

Interview with Rob Whitney, Chair of Energy Federation of New Zealand



Rob Whitney, Chair of Energy Federation of New Zealand (New Zealand Member Committee) & CEO, CRL Energy Ltd

The Energy Federation of New Zealand has just hosted the WEC Asia Regional Meeting in Wellington, New Zealand. It was an inspirational two days.

The event started with a Round Table where international and local members shared views on Copenhagen and climate change policies with The Hon Tim Groser, New Zealand's Minister Responsible for Climate Change and lead negotiator at Copenhagen. This Climate Change Roundtable included presentations from WEC Vice Chair for Asia Pacific and South Asia David Kim and from all the countries present. The strong consensus was that Copenhagen was (and was always likely to be) a failure as an attempt to negotiate a top-down, binding international treaty. However, the Copenhagen Accord does show promise as a way of facilitating bottom-up initiatives which will help achieve long-term goals, including limiting global warming to 2°C and eradicating energy poverty. A number of examples of bottom-up initiatives were discussed at the meeting, including the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases, the regional APEC Pathfinder Finder Scheme, national initiatives such as the New Zealand Emissions Trading scheme and India's National Policy on Biofuels, as well as a number of local initiatives.

At a second Roundtable, we had presentations on WEC studies on Energy Poverty Alleviation by Mr.J.K.

Mehta from WEC India; and on Energy and Climate Policy Assessment from C.P. Jain, WEC Studies Committee Chair and Mr. Hajime Murata from the Japanese Energy Association. Mr Murata explained that New Zealand performance was top division, and then highlighted areas where New Zealand could further improve.

At the regional meeting, we discussed the forthcoming WEC Energy Summit in Beijing in June and in particular what we could achieve at the China-India Roundtable.

Our international visitors had a tour of Meridian Energy's West Wind farm, only half an hour from Wellington. It has 62 2.3MW turbines and is a spectacular site with views over the Cook Strait to the South Island. Its location in the Roaring Forties makes it one of the most productive wind farms anywhere. Some of the turbines are achieving utilisations of over 50%! Meridian Energy, who generously sponsored the WEC Asia regional meeting, is New Zealand's largest producer of electrical energy and uses only renewable energy sources. West Wind generates enough electricity for all Wellington City's households.

As a member of the WEC Energy Policy Scenarios to 2050 study (2005-2007 work cycle), I am passionate about the need for industry and government engagement encapsulated in the Lion Scenario. Without this engagement, we will not achieve the goals set out in the Copenhagen accord.

So what should WEC and its membership be doing? Quite simply, we should be promoting and facilitating bottom-up initiatives locally, nationally, regionally and internationally, which will help achieve the goals of eliminating energy poverty, ensuring energy security and combating climate change.

And what keeps me awake at night? It is the fear that top executives in our membership will not have the vision to support WEC and these activities.

WEC Debriefing

WEC SIGNS FIRST GLOBAL PARTNER

We are pleased to announce that WEC has signed its **first Global Partner, Vestas**, the leading Danish wind turbine manufacturer.

WEC AFRICA REGIONAL MEETING IN JOHANNESBURG

On 23rd February, SANEA, WEC'S South Africa Committee, hosted a workshop and Africa regional meeting. The workshop focused on the Energy and Climate Policy Assessment and also provided an opportunity to discuss WEC's other flagship, Energy Policy Scenarios to 2050, as well as topics of importance to the region, including energy equity and poverty, which WEC is partnering on with the World Economic Forum as part of the Energy Poverty Action (EPA) project. ([Read more...](#))

Congress Update

The original deadline for submitting Member Committee nominations for the **Future Energy Leaders Programme (FELP)** for the Congress in Montreal was this past Friday. However, some Committees have indicated that they need a bit more time to confirm their nominees and complete their submissions. Therefore, **we will extend the deadline for submitting nominations to Friday, March 12.**

Your Committee is encouraged to submit names of young persons aged 25-32 who are working in the energy sector. Your Committee must pay the travel expenses of their nominees, and the Montreal organisers will provide accommodation.

The registration fee for FELP participants is \$1,800 CAD, and it is expected that the company for whom the nominee works will cover this.

The FELP is an excellent opportunity for young professionals to participate in one of the energy world's premier events, and it will give them the chance to meet and interact with some of the key leaders in the energy sector.

If your Committee has questions about any aspect of the FELP, please contact Paul Benfield at the WEC 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)

-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: 'Evaluation of Energy Efficiency Policies in the MENA Region'

-Contact: zied.ferjani@anme.nat.tn

March 16-18; Prague, Czech Republic

-10th Czech Energy Congress: 'Energy Reliability & Security – Electricity & Gas'

-Contact tel: +420 281 866 106

June 11; Beijing, China

-Asia Energy Leaders Summit; priority invitations to WEC Member Committee Chairs; Officers; Energy Ministers; WEC Patron and Global Partner CEOs

-Contact melton@worldenergy.org

For more details, check the Events page on the WEC website

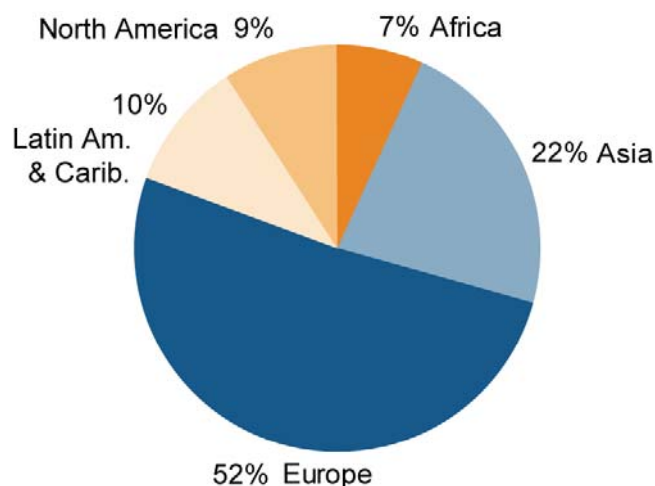
Inside Insight

Energy and Climate Policy Assessment

An important strand of this year's Assessment is to understand the industry perspective on government policymaking. In close cooperation with the MCs, we have identified and invited 1,900 people worldwide to give their expertise on the above subject and complete a survey designed to solicit the views of key industry executives. The survey closes March 5th, 2010. The chart on the right shows the replies by region. We need your help to achieve more balance! If you would like to take the survey yourself please use the following link:

<http://energypolicysurvey2010.questionpro.com>

For info: Biesel@worldenergy.org.



WEC Italy supported the Ministry of Economic Development (MSE) in organising the G8 Energy Ministers Meeting 2009, held in Rome on May 24-25. The MSE and WEC Italy have now collected the official documents from the meeting into the recently released publication: '**Beyond the Crisis: Towards a New World Energy Leadership**'. The book provides an in-depth analysis of the energy and environmental issues on which the fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UNFCCC focused its negotiations with the aim of establishing a post-Kyoto agreement on climate change. Member Committees wishing to receive a copy of the publication should email Stephanie Hague at WEC London (hague@worldenergy.org)

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