



MEXIREC

The power of transformation

MEXIREC's last day of activities beckoned the world's energy players to adapt and adopt renewable and efficient energy.

Through the Parallel Sessions participants learnt that geothermal energy is an extraordinary energy asset, being both clean and providing baseload. Also, that uptake is happening even if there is little government regulation to push it forward as a clean energy source.

Conversation on windpower focused on its ability to provide both large amounts of energy as well as needed back-up. Participants talked about the multiple tole of solar providing distributed energy while also creating new job and commercial opportunities. The efficiency of solar and wind are key in successfully transitioning to high shares of renewable energy; rapid uptake of these technologies is a must if we are to maintain our temperature levels below 1.5 degrees C.

Is renewable energy a utopia? This question was asked of participants with the response being that one cannot answer such a question in general terms since energy (its provision, use



etc.) is situation-specific. However it is clear that the transport sector must engage more fully in the transition given its share of final energy consumption.

In another session, participants pointed out that many of the world's largest cities are committed to a renewable energy future due to their current emissions levels. Local and regional differences however make total transformation difficult. This is why we must take a systems approach to addressing issues. Moreover, local actions can help shape and inform the larger panorama of energy use, with success at the municipal level driving change at the national level.

The role of tenders and community empowerment elicited lively debate about if, and how, communities can play a role in the tendering process. The discussion focused on a proposed mechanism that would allow communities to use tenders as a way to establish community power projects.

Storage, infrastructure and up-scaling strategies need to be designed and implemented in order to achieve penetration of high shares of renewables. These supporting technologies are central for many energy users ranging from multinational organisations to geographically unique locations, such as islands and archipelagos, to individual households.

MEXIREC's closing event came with the reading of the Conference Declaration by Ambassador Irene Giner-Reichl. The audience received the statement with a warm round of applause, which marked the end of the programme.

REN21's Chair, Arthouros Zervos conducted the closing of MEXIREC with Rainer Baacke, Germany's Secretary of Energy thanking the Mexican government for the warm reception throughout the three days,. The final farewell came from Efraim Villanueva, SENER's Director of Clean Energies.

Dr. Li Yong, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) gave the key note address Wednesday morning as part of DEMEX, the Energy Dialogue Week. He defined the path of energy transformation as a complex and urgent process that involves both new structures for developed countries as well as strategies that combine development goals for middle-income and developing nations.

