

International Sustainable Energy Organisation for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency



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Newsletter

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International Advances by ISEO towards the Clean, Sustainable Energy Age

[Investment Forecasts and Priorities - Cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank Group – American Energy Efficiency Impressions – Asian Sustainable Advances – Clean Mobility Revolution !](#)

World Energy Investment Priorities

According to a report published by the International Energy Agency (IEA) of OECD in Paris till 2030 the oil-gas-coal industry should invest 3.1 trillion USD, of which 2.2 trillion for exploration and development of conventional oil, and another 3,1 trillion USD for gas, plus 400 billion for the coal industry. Renewable energy is not mentioned at all, although it provides already over 20 % to the total energy production

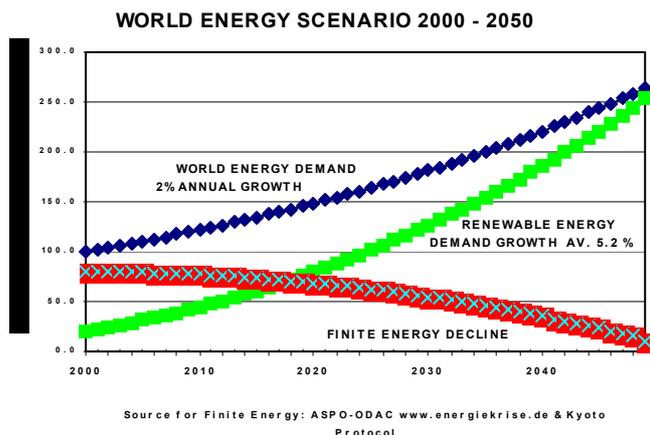
What effects will such extra capacities of polluting energy systems have on global warming and the environment ? How to finance the urgently needed transition to clean, sustainable energy, which is indispensable to conserve depleting mineral energy resources and to cover the long-term needs of the chemical and metallurgical industries, which rely on fossil resources ? See the graph below.

IEA predicts in its World Outlook about 10 trillion USD investments for electricity generation, transmission and distribution over the next 30 years. The question has to be asked what power sources can be justified – benign renewable or unreliable, depleting mineral.

Renewable energy is now competitive with mineral energy, if the external cost are accounted for, based on international standard ISO 13602-1. What are the cost of global warming causing disasters amounting to a multiple of above investment figures, according to insurance industry statistics and predictions.

As an additional benefit sustainable energy creates safer and many more jobs than the minerals sector.

According to the energy scenario of the next decades investments should go to the renewable energy sector according to the green curve, rather than to the declining red curve of the finite energy resources.



UN DPI Conference in New York

At the UN-DPI Conference in New York on 10 September 2003, Swiss National Councilor Roland Wiederkehr addressed the annual plenary session of the Department of Public Information (DPI) on crucial environmental, energy and peace issues.

In his speech Councilor Wiederkehr appealed to the world to develop a consensus against oil wars and for more renewable, decentralized energy, which he called “democratic” energies, as opposed to the fossil and fissile energy concepts of the mighty power players, who try to dictate their policies much to the detriment of the environment and peace.

With great applause by the audience of over 2000 delegates from all nations Wiederkehr disapproved the unsustainable energy and war policy of G.W. Bush and promised to return to Switzerland to continue his promotion of sustainable energy.

Councilor Wiederkehr launched in 2002 the motion for the establishment of ISEO in Geneva with the support of all political parties, after having built up WWF in Switzerland in seventies and eighties and having founded Green Cross International in Geneva with Michael Gorbachew in 1993, besides many other initiatives for peace, de-mining and for the protection the youth and road victims and Chernobil victims in his 16-year political career.

In the meantime – after the national council election results - councilors from other Swiss political parties will carry on Wiederkehr’s excellent parliamentary initiative.

World Bank Discussions

World Bank Group executives were updated about ISEO and its goal to convert the energy economy to environmentally friendly energy systems as rapidly as possible, going much beyond the still uncertain Kyoto protocol obligations. The Scientific Chief advisor of the World Bank Prof. Robert Watson, former Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC), the Directorate of Vice President Ian Johnson, IFC and the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) were briefed about ISEO’s resolutions at the recent General Conference in Geneva and the annual world-wide investment need of about 1 Trillion USD over the next fifty years to be able to satisfy a modest annual energy consumption growth of 2 % and to compensate the inevitable decline of fossil fuels.

American Impression

During the recent US trip by the ISEO Executive Secretary Grob some striking observations were made. In the majority of hotels and public buildings from Massachusetts, to Texas, Ohio, Virginia, Maryland, Washington DC and New York energy efficiency seems to be an unknown term.

Compact fluorescent lamps, saving 80 % energy over incandescent lamps, could hardly be found in any shop or mayor building – even the corridors of the international energy saving association

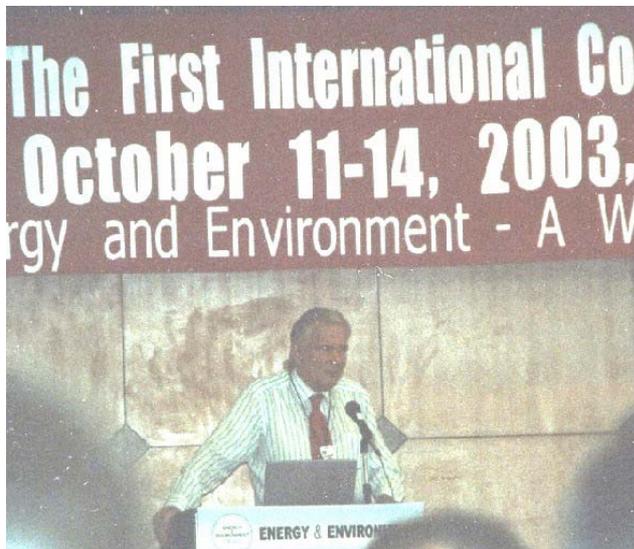
headquarters in the US Capitol were lit by hundreds of incandescent lamps around the clock. Most hotels with their hundreds of light fittings seem to have never heard of such energy and money savers.

Unused fridges are left switched on day and night and vacant rooms are uncomfortably under-cooled, adding Gigawatts to the general energy wastage, while this country experienced the worst interstate power black-out in its history. In the parliamentary debate about the black-out not one single deputy mentioned this cause of avoidable grid overloads.

But the most striking anti-efficiency move is the increasing number of huge cars carrying usually just one person - each with twice the fuel consumption of compact cars, not to mention the more and more obese people eating too much unhealthy food, who seem to have a preference for oversized vehicles.

Asian Encounters

At the recent International Energy & Environment Conference in Changsha, China, ISEO was presented and applauded by delegates from Asia and Pacific, the Americas, Canada, Sweden, Greece, Germany, Russia and Slovakia. ISEO is thus offering additional international synergies and the cross-fertilization of sustainable energy success stories.



ISEO was also presented by ISEO Executive Secretary G.R. Grob at an international workshop at the UN sponsored Asian-Pacific Center for Small Hydropower (HRC) in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, where delegates from over 20 Asian, European and Latin American countries participated.

At the United Nations Global Compact and UNEP-Finance Initiative Roundtable in Tokyo with some 700 participants from banks, insurance companies and governments, ISEO Executive Secretary Grob pointed out the gigantic dimensions of the sustainable energy financing task amounting annually to more than a trillion USD over the next 50 years in order to cope with the world-wide energy consumption growth of at least 2 % p.a. and the rapidly dwindling mineral energy resources.

In the standards and global reporting session it was pointed out that ISEO promotes ISO and IEC energy standards and that especially the new standard ISO 13602-1 on energy systems analysis is an excellent tool for the globally harmonized environmental impact reporting of energy systems and external cost calculations, so important for the equitable comparison of energy systems.

Additional discussions about ISEO's activities were held in Tokyo at the United Nations University (UNU) during their Zero-Emission Forum (ZEF) project meeting, with the Japanese New Energy Development Organization (NEDO) and with the Executive Managing Director of the New Energy Foundation of Japan.

It was also suggested that Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi supports the efforts of ISEO to incorporate the Global Energy Charter in every nation's legislation and to launch the ISEO initiative for "clean sports without fossil fuels" – such as motor boat and car racing, hot air ballooning and other fossil fuel intensive leisure activities.

Chinese Mobility Evolution

The most impressive observation was the mobility drive in China, which traditionally relied mainly on buses and bicycles. It is now more and more dominated by modern cars produced in China and by thousands of electric bikes and scooters, besides the still important bicycle traffic using sustainable muscle energy. Dozens of electric bike manufacturers are competing now in this gigantic market of a billion people needing transportation.

More and more cars are now genuine Chinese models, fully designed and manufactured in China, competing with foreign brands made under license and/or assembled in China.

China, and especially the Zhejiang Province, seems to take the lead for electric vehicles with an advanced electric bus project in Ningbo, using high-density batteries for a day range of over 300 km.

Already ten years ago China pioneered electric cars in the Zhejiang province with a plastic body resembling elegant Japanese Honda designs.

Astonishingly, in Japan, which is considered the technology leader in Asia, only very few electric vehicles can be observed. Nippon traffic still relies fully on fossil fuel combustion engines, although most taxis are running on LPG since many years. With their many battery factories and R&D China seems to be taking the electric vehicle lead !