

"IRENA is overdue"

Hermann Scheer, General Chairman of the World Congress on Renewable Energy and member of Bundestag has played a pioneering role in raising the level of renewable energy debate in international political forums. Through his oratory skills, well written books and analytical insights into issues of renewable energy development he has been instrumental in creating much needed awareness among the policy makers across the world. Author of path-breaking book, *The Solar Economy*, Hermann Scheer has been recipient of several awards including the inaugural SolarWorld Prize (1998), inaugural World Prize on Bioenergy (2000), Alternative Nobel Prize (Right Livelihood Award, 1999), and the Gold Medal of the Union for Small Hydropower. *TIME Magazine* recognized him in 2002 as one of five "Heroes for the Green Century" and the World Wind Energy Association (WWEA)

conferred on him the World Wind Energy Award 2004. On the sidelines of the World Renewable Energy Assembly 2005, InWIND caught up with Hermann Scheer for his views on many pressing issues including that of setting up International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).



InWIND: What is the rationale for the proposal of setting up International Renewable Energy Agency?

Hermann Scheer: Rational is to get a balance in the system of international institutions. Balance, because two of the international institutions associated with energy, the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) do not act for renewable energy. We have in fact seen in this conference how these

agencies have mislead the governments and the international community. Therefore, we need an international agency that is dedicated to and focused on renewable energy.

InWIND: What kind of resistance do you foresee to IRENA?

Hermann Scheer: Resistance is coming from the existing energy system by as usual the oil companies and vested interests. They try to continue as long as possible but their continuation is not compatible with existing social, economic and environmental problems. Such an agency should be independent of the existing energy system but vested interests resist this and try to stall the process.

InWIND: There are other international bodies such as UNEP, UNFCCC that have a role in energy sector as well. What about them?

Hermann Scheer: UNEP is not an independent body. It should be independent but that is not the case. Established energy interests have ensured that these bodies are not able to act independently.



InWIND: What are the next steps in the formation of IRENA?

Hermann Scheer: The German government should initiate the process for the formation of IRENA. It should work towards possible statutes and communicate with international institutions and governments. Preliminary work done by Eurosolar from 2001-2005 can be used for this purpose. German government should have talks with some governments for taking part in this initiative.

InWIND: So will this be a body with in the UN system?

Hermann Scheer: Implementation cannot happen in the UN system. There is no law that says international institutions cannot exist outside the UN System. In fact there are many such international agencies in other areas. It is an overdue activity and the like minded countries should come together to set it up. Governments that do not take part initially, would be welcome to join later.

and the persons in charge have to be named. They have to be accountable not only for their actions, but also for their inaction.

Prices for conventional energies are increasing in the course of their depletion and disastrous damages caused by them. Renewable energy is steadily getting cheaper due to its continual improvement and economies of scale. Humanity now is at a crossroad. Today and in the future, the costs of renewables enable a sustainable, cheap and sufficient energy supply for everybody. There are economic reasons, ecological reasons and the question of peace that speak in favor of renewable energy.

All together, a basic ethic decision in favor of renewable energy is resulting from these reasons.

1. The World Renewable Energy Assembly (WREA) welcomes the official plan of the new German Federal Government to take the initiative for the creation of an International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

This initiative will be successful if its creation is not dependent on an overall consensus but implemented by a group of like-minded governments in conjunction with an invitation to all governments to join this agency.

2. It is most important to initiate a strategy of phasing out fossil fuels by mobilizing biofuels in order to avoid the arising gap of oil and gas shortage and the increase in price. Furthermore, it is necessary to organize a world trade regime which does not oppose the development of domestic biofuel economies and agriculture related to it.

3. The World Renewable Energy Assembly (WREA) highlights the proposals of the 2nd World Renewable Energy Forum 2004 and its World Renewable Energy Agenda:

- A Renewable Energy Proliferation Protocol to be added to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

- A renewable energy priority for financing renewables in development aid and development banks, focusing on micro-finance following the model

Call for Human Right to Renewable Energy

The World Renewable Energy Assembly (WREA), 2005 in Bonn (Germany) has ended with the adoption of the final communication entitled, "The Human Right to Renewable Energy". More than 450 representatives from politics and parliaments, science and industry as well as NGOs and social movements met in Bonn from November 26th to 30th (2005) following an invitation of the World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE). The World Renewable Energy Assembly (WREA) was organized by EUROSOLAR, supported by the NRW State Initiative on Future Energies, by the NRW Energy Agency, UNESCO, EUFORES, ISES (International Solar Energy Society), and others. World Renewable Energy Assembly (WREA) 2005 November 26th to 30th, Bonn/Germany

3rd World Renewable Energy Forum
November 30th, 2005

Final Communiqué: The Human Right to Renewable Energy

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights," this first article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, articulates a basic human commitment. Only by respecting this commitment, a humane life in peace can be assured. Energy is the fundamental prerequisite of every life. The availability of energy is a fundamental and indivisible human right. Due to the near depletion of conventional energy sources and

their dramatic environmental and climate damages, this right cannot be provided to an ever increasing number of people. The human right for renewable energy can only be accomplished by renewable energy. Until now, international efforts clearly lag behind the necessity and the existing opportunities. The numerous UN conferences promise more than they can deliver because they are tied to consensual decision-making in every step. UN organizations and multilateral development banks were either not willing or hindered to shift their priorities towards renewable energy. The Kyoto Protocol falls far short of its requirements. Its main problem lies in the focus on emission rights and trading instead of reducing emissions by a change of a paradigm shift towards renewable.

The fossil and nuclear energy system still receives around 500 billion US Dollar of subsidies annually, about 50 times more than renewable energy. International governmental institutions reflect this discrimination of renewable energy. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) promotes the proliferation of nuclear technology; the International Energy Agency (IEA) is operating as a satellite of the fossil energy industry. Both are misleading governments by playing down risks of nuclear and fossil energy and by negating the potentials of renewable energy and leading their governments to an energy policy ignorant of the future. This fact has to be recognized

of the Grameen Shakti Bank

- Global industrial norms and standards for renewables.

- An international university for renewable energy under the auspices of UNESCO.

Our guiding model is the stimulation and promotion of local initiatives instead of waiting for international agreements any further. Mobilization of renewables is a unique new chance, not an economic burden.

An eventful WWEC-2005

World wind energy association (WWEA) organized 4th international conference in Melbourne on Nov 2-4, 2005. Delegates from all over the world converged at this destination from different parts of the world including China, Cuba, Turkey, US. Interestingly, India seemed to occupy the center stage with awards, selections and presentations. Vilas Muttemwar, the Minister of Non-conventional Energy Sources (Independent Charge) received the World Wind International Award for outstanding contribution of the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources (MNES) in development of wind power in India and at the same time Pramod Deo, chairman of Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) received the World Wind Award for his contribution on the regulatory front, an approach that has been followed by other regulatory commissions in India. Significantly, Anil Kane, chairman of Indian Wind Energy Association was elected as the President of WWEA. Anil Kane replaced Preben Maegaard, the founder chair person of WWEA.

WWEC-2005 also had the participation of several senior politicians including the Steve Bracks, Premier of the Australian State of Victoria, Minister for Energy, the Hon Theo Theophanous and also several parliamentarians.

Hydro Tasmania, a company responsible for operating and setting up hydro stations in the State of Tasmania also made quite a bit of impact by sponsoring the conference. InWind Chronicle presents a compilation of news, articles and photographs covering the event.

Kane elected as President of WWEA. The World Wind Energy Association held on the occasion of the 4th World

Wind Energy Conference in Melbourne (Australia) its General Assembly on 1 November 2005. During the General Elections to the WWEA Board, Anil Kane, Chairman of the Indian Wind Energy Association InWEA and since 2003 Vice President of WWEA, was elected unanimously as new President of the World Wind Energy Association. Former President Preben Maegaard was appointed as President Emeritus. Kane thanked Maegaard for his achievements since the foundation of WWEA in 2001 and underlined the strong support which WWEA has obtained all around the world, being the one of the most representative renewable energy associations worldwide. Kane also pointed out that he sees the major task of WWEA in the continuation of its successful development and further growth in order to represent the interest of the worldwide wind sector in an effective way and to contribute to the accelerated deployment of wind energy around the world.

WWEA elected following as the Vice Presidents

- Grigori Dmitriev, Kola Science Center, Russia
- Everaldo Feitosa, Director of the Brazil Wind Energy Center
- He Dexin, Chairman Chinese WindEnergy Association
- Hermann Oelsner, President African Wind Energy Association, South Africa
- Prof Galal Osman, President Egypt Wind Energy Association
- Hon Peter Rae AO, Chairman Renewable Energy Generators Australia
- Erico Spinadel, Argentine Wind Energy Association AAEE
- Tanay Sidki Uyar, Eurosolar Turkey/Turkish Wind Energy Association

Heinrich Bartelt (German Wind Energy Association BWE) was elected as WWEA Treasurer. The newly elected WWEA Board appointed the Hon Peter Rae AO as Senior Vice President, in charge of international strategies and policies. Vilas Muttemwar, Pramod Deo Awarded The minister for non-conventional energy sources (MNES), government of India, Vilas Muttemwar, received the World Wind Energy Award 2005 for his outstanding achievements for wind energy dissemination through favourable policies.

Under his leadership, India has become number four worldwide in terms of installed capacity, with currently more than 4000 MW of wind turbines in operation. India is the only country in the world having a ministry which is exclusively in dedicated to development of renewable energy.

Pramod Deo, chairman of the Maharashtra electricity regulatory commission (MERC), received the world wind energy award for his outstanding achievements in the international dissemination of wind energy utilization and in the betterment of living conditions of rural areas through wind energy. With more than 20 years of work experience in high-level positions in international and government positions, Deo has been involved personally throughout his career in the promotion and implementation of wind energy thus contributing to India's successful development.

Steve Bracks, Premier of the Australian State of Victoria, announced at the WWEC 2005 that Victoria intends to set up a state promotion scheme for renewable energy which would enable the further growth of the wind industry beyond the targets as set up by the Australian Federal Government. Victoria plans to extend wind energy installations substantially in the coming years. Honorable Peter Rae AO, chairman of renewable energy generators Australia and Vice President of WWEA expressed his strong appreciation of the announcement by the Premier.