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Interview with WEC Vice Chair, Francisco Barnés de Castro



Dr. Francisco Barnés de Castro
WEC Vice Chair (North America),
Regulatory Energy Commission,
Mexico

What keeps you awake at night?

Three issues that keep me awake at night:

1) The Global Climate Change represents a major medium and long term challenge for world society. Now we know there will be consequences that cannot be avoided. The COP 15 that will be held in Copenhagen by the end of this year must show the path to be followed beyond 2012 and the commitments to be adopted. Every current or future major GHG emitting country should be involved. Lack of agreement on actions to be taken on mitigation or adaptation will cause important impacts on world society.

2) The current economic crisis is already showing adverse effects in project development, including those related to the energy sector. The most affected are the emerging technology based projects, as they have lower investment return rates and relatively higher capital costs, as well as those focused on the protection of the environment whenever externalities are not considered. It is also driving protectionists efforts that, if they become reality, will severely harm the economies of developing countries, as well as the free market schemes that have been put in place along the last couple of decades.

3) It is not a simple matter to bring to a successful end the necessary emerging technologies development. The uncertainties related to their deployment are even greater due to the fact that institutional and societal barriers will surely be raised; because of their nature, the successful solutions to overcome them are much more difficult to find and implement. We need to seriously analyze these issues and involve soft technology experts in the discussions.

What would you appreciate feedback from WEC members on?

It will be interesting to receive any relevant information that members may have in relation to what is happening in their countries related to the adverse effects that they are facing as the result of the economic crisis; some problems are being tackled quite creatively and it would be of interest to learn about them. Also we would be interested in learning about any experiences related to institutional and societal barriers that may have appeared in any of the members countries in relation to specific issues or projects and the solutions that may have been successfully applied.

What should the WEC think about?

Promoting global and regional workshops for policy makers, industry leaders and governments officials, to analyze and discuss the actions to be taken and barriers to be eliminated in response to the problems that we are facing, considering that inaction will have important negative impacts on society. A joint meeting of these three groups of participants will encourage a highly desirable discussion, as different actors provide their specific knowledge and support on their fields of responsibility, both at regional and global level.

WEC Debriefing

Workshop on Energy Efficiency in Africa

WEC, partnering with ADEME France, and in collaboration with its Ethiopian National Committee, convened a 2-day Workshop on Energy Efficiency in Africa at the Sheraton Hotel, Addis Ababa, from 29th to 30th June 2009, on the theme: "Energy Efficiency: What are the Priorities, the proper Policy Measures and the best Practices for Africa?"

The Workshop was attended by about 90 participants and provided a topical opportunity for the participants to discuss Energy Efficiency issues in Africa.

The Honorable State Minister of Mines and Energy of Ethiopia, Ms. Sinknesh Ejigu chaired the opening and the closing Sessions. In the closing remarks she stated that "Most of instruments employed to achieve better Energy performance of different economies and the resulting effects produced have been wisely analyzed and presented to us. WEC's particular effort in this regard is worth noting and commendable."

For the full article please visit http://www.worldenergy.org/news_events/wec_debriefing/2512.asp

WEC Chairs from all regions completed the issues survey

WEC London has received close to 60 responses from Chairs in record time and Christoph would like to take the opportunity to thank all who have contributed for the great response. Many have suggested that we use the results as input to direct future WEC activities including projects and meeting agendas. Results will be partially published in a forthcoming WEC Inside. A detailed presentation will be given during the Secretary Strategy Day and the Chairs Roundtable in Reykjavik. Meanwhile, we encourage all Chairs who have not yet done so to send their feedback by e-mail to hague@worldenergy.org or by fax to (+44 20) 7734 5926

Congress Update

WEC MONTREAL 2010 WELCOMES FOUR NEW PARTNERS

We are pleased to welcome four new sponsors for WEC Montreal 2010. They are Total, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Enbridge and EnCana. Congratulations to Stéphane Bertrand, Executive Director of WEC Montreal 2010 and his team.

These companies join a number of others that have already confirmed their support as sponsors. Sponsorship opportunities are still available: become one of the leading organizations that have now become associated with the number one international event in the energy sector.



WEC Agenda

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

September 16-19; Reykjavik, Iceland

WEC Executive Assembly 2009

Contact: melton@worldenergy.org

October 13-14; London, UK

FT-WEC Energy Leaders Summit 2009

<http://www.ftconferences.com/energy>

Contact: hedberg@worldenergy.org

October 14; London, UK

Patrons CEOs Roundtable (invitation only)

Contact: best@worldenergy.org

October 29th; Berlin, Germany

German Member Committee Annual Conference (DNK-Energietag)

Contact: heinrich@weltenergierat.de

November 3-5; Bucharest, Romania

WEC-Romanian National Committee

Conference: Energy in Central & Eastern Europe, Regional Cooperation

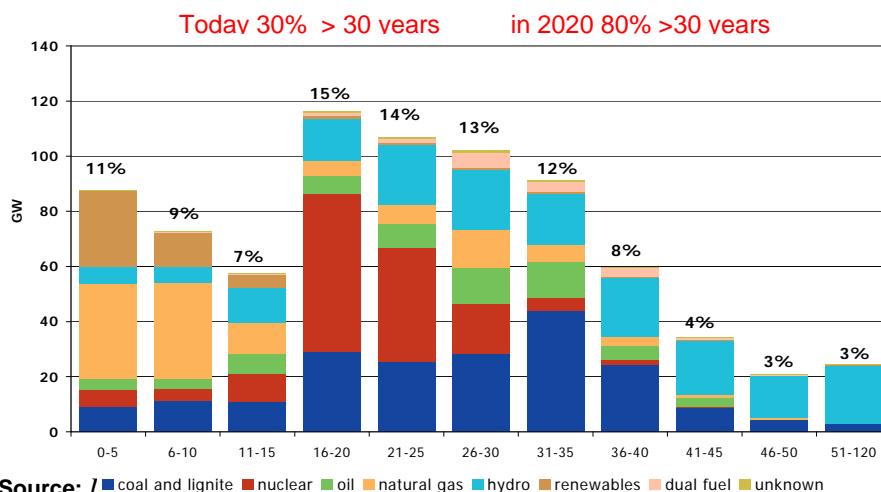
Contact: ghbalan@cnr-cme.ro

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

Inside Insight

The Age Factor

Breakdown of European power generation capacity by age



Source: █ coal and lignite █ nuclear █ oil █ natural gas █ hydro █ renewables █ dual fuel █ unknown

Graph used in: "WEC Report : The Role of Nuclear Power in Europe, 2007 "

<http://www.worldenergy.org/publications/309.asp>

Worldwide replacement of old power plant stock is becoming more urgent than ever before. In Europe, for example, more than 30% of generating capacity is over 30 years old. By 2020 this figure will be 80%. Defining the future energy mix is becoming a top priority for Europe, as this window of opportunity will not last very long.

World Energy Council

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