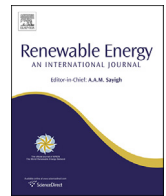




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Editorial

Energy is essential for human development. In order to make this development sustainable, avoid catastrophic climate change, and meet the needs of all people on the planet we must reduce our dependency of fossil fuels as our main energy source and decarbonise our cities and regions. By creating and deploying policies and technologies for renewable energy systems we will be able to achieve a more sustainable form of social and economic development.

Murdoch University was glad to be able to host this International Conference on Renewable Energy for Sustainable Development & Decarbonisation in association with the World Renewable Energy Network (WREN), Curtin University and our numerous industry sponsors. The major aim of this Conference was to bring together researchers, professionals and industry to discuss new developments and exchange experiences in the research and application of renewable energy technologies for sustainability and decarbonisation. The Conference highlighted the latest improvements and achievements in the main themes of renewable energy, new technology, urban form, policy and economics.

Our staff at Murdoch University have built a solid track record in teaching and research in renewable energy and in doing so developed a strong association with the World Renewable Energy Network. Over the years our team have participated in many of the WREN conferences and events around the world and in 1999 Murdoch University hosted the WREN conference on Renewable Energy Technology and Policies for Sustainable Development and the WREN conference on Renewable Energy for Sustainable Development in the Asia Pacific Region in February 2007.

There has been rapid growth of the renewable energy industry since 2007, in response to economies of scale and falling prices. A strong focus on greenhouse mitigation has emerged as a driver of the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries and there has been large scale deployment of wind and PV as a result. Moreover, new technologies are developing rapidly.

There were more than 220 delegates that attended the conference and witnessed 21 keynote speeches, 69 full text papers with 113 oral presentations and 24 poster presentations by contributors representing 42 countries from around the world. Renewable energy systems now truly have an international presence and their

use and function continues to grow and diversify as a means of overcoming climate change by supplementing and replacing fossil fuel systems.

This diversity is captured in the variety of topics in the papers selected from this conference which include Photovoltaics, Solar Thermal, Biomass, Sustainable Built Form, Policy, Wind Energy, Decarbonisation, Economics, Smart Grid, Remote Area Power Supply, Energy Storage, Biofuels, Wave Energy, Behaviour and Adoption, Geothermal, Integrated Systems and Transport.

Professor Philip Jennings of Murdoch University concluded the conference by remarking; "The renewable energy revolution is underway and there are exciting times ahead for the industry and researchers." Professor Ali Sayigh, Director General of WREN endorsed the final recommendations from the conference as being: to conduct a WREN Conference in Perth every 4 years; to reform the national committee for WREN to include representation from all States & Territories and from industry, government and academia; to request Murdoch University provide student accommodation for delegates from developing countries and NGOs at future conferences; and to record all talks and publish the text and audio on the Conference web site.

I wish to thank a number of committed and passionate people who have contributed to the success of this event and subsequently this publication, particularly the local executive committee for their time and support, the national and international committees and our sponsors. The conference was sponsored by Western Power, Worley Parsons, Murdoch University, Curtin University and Sunwise Electrics. It would be remiss of me not to especially extend my sincere gratitude and thanks to Dr Kuruvilla Mathew, conference organiser-in-chief, without whose patience and enduring commitment to the conference and subsequent paper review process, this conference and publication would not have happened. Dr Mathew was assisted by the skilful and dedicated Mr Sujin Solomon for whom we are all enormously grateful.

Dr. Martin Anda, Chair

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