We recently caught up with Tiago Marques, Head of Content – Africa, dmg events and spoke to him about the upcoming Mozambique Gas & Energy Summit & Exhibition that takes place from 14-15 September 2022.

Can you point out the main highlights of this 7th edition of Mozambique Gas & Energy Summit?

The Mozambique Gas & Energy Summit is now in its 7th edition and we are honoured to working closely with our partner ENH and have the patronage of the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Mining. This year we have many highlights, from exciting new sessions on critical projects as the Temane Power Projects, to new clean energies, gas utilization for industrialization, communities projects and involvement, overcoming energy poverty and providing opportunities for Mozambican businesses and population, as well as the Cabo Delgado Reconstruction plan. Besides that we will cover the important positioning of Mozambique as a global energy supplier and latest updates on projects and opportunities in the sector. We have an exciting programme and attendance from all around the world. We will see exciting roundtable practical discussions where participants will discuss and learn about the issues more in depth as well as key networking sections for participants. Our exhibition hall is practically sold out which shows the interest in the country’s energy sector.

Can you tell me what delegations from other countries are already confirmed, and some numbers from the event (pavilions, speakers, delegates, etc.)

This year we are receiving more international delegations than before, we have Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Italy, France is extremely well represented with an exciting country pavilion and other countries such as Angola, Argentina, Canada, etc. are also joining soon. In terms of speakers and delegates we also have a varied range of industry experts from all around the world and the region, for example South Africa, South Korea, Europe, Italy, Middle East and other countries which are actively looking to strengthen their partnerships with Mozambique.

This is your first one after the pandemic. What can we expect different from precious pre-pandemic editions?

This year we have an exciting outline and different features throughout the event. Since this is the first edition since 2019 we are recognising people’s interest in connecting in person. Doing business in person is more important than ever and this is a momentous year for Mozambique with the exciting prospects in the gas and energy sector. For the first time we have expanded and included a strong session on renewable energies where we will listen projects in hydro, solar, wind and also hydrogen which are new areas for Mozambique. We are also continuing our strong local content focus and we have practical sessions for SMEs as well a dedicated area in the exhibition hall. We will once gain bring the Women in Energy discussions since Mozambique’s energy sector has advanced but there is still much more to be done for an inclusive industry and we hope to continue to be part of this dialogue. Finally we have more roundtable discussions and critical themes throughout the Summit such as procurement opportunities, nurturing tomorrow’s talent and future leaders.
As you are all aware, Mozambique has faced a slowdown in the projects concerning the exploration in LNG, in the north, but at the same time, first export of natural gas will soon happen in one of the projects. What is your opinion about the potential of Mozambique?

The energy potential of Mozambique is enormous and the interest in the Summit is reflecting that. Our esteemed partner ENH and the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy have worked incredibly hard to put Mozambique at centre stage in the global energy map.

There are current challenges in energy supply and demand across the world, but Mozambique is a global partner that will help reversing these challenges and this year is a momentous year. We should look very strongly at how much the Government and private sector are working together to develop these projects, even during these challenging times we are going through. This reflects collaboration, determination and ambition from the authorities to improve the country’s socio economic development.

Being gas a transition energy, the renewables are gaining terrain in Africa, and also in Mozambique, in terms of investment. Is it gaining some space in your events the renewable energy?

The renewable sector is extremely important and to reflect the changing nature of the sector we have renamed the Summit to Mozambique Gas & Energy Summit. You have exciting projects in hydro, you have a huge potential in solar and wind, and consequently green hydrogen or even blue hydrogen. Mozambique is positioning itself to be one of the most reliable providers of energy to the world, not only gas but also clean energies that will allow the Government to achieve its green ambitions for a more sustainable future.

The connection between the exploration of natural resources and the development of local content and industrialization is a debate that has been running in Mozambique over the last few years, and you have a panel about it. Few years ago, this type of issue wouldn’t be included in this type of conferences, but nowadays its becoming a trend to see a more holistic approach to exploration from the O&G majors. Do you agree? And why?

The Mozambique Gas & Energy Summit always had a strong focus on Local Content and opportunities for national citizens and companies. We not only have a panel on Local Content, but we also have a session on nurturing tomorrow’s leaders as well as how Mozambique will use gas to revolutionise its industrial landscape. The country’s natural resources the country belong to everyone and the energy companies attending have huge know how, technology, innovation and drive to share this with the local businesses and people. Some of our supporters have trained Mozambicans students who are now working in the companies developing these projects with their knowledge. This is something that needs to be celebrated.

A key theme that runs through the whole programme is: How can local companies and Mozambicans be part of the energy value chain? We strive to host practical discussions, not only high level, we want to provide a platform for people to get information and showcase themselves, their services and talents. And we are extremely proud of not only having a section in the exhibition area for SMEs at no cost as well as inviting since the first edition of the event Students from Universities and Training Institutes to participate as guests, after all they will be the future of the industry.

One last key element is that the Mozambique Summit has also contributed directly by covering the university fees of students who went on to graduate in the energy sector. We don’t want to simply promote discussions; we are fully part of it.
The energy crisis in Europe, concerning Russian supply to the continent it seems to have an effect of acceleration in some to the exploration projects in Africa. What is your opinion about it?

The current global crisis in Europe and around the world is a complex issue which is without a question accelerating the interest in reliable energy supply. Africa is blessed with resources and I believe countries around the continent and Mozambique in particular, are working hard to provide opportunities and develop their energy sector which will ultimately lead to socio-economic improvement. Countries and companies around the world are employing the latest technologies and investing in new energies to ensure a more sustainable future for all of us, and the Mozambique Summit will be hosting these discussions and updates over the two days.

To find out how you can get involved in the Summit & Exhibition, please contact the team on MozambiqueGas@dmgevents.com or call Alex Pople on +44 208 0780 779