

Preface

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Renewable energy sources are more important today than ever before, as they represent a key factor in reducing greenhouse emissions and fossil fuel consumption. Avoiding excessive burdens on future generations has now become the declared challenge of this century and justifies the efforts we must undertake to reduce global warming. This can only be achieved by conceiving new technical approaches, exploiting alternative resources and by raising people's awareness of the sustainable use of their own livelihoods. However, this change in awareness is a process that needs to be driven forward, especially in the field of research and education, and is therefore the declared aim of the Joint German-West African Conference on Sustainable, Renewable Energy Systems – SusRES. This annual conference provides a platform for exchange between scientists, students and many other interested parties, with technological progress at the forefront of the event. The SusRES conference is known as an accelerator for an ever-growing international network, not limited to the circumstances of a single country or even continent, which strives to take on and meet the global challenges of the present and future.

This year's guiding theme of the event -Decentralized systems as a key factor in clean energy production for locations with limited infrastructure- of the event is primarily based on the consideration of how the energy supply of the future is to be designed. For some years now, a paradigm shift towards decentralised energy supply has been observed, which opens up new possibilities especially in areas with weak infrastructural supply. This is not just about providing energy from renewable resources, but also about exploiting this energy we have today efficiently and sustainably, whereby intelligent and interconnected systems play an ever-increasing role.

The reader is provided with exciting insights into these topics within this conference proceedings elaborated by stakeholders from twelve time zones and four continents. In their contributions, the authors address important findings, especially from research but also from teaching, which represent an important milestone in their activities and thus make a significant contribution to our declared goals.