

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLES: POLICIES, APPLICATIONS & RESEARCH

29<sup>th</sup> January 2008, Salina, Malta

INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MARSAXLOKK MXK 1531, MALTA

Tel: (+356) 21650675, 21652249; Fax: (+356) 21650615;  
E-mail: [ietmalta@um.edu.mt](mailto:ietmalta@um.edu.mt), <http://home.um.edu.mt/ietmalta>

### Opening Speech

Prof. Juanito Camilleri, Rector

Distinguished guests, Dear colleagues

It is amazing what the soaring price of oil has done to enhance public consciousness of the need to conserve energy...

In tandem, the ongoing debate about Climate Change has augmented our resolve...

Not only do we need to find cost efficient sources of energy, not only should we conserve energy as much as possible, but we must generate and consume energy in an environmentally sustainable way...

Well there have been people who have been advocating just that for the past few decades ... alas it often requires a looming crisis before people change their ways.

At long last we are measuring cost of energy production not only in terms of Euros and Euro cents but also in terms of the negative impact energy production may have on the environment.

This said, the debate on Energy production and Climate Change are developing in a context which sees the demand for energy production soaring...

As India and China continue down the path of consumerism, and as Africa is a continent waiting for economic awakening, by default the world is set to consume much more energy...

Thus the need for affordable environmentally harmonious sources of energy and efficient use of energy becomes all the more accentuated.

I am truly encouraged that the response to this seminar is so healthy. Over 100 delegates have registered... academics and executives from amongst others the University, the Malta Resources Authority, HSBC, Enemalta, Malta Enterprise, various Ministries, the Malta Standards Authority, the Housing Authority, and private enterprise.

The topic of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy will be high on the agenda of Malta in the coming years. This is particularly so because a significant amount of our energy production goes into the production of water, and demand for water is also on the increase. Moreover, a few days ago, the European Commission announced that Malta will need to reach 10% Renewable Energy by 2020. Given that we are starting from practically ground zero in this regard, the challenge ahead of us is significant and will require all stakeholders to work closer together.

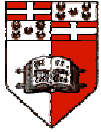
The University of Malta has been contributing to energy studies for many years always within the limits of its modest resources:

I am told, that in 1974 and 75, after the first oil crisis, the Department of Architecture organised symposia on energy: the themes discussed then were the same as today: wind and solar energy, energy from waste, energy efficiency in buildings and general consumption.

So the challenges and the perceived nature of the solutions in hand haven't changed much in the past thirty-years or so... luckily major advancements in technology have been registered since... but much more technological innovation is called for in this sector.

Twenty years ago, the University set up the Institute for Energy Technology, which besides carrying out research and education on energy issues has participated in a number of EU funded energy related projects

**Sponsors: Bajada International Solar Systems, Malta Enterprise, CD Power Saving Co. Ltd.  
Communications and Alumni Relations Office of the University of Malta**



## **ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLES: POLICIES, APPLICATIONS & RESEARCH**

29<sup>th</sup> January 2008, Salina, Malta

**INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MARSAXLOKK MXK 1531, MALTA**

Tel: (+356) 21650675, 21652249; Fax: (+356) 21650615;  
E-mail: [ietmalta@um.edu.mt](mailto:ietmalta@um.edu.mt), <http://home.um.edu.mt/ietmalta>

and has provided information and inputs to various private and public entities. I am told that seven out of fifteen presentations today emerge from Socrates-Erasmus collaborations that academics at the Institute have been involved in.

The Faculties of Science and Engineering have also been carrying out research on energy matters for some years now: solar thermal, solar photovoltaic, wind energy, electric cars, electric boats, energy storage and distribution, energy efficiency, etc, as well as on the environmental impacts of energy, i.e. quality of air due to vehicle and power station emissions.

More recently, the Department of Physics, have been co-ordinating Malta's response to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change with the assistance of other members of staff of the University. The Department of Physics also runs an air monitoring station at the Gordan Lighthouse, in Gozo.

The Department of Industrial Electrical Power Conversion in the Faculty of Engineering is also very active in research in a number of fields including ways of improving energy efficiency and distribution.

Finally, Energy and Water will be two of the topics to be covered in some depth in the joint International Masters Programme with James Madison University on Sustainable Environment Resources Management which will be launched this September.

On a different note, circa a year ago I commissioned an internal energy and water audit at the University with a view to cutting down on consumption. We have taken some concrete action to curb waste and we are gradually implementing a strategy to replace old wasteful equipment wherever feasible. The results achieved so far are encouraging, and given the soaring energy bills, are most welcome.

Dear delegates, I do not wish to take more of your time as I know that you have a busy day ahead. I would merely like to emphasize the need for all stakeholders to work together.

This applies to the University of Malta per se, as it is high time that all those who are interested in working on the various aspects of Energy Studies to come together to create a critical mass of expertise and concrete common goals. I have already started internal discussions to explore the best ways of achieving this with an eye to defining institutional research projects that are of particular relevance to Malta.

Moreover it is equally important that the University continues to work in tandem with other public and private stakeholders to address the multifaceted challenges to meet the ambitious targets set with regards Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. The University's institutional programmes should address evolving national needs.

This seminar is an excellent way of augmenting the ongoing discussion and collaboration. I thank the organizers for taking this initiative.

I trust you will have a good day.