

WELCOME ADDRESS

by

Prof. Dimitrios Mavrakis

Director of KEPA

Honored guests,

It is a privilege and a great pleasure for me, as Director of the Energy Policy and Development Centre of my University, to welcome you in our premises.

I am pleased to tell you that I have visited your country twice in the past. My first visit took place in the autumn of 1982, in the frame of the Hellenic – Chinese programme of scientific exchanges. The second one, took place on the occasion of the Conference on “*European Union – China, Energy Co-operation*” organized in the frame of the visit of the European Commissioner responsible for energy policies in China in October 1996.

During those two visits, where I had the opportunity to visit certain areas of China, I was impressed and still am by the enormous rates of economic development of your country and the achievements of the Chinese scientific society, not to mention the warm hospitality you have extended to me during those visits.

In return to your hospitality, I hope you enjoy your visit to Greece and to our Centre. The building of the Energy Policy and Development Centre, in which we are now, was established quite recently and it was financed 75% by the European Commission and 25% by the Hellenic Government.

It has been constructed in line with the principles of bioclimatic planning and this explains the orientation and the special characteristics of the building, the shape of the ceiling facilitating the ventilation and the extensive use of plantation.

In addition, we cover part of our power needs with photo voltaic cells and we use natural gas for cooling and heating in combination with high efficiency fire-places and water curtains on purpose to increase the energy efficiency of the building.

The main objective of the Centre is the promotion of international co-operation on Energy Policy issues with emphasis on the regions of S.E. Europe, Black and Caspian Seas and South – East Mediterranean.

Our activities in these areas cover:

1. Academic research, reports, studies and consulting services
2. Training courses and seminars while we are in the phase of finalizing our teleconference and teleteaching facilities
3. Energy observatory facilities

Out of these topics my colleagues and myself, have prepared a few short presentations for you on:

1. Environmental policy issues reflecting the present state of the implementation of KYOTO protocol among the countries of European Union. They will be presented by *Mrs KONIDARI Popi* and *Mrs VLAMI Margarita* who have carried out postgraduate studies on environment and are engaged to these topics.
2. The opening of the electricity market in EU, a hot issue among the EU countries in our days, will be presented by our senior expert and director in the Hellenic Power Corporation – DEI, *Mr VASSOS Spyros*.

3. The Hellenic power system and its interconnections with neighboring countries will allow you to get a feeling of the peculiarities we face in our efforts to be interconnected with the rest power systems of EU, will be presented by our senior expert and also Director in the aforementioned Hellenic Power Corporation, *Mr TASSOS Konstantin*.
4. Following, *Dr. LEKATSAS Evangelos*, senior expert and former Director General of the Hellenic Power Corporation will present you the main problems that emerge in restructuring the Hellenic Electricity Sector.
5. While at the end, I will try not to exhaust you when I will present you the contribution of our Centre in establishing a Regional Electricity Market – REM in S.E. Europe.

At the end, granted you feel up to it, we will be happy to have a brief discussion on those issues.

Finally, and before I give the floor to the distinguished head of your delegation, I would like to mention that I would be glad to accept in our Centre one or two students for a PhD thesis in the frame of a Hellenic or EU financed programme and that in the same framework I would be pleased to host, one at a time, Chinese professors or senior specialists for short time visits.

Thank you for listening and please welcome to the stand Mr. Li Baoshan.