

Future Energy Leaders' Programme

22nd World Energy Congress Daegu, Korea (Rep. of), 13-17 October 2013

The FEL Vision:

“True leadership is the belief that you can't solve problems using the same thinking that created them in the first place.”

This quote, from Albert Einstein, who attended the World Energy Congress in 1930, calls for fresh thinking, innovation and a new approach to problem solving. This means, fundamentally, change and transformation in the way we think – and we, the World Energy Council's community of Future Energy Leaders, are here to embrace it.

The Future Energy Leaders' Programme was initiated by the World Energy Council to encourage cross-border and intercultural networking of young energy professionals. Since its inception the FEL Programme has provided an opportunity for the next generation to grow and develop leadership qualities.

Through this experience we have been exposed to high quality content, listened to a broad range of perspectives, networked with global leaders and decision makers as well as worked with peers from all over the world.

The World Energy Council recognises the importance of this opportunity for us to develop. It also recognises the need to grow and nurture fresh talent as a sustained community, enabling us to contribute our optimism, enthusiasm and new ideas to the WEC network. This year's Future Energy Leaders have committed to a three year term with WEC. We will be the voice of the next generation of energy leaders until the next Congress in Istanbul in 2016.

Together, we have worked to define the FEL outlook. In the months leading up to the Congress - and throughout this week – we have focused our efforts and identified three themes that encapsulate our vision for the future. We would like to share this vision with you now.

1. Embrace the change

The only certain thing certain about life is uncertainty. During the time we have spent together in this programme we have come to realise that in uncertainty there are many opportunities.

Change always comes much faster than we imagine – just look at what is happening with shale gas in North America. We see a future where these possibilities are everywhere. We have made a choice to embrace this change and we are aware of the consequences. We are confident in humanity's ability to innovate solutions that will balance the energy trilemma – ensuring that we have the energy we need, that it reaches those who need it most, and that it respects the boundaries of the planet that we live in.

This is our perspective; it is this self-fulfilling prophecy that empowers us. We look at the future and see this as our only choice.

2. Let's add songs to the playlist

We recognise and appreciate the work that has gone into developing the 'Jazz' and 'Symphony' scenarios. But we need to be sure that when decisions are made these scenarios are not taken too literally.

Since you have picked music as the analogy, we hope you are prepared to recognise its diversity and creativity. We like to listen to jazz and to symphonies, but we also like rock, pop, and some of us like Gangnam Style. The playlist we need must recognise the inherent diversity of the world and incorporate multiple approaches, policies and technologies.

In other words, there are no "one size fits all" solutions. The ability to adapt and effectively recognise appropriate solutions for each region is essential.

3. Make the most out of it

The only way for us to make our systems truly efficient is by redefining our concept of resources. We need to understand that resources are not simply the fuels sitting underground, technical knowledge or financial capital. We can also access energy from new business models, consumer behaviour, community engagement and knowledge transfer.

To achieve this efficiency across all dimensions, we must break down regional boundaries and redefine energy security. The traditional links between energy security and natural resources must change and the connections with people, food and water cannot be ignored.

This is already known and understood. What we need now is to turn our awareness and our enthusiasm into action. It may require changing our government structures, investment strategies or the way we cooperate, but, if this is what it takes, then this is what we are prepared to do.

By taking these concepts into account we believe that we can foster the transformation required to answer the challenges facing the energy sector.

The Future Energy Leaders commit to promoting these goals during the period leading up to the 2016 Congress in Istanbul, Turkey. We also commit to sustain the FEL programme and FEL network.

We would like to thank the World Energy Council for giving us this opportunity to grow professionally in this unique and truly global setting. We hope that the World Energy Council will join us in delivering these key messages and include these in its flagship programmes.

Finally, we would like to convey our sincere gratitude to our hosts the Daegu Organising Committee of the 2013 World Energy Congress.

“Kam sa ham nida.”