

Interview with Roudi Baroudi, Secretary General of the WEC Lebanon Member Committee



Mr. Roudi Baroudi,
Secretary General,
WEC Lebanon Member
Committee

What are the critical energy challenges for the Mediterranean region?

The Mediterranean region is as vulnerable as the rest of the world to the effects of climate change, including rising sea levels, degraded water resources, damaged ecosystems and mounting deforestation, all of which threaten agriculture, affect land use, limit water availability for irrigations and drinking and impact the livelihoods of the 450 million people in the region.

The Mediterranean region is a major producer of hydrocarbons and home to more than 180 refineries, 35 volcanoes, and air and sea corridors constantly traversed by thousands of ships and aircraft. Protecting the environment and minimising the impacts of climate change, are therefore key objectives for the 24 nations of the Union for the Mediterranean; in particular, they must address environmental degradation and greenhouse gas emissions.

What can be done regionally and globally to slow the effects of climate change?

The collaborative effort of all countries in the Mediterranean region is needed, for example, to capitalise on the

abundance of solar radiation in the region and convert it into energy for household and commercial uses. Climate change considerations should be integrated into the economic development strategy of each country, with information exchange among leading researchers being vital.

Globally, the issue of climate change has been on the agenda at numerous major international gatherings, most recently of course, at COP-15. In spite of this, a consensus on how to deal with the problem is yet to be reached. We must continue momentum and not allow 'climate fatigue' to set in amongst bureaucrats and negotiators.

Of particular importance is the need to address the environment as part of global economic development. Unless climate change is reversed, the availability and quality of clean air and water for sustaining life – and therefore economies – will face severe peril. Funding for measures to minimise or reverse climate change is therefore key. Robust investment is needed to work toward carbon-free economies by 2020 or 2030, with incentive schemes being encouraged to promote more efficient use of energy and greater use of renewables, and develop better home insulation and more efficient appliances.

The need for governments to agree on a global carbon tax price and construct an appropriate regulatory environment for its implementation, is imperative, and all nations need to join hands to encourage investment in technology and adopt progressive strategies.

There are many problems to be addressed in the face of climate change, but if governments are willing to be creative and cooperative, there are still just as many solutions to be had. By working together, harmonious regulatory regimes can be introduced, to meet specific short, medium and long term goals.

WEC Debriefing

WEC Indian Member Committee Hosts Energy and the Environment Roundtable

On February 1, the WEC Indian Member Committee hosted a welcome reception honouring WEC Chairman Pierre Gadonneix, at the Ashok Hotel in New Delhi. The reception was followed by a roundtable discussion on 'Energy and the Environment'. Over 60 WEC-IMC members and other dignitaries were present at the event.

Mr. Gadonneix spoke to the assembled audience, saying he was convinced that WEC had an extraordinary opportunity to make the voice of the energy sector heard worldwide and that it was WEC's duty to seize this opportunity. However, he pointed out that this could only be done by leveraging WEC's two key assets; the quality of its studies and the vitality of its Member Committees.

Mr. Gadonneix noted that three major challenges confronted the world today; security of supply, climate change and inequality. WEC, he said, should work through its studies and via its member network, to solve these issues.



To read the rest of this article, visit: http://www.worldenergy.org/news_events/latest_information/2748.asp

Congress Update

Reminder: The Future Energy Leader Programme (FELP) deadline is fast approaching!

The deadline for nominations of young energy professionals to participate in the FELP at the World Energy Congress 2010 in Montréal is **Friday, February 26**. Each WEC Member Committee can nominate two delegates, and a further two alternate delegates. Nominees must be between 25 and 32 years of age, already working within the energy industry, fluent in English or French, and highly motivated to work with WEC and promote WEC's mission.

Please note that accommodation will be provided for Future Energy Leader delegates by the Congress organisers, although registration fees and travel costs need to be met by the Member Committee or a sponsoring company.

Further details are available on the Congress website: <http://www.wecmontreal2010.ca/en/program/felp-future-energy-leaders-program.html>

Please direct any questions to Paul Benfield at the London Office: benfield@worldenergy.org

WEC Agenda

We invite our members to attend the following events:

March 8; via Teleconference

- Studies Committee Meeting
- Open to all WEC Members. Please contact Sandra Biesel at the London Office for dial-in details.
- Contact: biesel@worldenergy.org

March 15-17; Pau, France

- CSLF Technical Group Meeting
- For CSLF Technical Group Delegates, Stakeholders & Project Sponsors. Organised by CSLF Secretariat.
- Contact: CSLFSecretariat@hq.doe.gov

March 15-16; Tunis, Tunisia

- WEC-ADEME Regional workshop. Organised by ANME, with the support of the UNDP.
- 'Evaluation of Energy Efficiency Policies in the MENA Region'
- Contact: zied.ferjani@anme.nat.tn

For further events and more details, please check the Events page on the WEC website...

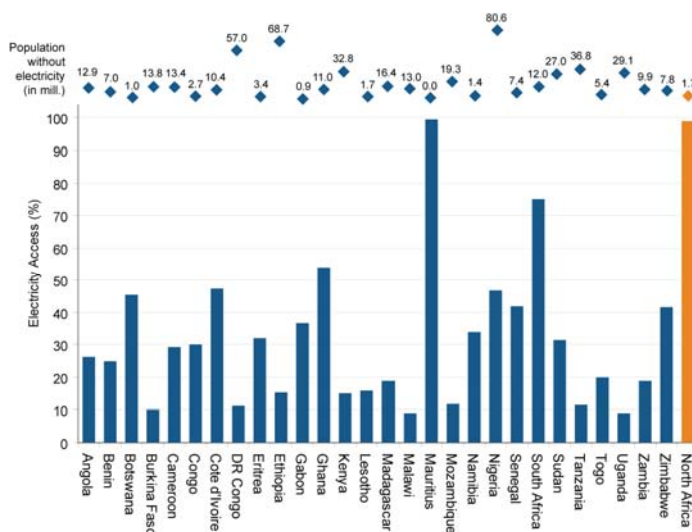
Inside Insight

Electricity Access Rates in Africa

Access to electricity in Africa is the lowest of the world regions. In Sub-Saharan Africa it is 28.5%; and barely 12% in rural areas. This means that 590 million people do not have access to electricity.

This graph shows that only three countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have electrification rates of more than 50% (Mauritius, South Africa and Ghana), while for a number of countries the access to electricity is less than 15%. This situation is unsustainable and thus reinforces the determination and commitment of WEC to strive to reduce energy poverty and increase access to affordable modern energy services for all people in the world.

Source: IEA, World Energy Outlook 2009



WEC's new YouTube Channel can now be viewed at:

www.youtube.com/worldenergycouncil

Interviews, events, studies, launches...we welcome your MC's contributions. If you would like to submit material for the channel, please contact Fernando Pinto at the London Office: pinto@worldenergy.org

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