

Interview with WEC Secretary General, Dr Christoph Frei



We asked WEC Secretary General, Dr Christoph Frei, to reflect on WEC's achievements of 2010 and the challenges that lie ahead over the coming year.

"2010 was a year of great milestones: a successful Congress in Montreal with a 'factor 5' in visibility, our first Energy Leaders' Summits in Beijing, China and during the Congress, the successful introduction of the Global Partners programme and further development of the Patrons programme, the timely delivery of high-quality studies as well as our first World Energy Insight, to name but a few. All of these would not have been feasible without the strong support and commitment from all Member Committees, Officers and teams.

"While it is good to celebrate achievements, we should all be aware that there are substantial challenges ahead of us which will make 2011 no less important. We have to successfully launch the knowledge networks and activity areas and we need to ensure the anchoring of our work in the WEC regions and in national contexts. We have to hire a new Director of Communications with whom to take WEC's on-going visibility to the next level. We want to deliver a top-level Energy Leaders' Summit in Rio, Brazil and provide more space for dialogue with our MCs at the Executive Assembly in Oran, Algeria. All of these will not be feasible without the renewal of existing, and the

development of new, Patrons and Global Partners, who will have to contribute about 60% of our 2011 revenue.

"So, where do we stand after the first month of 2011? WEC had a strong start into 2011 with almost 240 nominations to the seven Knowledge Networks. We also received a number of proposals for the creation of additional knowledge networks after the next Executive Assembly, such as 'unconventional fossil fuels / oil shale over renewables', 'smart grids' and 'financial risk management'.

"The Global Partners programme has flourished in the first weeks of 2011. We have been joined by Eesti Energia, a world leader of oil shale technology; by KazEnergy, Kazakhstan's Association of Energy Sector Organisations headed by President Nazarbayev's son-in-law Timur Kulibayev; and by Respsol, a leading global energy company with presence in over 30 countries. Furthermore, we are delighted that IBM has committed resources to become WEC's Project Partner for our Scenarios.

"We are working with the team in Korea to finalise the contracts for the 2013 Congress in Daegu with input from the Finance Committee. Clearly, the Montreal experience has set very high standards upon which to build and also led to recent additional statements of interest to host the 2016 Congress, including from Brazil, Russia, and Turkey.

"After 22 months at WEC, I feel that this is a critical time as we have significant on-going developments in the above outlined key areas. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you on what is, and will remain, an exciting task: to further strengthen WEC's position as a key player and benchmark in the international energy policy, technology and sustainability dialogue."

WEC Debrief

WEC Estonian Member Committee hosts conference on 'Rational Energy'

At a recent WEC Estonia conference, held on January 12 in Tallinn, rational energy was defined as 'the need to find a sustainable balance between security of supply, environmental footprint and socio-economic costs of energy.'

The speakers at the conference were Juhan Parts, the Minister of Economic Affairs and Communication of Estonia; Sandor Liive, Chairman of WEC Estonia and Eesti Energia; Alessandro Clerici, Honorary Chairman of WEC Italy; and Christoph Frei, WEC Secretary General. Sandor Liive, Christoph Frei and Alessandro Clerici were then joined on the panel by Einari Kisel, Secretary General for Energy in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communication, and Jaanus Sakh, Head of the Energy Technologies Program of Enterprise Estonia.

Throughout the presentations, WEC was recognised as a facilitator of best practices and thus seen as a key driver towards more rational energy policy. Estonia was said to be a country with a unique position in understanding the risks of carbon leakage and so could lend itself to playing a leading intellectual role in solving this issue in the EU. Another topic of discussion was that the world's need for energy will double by the year 2025 and 'unconventionals' will have a key role in meeting this demand; hence the market for Estonia's knowledge about shale oil will be vast.

The conference ended with a panel discussion about what Estonia could offer to the world and what should be learned from the experience of others. In short, oil shale makes Estonia unique and the country's expertise in this area can be of great benefit to the rest of the world going forward. At the same time, Estonia could learn how to make its energy policy more rational and that is where WEC can help.

WEC Agenda

We invite our members to attend the following events:

February 27; Johannesburg, South Africa

- WEC Africa Mentor Workshop
- Presentation & interactive discussion of WEC's new Mentor Scheme
- Contact: fall@worldenergy.org

February 28 – March 2; Johannesburg, South Africa

- Energy Indaba Conference & WEC Africa Regional Meeting
- Contact: info@siyenza.za.com

March 17; Bucharest, Romania

- WEC Romania National Committee event
- Launch of the 11th Edition of WEC Regional Energy Forum – FOREN 2012
- Contact: gbbalan@cnr-cme.ro

March 22; Brussels, Belgium

- Joint European Commission-WEC Europe Seminar
- Contact: slavov@worldenergy.org

March 24; London, UK

- UKWEC Workshop – details to follow
- Contact: UKWEC@energyinst.org

March 24-25; Bangkok, Thailand

- WEC Asia Regional Meeting & Green Energy Conference
- ‘Green Energy: Global Challenge, Regional Opportunities’
- Contact: leecongmo@live.co.kr

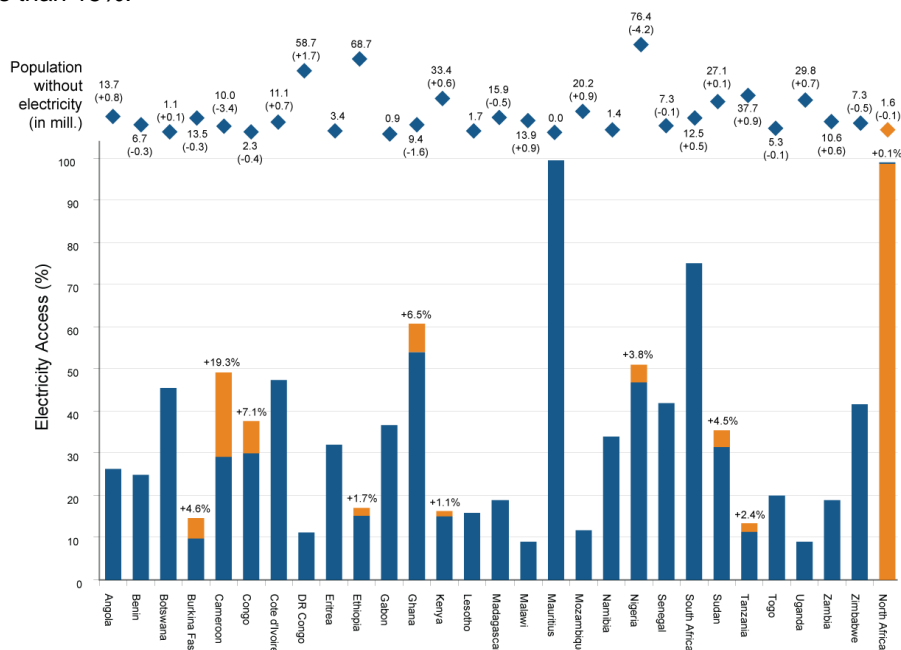
For further events and more details, please check the Events page on the WEC website...

http://www.worldenergy.org/news_events/18.asp

Inside Insight

Electricity Access Rates in Sub-Saharan Africa

Access to electricity in Africa is the lowest of the world regions. Although the electrification rate has increased from 2008 to 2009, due to better data and more recent census and rural surveys, in Sub-Saharan Africa it is still only 31%, compared to 28% in 2008. The graph below shows that only four countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have electrification rates of more than 50% (Ghana, Mauritius, Nigeria and South Africa), while for a number of countries the access to electricity is less than 15%.



Source: IEA, World Energy Outlook 2010

New member of the team! We are very pleased to officially welcome Ayed Al-Qahtani to the WEC London staff. Ayed joined us on January 31 as a secondment from Saudi Aramco and will be working as a Project Manager for Scenarios, alongside Philip Thomas and Karl Rose. Ayed has a PhD in Minerals Economics, Colorado School of Mines, USA; an MSc in Petroleum Economics and Management, Institute of Francaise du Petrole, France; an MSc in Minerals Economics, Colorado School of Mines, USA; and a BS in Petroleum Engineering, King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals, Saudi Arabia - so we are sure that he will be a great asset to the team!

Christoph Frei, Secretary General, World Energy Council

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