Federation.

A big thank-you is due to the entire organisation team for the huge success of this event.



Opening and homage to Adiouma Dione

The meeting began with a glowing tribute to our friend Adiouma Dione, former Vice-President of Fisuel and one time CEO of Proquelec.



Following the welcome extended to the family of Adiouma Dione and the thanks to the many people present (some 120 persons) and our sponsors, The President of Fisuel, Ms Patricia Yerfino, called for one minute's silence in his memory. She then paid a heartfelt tribute to Adiouma:

"On 25th October, 2013, we lost a very dear friend to our Federation. He carried out his functions with great integrity and professionalism, both in his tasks and in considering the well-being of others.



He was a kindly man, with an ethical vision of life that we all appreciated, consistent in his decisions, considerate and highly-qualified. All our current directors, and all who have had the pleasure of meeting him, liked him. He was very proud of his country, his profession and his work.

The Board of Directors and I wanted our Annual General Meeting for this year to take place in Dakar, in memory of our Vice-President Adiouma Dione, *our* Adiouma.

Adiouma retired in 2012. We asked him to write us a small commentary, because he was leaving both Proquelec and FISUEL. You will have read it in the February 2013 edition of Fisual Info, of which the following is an extract:

"Dear friends of FISUEL, as I declared at our Federation's Annual General Meeting, on 31st December 2012 I became entitled to claim my pension rights. Accordingly, I am leaving the Board of Directors of Proquelec, and implicitly, the position of Vice-President of FISUEL.

It is with great sadness that I shall leave the great family of FISUEL, where I only have friends, all of them devoted to the development and success of our organisation. In your company I have enjoyed many happy moments of conviviality and hard work in practically every corner of the world where FISUEL has made itself known. We have achieved great things with courtesy and efficiency, contributing to the growth of our young Federation. I should like to extend my warmest thanks to all of you, especially my colleagues in the Board of Directors, with whom I have enjoyed some unforgettable moments. Thank you for everything and long live FISUEL!"

I shall conclude with a message from our Founding President, Philippe André, who knew Adioumavery well.

"Adiouma Dione was truly a great friend to me. Sometimes I said to him, and it made him smile, "Adiouma, you could be my son!" Especially during our occasional disagreements, which could sometimes happen. It was all this that made our friendship so delightful.

He left us too soon, on 25th October 2013, and I am sure that Almighty God, of whom he often spoke, has welcomed him in heaven, because he was a fair and honest man, full of conviction and sincerity. Proquelec, in Senegal, has been a member of our Board of Directors since the beginning, and at the time its representative was its CEO, Seydina Kane, whose help was invaluable. It was Adiouma Dione who replaced Seydina Kane, and maintained this high level of expertise within our organisation.

Although today I feel very close to M. Diallo, the new CEO of Proquelec, as you know, Malick, I cannot forget 10 years of very close friendship with Adiouma. As founder of Fisuel, I am sure you will



allow me to address our deepest sympathy and friendship to Adiouma's friends, and especially his wife and children, on behalf of all our members. Adiouma will remain in our hearts."

Adieu to our friend Adiouma and thank you for all you gave, both personally and for Fisuel.

As Philippe André has said, you will remain in our hearts.

Then Mr Papa Dieng, CEO of SENELEC and Chairman of the Board of PROQUELEC, paid a tribute to Adiouma Dione on behalf of SENELEC and PROQUELEC. Mr Dieng was deeply moved as he declared:

" Proquelec wishes to pay tribute, though my own humble person, to an exceptional man whose spirit is still present in this hall, and who is yet the most present of all the absentees: the late Adiouma Dione, a former CEO of Proquelec and former Vice-President of FISUEL.



I had the privilege of frequenting him as a colleague at Senelec before succeeding him at Proquelec.

This close working relationship demonstrated his excellent qualities:

- Rigour and commitment to work well done
- Planning and method
- Commitment to his job: he was always the first to arrive in the office and

the last to leave

- An eulogist of continuous work improvement
- Affable and respectful of the persons

Apart from his human qualities that everybody recognises, with his openness to others, his unfailing honesty and a profound charisma which enabled him to contribute to numerous activities at SENELEC, PROQUELEC and FISUEL, he won over everybody with his exceptional professionalism.

How could we bury the memory of such a man in the tomb of the forgotten? Certainly we could not, and we should not.

He is a loss to his family, with us today, and to Senegal, but the greatest loser is our beloved Africa, because he had great ambitions for his continent.

It is of men of his calibre that our constantly evolving society has need today. He will remain an example to us all for a very long time. And we thank him for all he did for us.

As our thoughts go to him at this moment, I would like to offer our deepest sympathy to his family, in the presence of so many eminent personalities from different horizons.

Adieu Adiouma. Rest in peace.

Mr El Hadji Mamadou Moussa Thiam, Permanent Energy Secretary, representing the Minister for Energy, Ms Maïmouna NdoyeSeck, began by welcoming to Senegal all the participants who have travelled far to take part in this important meeting. He took advantage of this solemn occasion to pay a warm tribute to the late Adiouma Dione, former Vice-President of Fisuel and one time CEO of Proquelec.

Opening of FISUEL Symposium

Speech and opening by Mr El Hadji Mamadou Moussa Thiam, Permanent Energy Secretary, representing the Minister for Energy, Ms Maïmouna NdoyeSeck, after welcoming all personalities and participants.

"Ladies and gentlemen, this is an excellent opportunity for me to express the thanks of the government and people of Senegal to the organisers of this workshop, the International Federation for the safety of Electricity Users, in cooperation with Proquelec (Promotion of the Quality of Domestic Electrical Installations), who were so kind as to choose our Capital city for their event.

Access to safe and efficient electrical installations is a very appropriate response to the double imperative of development, because while ensuring the safety of people and goods, it also contributes to economic growth, and especially with regard to the struggle against counterfeit electrical equipment.



This symposium is especially timely because very few electrical installations in Senegal are safe and efficient. Indeed, the presentation by Proquelec in December 2012 at the Novotel Hotel of the surveys carried out on electrical safety in accommodation in Senegal and on buildings receiving members of the public ("ERP") and / or workers ("ERT") in the Dakar and Guédiawaye administrative regions revealed that:

- Only 73% of electrical installations in Senegal are safe and comply with current standards.
- 13% of ERP and/or ERT establishments in the Dakar region are safe and in compliance with standards in force.
- 100% of ERP and/or ERT establishments in the Guédiawaye region are neither safe nor in compliance with standards in force.

As you know very well, generally speaking electricity is only supplied to subscribers if their own equipment is in compliance with the regulations and standards in force.

Unfortunately, several electrically-related accidents have been observed in Senegal: electrocutions in living spaces, fires in buildings receiving members of the public, particularly in markets, etc.

Currently, the inspection of the user's internal electrical installation is limited to the approval visit by the distributor's employees. In fact this is limited to checking the existence of safety and protection devices which ensure that the supply to the domestic installation will not disrupt the public electricity grid.

Moreover, it has been observed that current standards are not complied with, and installers often do not have the minimum technical skills required to exercise their profession.

A prior compliance inspection is therefore necessary. This ensures that the electrical installer to be supplied does indeed meet the safety regulations in force whose respect constitutes the condition for the quality of the expected service and the preservation of the user's safety.

At the same time we must combat, on the one hand, amateurism in a sector as important as the electricity supply, and on the other, the risks of the tragedies that negligence can cause.

It is for all these reasons that on 12th October 1995 the Government of Senegal issued a declaration certificate to PROQUELEC, a public service organism.

In this drive to improve the safety of electrical installations, my department is working on a decree which will render mandatory the inspection of domestic electrical installations before the system is electrified or after renovation, as happens in other countries.

Ladies and gentlemen and guests, The theme of this workshop, "for safe and effective access to electricity by users" is perfectly consistent with the performance and quality requirements that His Excellence Mr MackySall, President of the Republic of Senegal, often exhorts us to achieve.

I cannot conclude without congratulating the CEO of Proquelec and all his team for their work in the past months, which has ensured the success of this event.

While reasserting the great interest of the Government of Senegal in the results of your work, and with our best wishes for your success, I declare this workshop, on the subject of "For safe and effective access to electricity by users", open.

Thank you for your attention.

Summary of the Symposium

During this symposium, some thirty presentations were made by members and by expert guests. These presentations were organised around 5 main themes: Electrical safety and statistics, safe and effective electrification in peri-urban areas, counterfeiting, communication and testimonies.



1 Electrical safety and statistics

Numerous testimonies and examples demonstrated the extent of dangers and accidents due to poor control of electrical safety.

70% of fires within the ECOWAS zone (Economic Community of West African States) are of electrical origin. In Senegal alone, 55 people died in such fires in 2013. The main cause is failure to comply with installation regulations (93% of non-conformity in Senegal).

The first priority is therefore to make the inspection of installations mandatory before they are connected to the mains. There are real opportunities to develop common rules within the ECOWAS zone. The safety barometer (www.safetybarometer.org) is a tool for establishing the state of safety in a country, and consequently raising authorities' awareness and the various actors so that they will take appropriate measures to raise electrical safety to the correct level.

We encourage each member of FISUEL, and any other competent person, to contribute to building this tool to make it as reliable and up to date as possible.

2 Safe and effective electrification of peri-urban areas

"Electrification is not just a question of technique" This comment, made during the symposium, succinctly resumes all the issues of electrification in peri-urban and rural areas. Over and above the technical aspect, the societal, human and environmental issues must be taken into consideration.

Here again, numerous testimonials were given to demonstrate this essential factor. From telemedicine in Mali to the electrification of small villages in the Cape Verde islands, and the implementation of the national energy policy in Senegal, each example demonstrated the concrete benefits for the population, the economy and society as a whole.

The mastery of this electrification, which employs a large proportion of renewable energies, must lead to the improvement of living conditions for all. To meet this challenge successfully, we must be creative and imaginative, and adapt to the needs and customs on the local scale.

3 Counterfeiting

The counterfeiting of electrical products, a scourge on a global scale, has taken on dramatic proportions in Africa. More than 50% of products sold in Africa are bogus. In some countries this figure is as high as 85%. User safety cannot be guaranteed with these dangerous products. Despite this unanimous view, unchanged for many years, the situation is scarcely improving.

In some countries there are no rules to define counterfeiting, and market monitoring is not equal to the phenomenon. This raises the following question: What event, what factor could lead to a genuine

surveillance of counterfeiting, and what can be done for the use of counterfeit products to be widely treated as an offence?



4 Communication and testimonials

In its 12 years of existence the FISUEL has collected a large number of documents on every possible subject. The Fisuel Internet site (www.fisuel.org) now has a new tab, "Themes", in which all these documents, including those presented at the Dakar symposium, are classified under 5 different headings. This makes searching easier. Electricity is indispensable in the non-residential sector (offices, industry, etc.).

Personal safety largely depends on the electrical installation, its maintenance and its use. FISUEL's experience in the residential sector must be a great help to us in developing this point on a global scale. Communications are one of the key means of raising electricity users' awareness about safety. In Japan, during the periodical inspection which is carried out every 4 years, users are given a brochure on electrical safety.

It gives a wide range of advice: how to use electrical devices correctly, making use of professionals, what to do in the event of an electricity cut, how to check your electrical installation, how to avoid waste, etc. Beneficial cooperation between countries, with mutual help and exchanges, which is the very core of FISUEL, has once again been demonstrated with the cooperation between Japan and Senegal. This concerns the training of technicians for the development of the industrial sector.

5 Overall summary

Training, communication, prevention, legislation and control are the words which describe all the actions required to raise the level of safety and make electricity safe and efficient. Training from a young age: children are the best possible vector for information, and once adult they will be safety ambassadors.

Communication by professionals: messages must be clear, simple and understandable by all, in order to lead to responsible behaviour and real action. Prevention at all levels of society, to avoid human and economic disasters.

Appropriate legislation: this is the fundamental tool that allows authorities to act against unfair players and set the rules that ensure safety. Control: with no control, legislation is of no use. The implementation and respect of the various existing or future regulations is a major issue for African countries.

6 Openings / ideas

The profitability of electrification only has meaning for States: the improvement of living conditions through access to education, health care, cooking resources or autonomous food storage devices, for example, enable an entire population to "live better" and consequently render the state more efficient and prosperous.

The harmonisation of the vocabulary used by parties involved calls for the creation of a glossary by FISUEL. We should each be able to understand the same concept when using a word. Finally, dangerous, non-compliant, dishonest products should be considered in the same light as counterfeits, since the dangers in use are of the same kind.

The conclusion came from the audience, with powerful themes: mandatory safety, fighting counterfeiting, awareness at all levels, and above the following phrase from one of the participants, which summaries very well both the work of this symposium and FISUEL's vision: **"Safe electricity everywhere and for all, with honest products."**

Thanks to our sponsors

Thanks to your generous contribution our conference has been a great success. Your support played a key role in this success and we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and warm thanks.



Annual General Meeting



At the 2014 Annual General Meeting of our Federation, the new Board of directors (13 members) and the new President, Mr. Akio Nakamura, were elected. Mr. Nakamura thanked the meeting for its confidence and Ms Patricia Yerfino for the work accomplished during her mandate from 2011 to 2014, and promised to commit all his energy to the development of FISUEL, just as his predecessors had done. He presented his action plan, in line with the strategic plan and the continuation of the work of President Yerfino during the 3 years of her mandate. He declared that his aim was to make FISUEL capable of making further contributions to the improvement in the level of electrical safety for all throughout the world, by giving added impetus to the circulation of expertise and technical or regulatory information, statistical data and ideas for combating dangerous products. He concluded with the message: "Let's be proud to belong to FISUEL".



Ms Patricia Yerfino closed the Meeting by thanking all those who had enabled it to be such a success in Dakar. In every respect, she said, her mandate had been a very enriching experience for her. Its orientation, she said, had been the visibility, the recognition and the internal structure of FISUEL. She concluded by expressing her thanks to the Board of Directors, staff and all those who give life to FISUEL.

Below is the composition of the new Board of Directors, in office since this Annual General Meeting. Each of them will be presented in the next Fisuel Info.

- Mme Patricia Yerfino APSE
- Mr Philippe André CONSUEL
- Mr Patrick Bayle PROMOTELEC
- Mr Arthur Daussy CONSUELEC
- Mr Malick Diallo PROQUELEC
- Mr Benoît Dôme COPPER ALLIANCE
- Mr Waldemar Dunajewski SEP
- Mr Amédé Kouakou LBTP
- Mr Akio Nakamura FESIA
- Mr Désiré Nansi TECHNOLOGIE ZENTRUM
- Mr Pierre Selva IGNES
- Mr José Tomaz Gomes CERTIEL
- Mr Koen Van Reusel UIE



The hand-over between Ms Patricia Yerfino and Mr Akio Nakamura took place during the Gala, with the traditional medal exchange between Presidents, to a musical background accompanied by Senegalese dances that left us with an exceptional souvenir of Senegal.



Note that all the presentations made during the Symposium and the documents connected with the Annual General Meeting are on the web site www.fisuel.org