

1 November 2009

Interview with Jorge Ferioli, WEC Chair Argentinean Committee



Jorge Ferioli
WEC Chair Argentinean Committee;
WEC Chair, Programme committee

1) What keeps you awake at night?

The most pressing issue that keeps me awake is the growing energy demand as more emerging economies reach critical mass in its road to economic development and significant advances on eradication of poverty are obtained.

WEC scenarios speak for themselves when they foresee a duplication of the energy demand if developing countries reach reasonable energy intensities.

To reach the ever increasing energy demand many things must be coordinated:

- the administration of the conflict arising between the raising consumption and the climate change;
- the growth of supply to match the increasing energy demand;
- The balance among security of supply, energy affordability and the pressure to fund investment needs in the sector, objectives that are usually in conflict.

Of course, humanity has met and surpassed many challenges and this one will not be an exception, but the convergence of needs and restrictions is particularly stringent and deserves our full focus and dedication

2) What would you appreciate feedback from WEC members on?

The new strategy approved in the recent Executive Assembly that took place in Reykjavik. WEC, an institution more than eight decades old, has chosen to adapt itself to the new global energy environment, in which global companies play a significant role in the marketplace.

The decision to listen to those players within the WEC framework is very important to keep the vitality and the relevance of our organization.

Likewise, our value propositions should contemplate the new environment and enhance its importance in order to keep the momentum of change.

In a flat organization as WEC is, the propositions come in a bottom-up process.

Therefore, our MCs are instrumental in generating ideas, launching programmes and studies and conceiving useful proposals.

3) What should the WEC think about?

The next two years, that are particularly demanding since COP 15 and the recovery from the economic crisis together with the accommodation of energy supply and demand to lower and sometimes volatile sets of prices, will pose a significant burden on policy makers. WEC has the possibility to influence in those issues but, at the same time, we should rise to the challenge with all our resources and imagination for quick and relevant proposals.

4) Any other comments you would like to share...

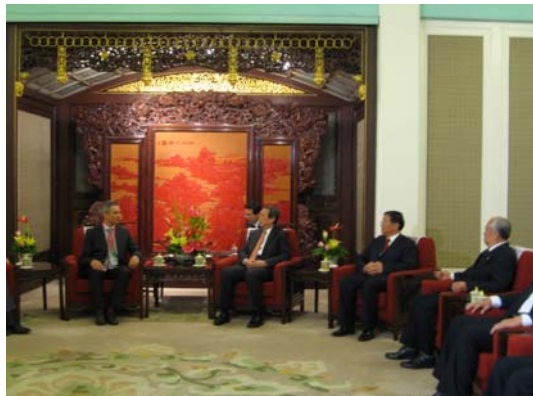
As recently appointed Chairman of the Programme Committee, I would like to reach all MCs in order to encourage them to contribute with ideas, human resources and also critics in order to elaborate a new Programme cycle beyond 2010.

The pressure to be relevant both at a global and at a regional level combined with the challenges that we described above make this task more exciting and decisive than before.

One last comment: a very important step of every Programme and Study should be the proper communication of its results to the public opinion in which MCs will have to play an important roll. This is a requisite to increase the usefulness and visibility of WEC and also a valuable contribution to the solution of the world and regional energy problems.

WEC Debriefing

WEC presents key findings of the World Energy and Climate Policy Assessment to Chinese government



In an exclusive meeting with the former NDRC (National Development and Reform Commission) Chair and now State Councillor Ma Kai and with NDRC's first Vice Chair (in the position of an Energy Minister) Zhang Guobao, WEC's Secretary General Christoph Frei presented the key findings of the recently published World Energy and Climate Policy Assessment. The recent crisis has underlined the importance of strong public policies and WEC's first version of the annually updated assessment provides a neutral benchmark for good policy measures.

Dr Frei highlighted the importance of long-term visibility of energy policy, pointed out that energy and climate policy are strongly intertwined and therefore should be governed by the same strong institution, and that the huge energy efficiency potential can only be

harvested through a proactive dialogue with the public that raises awareness and ensures acceptability of relevant policies. (Continues on page 2)

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Councillor Ma supported these points and said that the long-term visibility was an ambition of the Chinese government and that energy and climate policy are already now directed under one roof by Minister Zhang Guobao. He also mentioned that the government made a big effort to increase awareness and promote change in the industry.

Today, China consumes 42% of the global coal production, which in turn supplies 68% of the Chinese primary energy. The government has strengthened regulations over the past years to increase security and quality of the coal industry, which has led to the closing down thousands of smaller mines. However, the coal industry is still in oversupply.

Councillor Ma pointed out that CO₂ and new/renewable energies are important issues. China has become a world leader in the wind, solar and hydro industry. Both, hydro and solar have overall capacity potentials of 400 GW in China. In hydro about 172 GW is harvested, in wind only 12 GW, the latter however with rapid growth. China's solar cell industry has made a contribution to the massive price decrease that brings solar closer to grid parity. President Hu Jintao has recently announced the objective of 15% (compared to today's 8%) renewable energies in China's energy mix by 2020. On the nuclear side, China plans 24 new reactors with an overall capacity of 25 GW.

China has a number of linked challenges that require strong policies: it needs a continued high growth rate to provide employment and continue its urbanisation. This growth has to be fuelled and coal is what is available in excess and at low price but at high cost when it comes to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Finally, water is scarce, which adds an additional constraint to the interlinked economy and, which may put some pressure on thirsty energy forms including clean coal technologies.

Meanwhile, China's opportunities lay in its strong financial resources, which will make it an even more attractive partner in international joint ventures as much of the world will face a credit gap over the next few years. And with its huge renewable energies market and accumulated experience it may well soon be the World's key supplier for renewable energy technologies.

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Congress Update

TOP OF THE HOUR, THE COUNTDOWN IS ON: LESS THAN A YEAR TO WEC MONTRÉAL 2010

It's done, the days are now being counted down to the start of activities at the World Energy Congress. In just one year, the Montreal Convention Centre will be teeming with activity as the city hosts the largest international multi-energy gathering. Between now and September 2010, a series of decisive events are to be held that will make the Congress an extremely favourable occasion to rethink our energy supply, including the UN Summit on Climate Change (COP15) in Copenhagen and the G8 summit, which is being held in Canada. The Montreal organizing committee still has a lot of work to do, but it is keeping to its timetable. The coming year will bring a fresh infusion of energy to Montreal. The team here is definitely ready to take up this imposing challenge. The offices are abuzz with brainstorming and networking sessions, and everyone is fully motivated.



WEC Agenda

We invite our members to attend the following upcoming WEC events:

November 6; Paris, France

Workshop: 'From the decentralised electricity market to the vertical 'oligopole'

Contact: Frederic.Marty@gredeg.cnrs.fr

November 12-14; Bucharest, Romania

WEC-Romanian National Committee Conference: Energy & Environment, European Climate Change Policy Beyond 2012

Contact: ghbalan@cnr-cme.ro

November 20; Zagreb, Croatia

Energy Day In Croatia: Quo Vadis Energy In Times Of Climate Change?

Contact: bjelavic@eihp.hr

November 23 - 24; Madrid, Spain

WEC-Spanish M.C. Workshop:

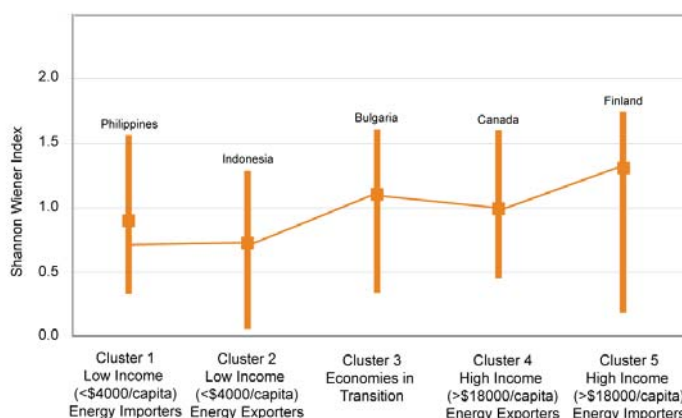
"Economic Environment and Energy Horizon", Spanish Energy Club (ENERCLUB)

Contact: cecme@enerclub.es

For further events, including Member Committee and third-party events, please check the Events page on our WEC website.

Inside Insight

Values for the diversity of energy supply



www.worldenergy.org/publications

Energy security, defined by net energy consuming countries as securing sufficient energy supply at affordable prices, is an enduring concern for policymakers. Rapid energy demand growth in emerging economies, increasing price volatility in world energy markets, constraints in investments in energy supply, etc., have caused major energy importers to reshape their energy strategies. At the same time emerging economies such as China and India are actively seeking energy assets overseas, whilst energy exporters are demanding long-term contracts. Thus, energy security is an area of high priority for most of the world.

The figure is from the recently launched World Energy and Climate Policy Assessment (insert url) and presents the values for the diversity of energy supply, the Shannon Wiener Index, for each of the five clusters of countries. Mean values for each cluster are shown by the squares; countries with the most diverse energy supply are named at the top of the bars.

The Shannon Wiener Index ranges from 0 to 1.94 and is based on the total primary energy supply for up to seven fuel sources.

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