



MEXIREC

The power of conversation

DEMEX

Tuesday began at 10am, when Mexico's Energy Minister, Pedro Joaquín Coldwell officially kicked off the activities with a passionate speech about the Mexican Energy Reform. He pointed out that thanks to a strong legal framework, this paradigm shift recently passed by Mexico's Executive goes well beyond the use of traditional energy sources. He concluded that the energy transition is a priority, and that it needs to be accelerated in order to achieve significant changes.

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MEXIREC was opened by Leonardo Beltrán, SENER's Deputy Minister of Planning and Energy Transition where he spoke about Mexico's vision four years on after the approval of the Energy Reform, and which includes a strong commitment to the international community via the signing of numerous treaties. He also noted that Mexico is the first middle-income country with climate change laws.

Arthouros Zervos, Chair of REN21, began his speech by sharing an important message: "REN21 was founded in 2004. Back then no one could possibly imagine that 60% of production



capacity would be renewable. To solve the issue of global warming, a complete decarbonisation of energy sources is needed". He talked about how tenders are becoming more sophisticated with the co-benefits of local job creation, geographical distribution, and promotion of equality.

Panels: Ministerial and High Level (1 and 2)

Two main topics were discussed on these panels: the role of the energy sector in the Paris Agreement, specifically in the implementation of NDCs; and the renewable energy transition; both global and in Latin America and the Caribbean, where the paths may be different but goals are shared.

Rainer Baake, Germany's Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, began by reminding the audience that "two years ago, the world agreed upon a very clear goal in Paris: to lower the global temperature by two degrees Celsius". He went on to say that there is still a long way to go but he also assured the audience that the energy transition is already on its way.

“Renewable energy is ready for the markets. Now we need to make the markets ready for the renewables”.

Dr Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency, celebrated Mexico’s achievements in the energy field: “Mexico’s Energy Reform is incredible in terms of oil, natural gas, solar power, efficiency and climate change. In this regard, we might be looking not only at a reform with great breadth and depth, but a Mexican Energy Revolution”. He went on to say that soon we will be able to see concrete results for the Mexican economy and environment.

Also worth noting was the participation of Li Farong, Deputy Minister of China Energy National Administration, who highlighted the fact that energy transition is the future for China, where coal consumption has decreased. China is currently the number one country in the world in terms of volume of renewables.

Parallel Sessions

Rather than focusing on specific topics, the Parallel Sessions first and foremost sought to discuss the problem of a clean energy future in its entirety and how renewable energy technologies and policies could be used to address it.

Active and attentive crowds enjoyed talks on the adaptability of business models to achieve connectivity in marginal communities, and their relationship with economic development and social empowerment. In a global and regional scenario where there is huge disparity between fully connected areas and others without access to the grid, the issue of connectivity and how what it will look like in the future is fundamental for the implementation of renewable energies. Efficient regulation mechanisms need to be established as a first step in the implementation of any energy access strategy. Governments need to know how to manage fair and attractive pricing strategies so that the energy markets can prepare for the inevitable arrival of renewable energy.

This market flexibility to adapt to different scenarios implies the use of various resources and applications from maritime energy, and heating and cooling technologies, to hydropower and the use of bioenergy.

Finally, there was a focus on the fundamental importance of having a regional approach to favour development, empower local communities and encompass areas broader than energy itself. Issues such as efficient kitchens, sustainable construction and the acceleration of energy markets in Latin America



occupy a particular niche in the global energy industry both in adopting new technologies and finding areas of opportunity for growth.

At the conclusion of the parallel sessions the more than 3,000 attendees enjoyed a taste of Mexican culture, one firmly grounded in musical traditions. Choreography from the states of Veracruz and Jalisco opened the doors of the country to a diverse and enthusiastic audience. The evening was rounded off with a gala dinner for all the distinguished guests across the network.

MEXIREC continues Wednesday with a continuation of parallel sessions and the adoption of the Conference Declaration.