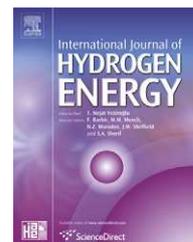


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IAHE establishes hydrogen energy trust to assist implementation



At the landmark THEME (The Hydrogen Economy Miami Energy) Conference, 18–20 March 1974, Miami Beach, Florida, organized and chaired by T. Nejat Veziroglu, the consensus developed that the Hydrogen Energy System offers the optimum solution to the interrelated global problems occasioned by the increasingly rapid depletion of fossil fuel sources, as well as the environmental problems caused by their current usage (global warming, climate change, ozone layer depletion, acid rains, pollution, oil spills, oxygen depletion, etc.). Those in attendance at the THEME Conference were in agreement that the Hydrogen Economy would protect the planet earth – the only planet known to be hospitable to human life – while delivering clean, abundant energy, leading to a higher standard of living. This seemed a noble and worthwhile idea, and it was decided to establish an organization dedicated to the ultimate establishment of the Hydrogen Energy System. This organization, the International Association for Hydrogen Energy, was formed by the end of 1974, with Dr. Veziroglu as the Founding President.

The IAHE started enthusiastically. It established the International Journal of Hydrogen Energy (IJHE) in 1975, in order to disseminate information related to Hydrogen Energy through publication of appropriate papers and articles. Its first issue was that of January 1976. During its first three years, IJHE was published quarterly. Then, in 1979, it appeared bimonthly, and in 1982, it became monthly. Last year, it published eighteen issues. Reflecting the growing importance of the Hydrogen Economy, IJHE became fortnightly publication in January 2008.

In order to provide a forum for engineers and scientists interested and active in the broad field of Hydrogen Economy, the IAHE presented the first of what was to be an ongoing series of biennial meetings, now known as the World Hydrogen Energy Conferences (WHECs) in Miami Beach in 1976. Subsequent conferences have been held in Zurich, Tokyo, Pasadena, Toronto, Vienna, Moscow, Honolulu, Paris, Cocoa Beach, Stuttgart, Buenos Aires, Beijing, Montreal, Yokohama, Lyon and Brisbane, every even year. The 2010 meeting is scheduled to be held in Essen, Germany.

The growing interest in Hydrogen Energy also resulted in an increasing number of companies starting to work on Hydrogen Energy related products. In view of this, the IAHE Board of Directors recognized the need for more technically oriented meetings to complement the WHECs. Accordingly, the first World Hydrogen Technologies Convention (WHTC) was held in Singapore in June of 2005. The second WHTC was held in Montecatini, Italy, in November of 2007. These will be followed by WHTC 2009 in Delhi, WHTC 2011 in Glasgow, and so on every odd year.

As stated earlier, IAHE's mission is to work toward the establishment of the Hydrogen Energy System. Through the International Journal of Hydrogen Energy (IJHE), through the World Hydrogen Energy Conferences (WHECs) and through the World Hydrogen Technologies Conventions (WHTCs), the foundations of the Hydrogen Energy System have now been established. The IJHE, WHECs and WHTCs continue to provide appropriate platforms and forums for scientists, engineers, environmentalists, decision makers and thinkers interested in the future of human civilization and the planet earth. The time has now arrived for the IAHE to help with the worldwide implementation of the Hydrogen Energy System. We are pleased to report that the Board of Directors of the IAHE rose to the challenge, and earlier this year created a Trust in perpetuity to do just that. As a result of the recommendation of several members of the Board, the Trust has been named the "IAHE T. Nejat Veziroglu World Hydrogen Energy Trust" or, for short, the "IAHE-TNV-WHET". Ordinarily, we would hesitate to associate a personal name with a "World Trust". In this case, however, we do so gladly and enthusiastically. Having had the pleasure and honor of working with Dr. Veziroglu since the earliest days of the effort to further interest in the Hydrogen Economy, we know as well as anyone – and better than most – that the growing acceptance of the forthcoming role of hydrogen as a practical fuel in the ever closer future is due largely (perhaps "only") to the dedicated efforts of one man, T. Nejat Veziroglu. It seems fitting, therefore, that his name also be recorded in perpetuity.

The Trust's mission is to assist, financially and otherwise, Hydrogen energy related projects, and thereby help to implement worldwide conversion to the Hydrogen Economy. The

mission may also include direct participation in Hydrogen Energy related projects in order to assure their conclusion. It will seek contributions from IAHE members, from those interested in the future of human civilization, from philanthropists, and from philanthropical organizations. The IAHE will also contribute to the Trust. The Trust will not use these funds for its mission directly, however, but will invest them, and use only the income generated from the investments over and above the contributions made for its mission. This will ensure the perpetuity of the Trust.

During the first year of the Trust, the IAHE made a contribution of \$180,000 to the Trust. Dr. Veziroglu, perhaps remembering the adage “put your money where your mouth is”, has donated \$10,000 to the Trust this year. And, he tells us that he will continue such donations in future years. The Trust has opened a tax-exempt account with the Fidelity Investments, and has invested in mutual funds in accordance with their advice. We understand that Dr. Veziroglu has also included the Trust in his will.

The Trust has an excellent objective, i.e., to help convert the world to Hydrogen Economy as a permanent solution to the depletion of fossil fuels and the environmental problems caused by their utilization, including global warming, climate change, ozone layer depletion, acid rains, pollution, oxygen depletion and noise. It is a noble and worthy cause. Accordingly, it should appeal to the philanthropists and philanthropical organizations.

We wish to appeal not only to the entire hydrogen energy community, but also to the scientists, engineers, environmentalists and people at large, who are concerned with intertwined problems of energy crisis and environmental damage, and with the future of humankind and the planet earth to contribute to the Trust (tnv-whet@iahe.org), and include it in their will. We cannot think of a cause more noble and worthy than helping with the establishment of the Hydrogen Energy System, and in so doing, ensure a sustainable and bright future for humankind.

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