

Forum: Economic and Social Council

Issue: Promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy

Student Officer: Dimitris Spanopoulos

Position: President



PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Hello everyone,

My name is Dimitris Spanopoulos and I have the great honor of serving as the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in the 5th PS-MUN conference. Having participated in all the previous PS-MUN conferences in various positions I am really happy that I can participate in this one as well.

I am a student at the University of Piraeus studying Industrial Management and Technology. I believe I will be able to convey my knowledge in economics in the committee and help everyone so we can have a fruitful debate and have a great time.

As President of the committee, my job in writing this guide is to give you enough information concerning the topic and help you in researching for other info about the topic. During the debate my fellow deputy presidents and I will monitor the debate in order to have solutions that are not only applicable on a theoretical level but also on practical level.

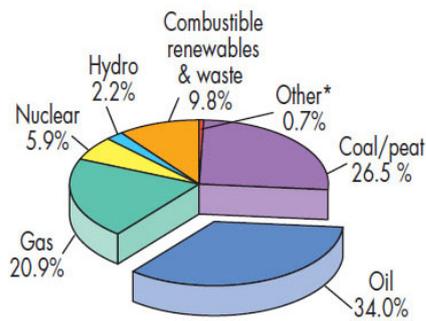
In case you need any help when you are forming your resolutions don't hesitate to contact me via email. My email account is spany6@gmail.com.

I look forward to meeting you at the conference.

Sincerely,

Dimitris Spanopoulos

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

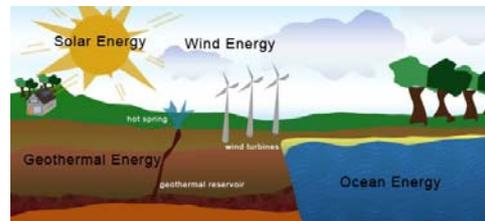


We live in a time and place in which, besides the political and economic crisis, there also happens to be an energy crisis. The most common materials that give us energy are oil, coal and natural gas. Those three materials supply the 85% of the world's energy demand. Other energy sources are nuclear power, hydro power and biomass. Coal, nuclear power and hydro power are used to make electricity. Natural gas and biomass are used for heating. Oil is mainly used to power all machines

that move and make oil, one of the most important energy sources. Scientists have proven, after years of research and experiments that if oil production remains constant, it is going to end in approximately 40-45 years. Gas is going to last approximately 60 years and coal for 133 years.

The point is that we need more sustainable and renewable energy sources that produce the same amount of energy as the not so sustainable ones (oil, coal etc). Those sources should also be environmental friendly. The human race has polluted the environment a great deal and we are one step before an environmental crisis. Such energy sources are solar power, tidal power, biomass, air power etc.

KEY TERMS



- **Sustainable energy**: Energy sources that will allow Earth to sustain balanced ecosystems and human life. Sustainable energy means solar energy (panels), wind energy (turbines and farms), water power (tides) and some biomass fuels.
- **Renewable energy**: Is an energy source that is replaced very quickly by a natural process such as power generated from the sun or from the wind. Many renewable forms of energy (almost all of them) come exclusively from the sun. Others include geothermal and tidal power.
- **ESCAP**: The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region. Established in 1947, with its headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, ESCAP works to overcome some of the region's greatest challenges by providing results on oriented projects, technical assistance and capacity building to member States in the areas of Development, investment, trade etc.
- **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)**: is a forum for 21 Pacific Rim member economies that seeks to promote free trade and economic cooperation throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

- Asia-Pacific Energy Forum (2013): APEF 2013 is the first ministerial conference of its kind to bring together 62 member states and associate members from the Asia-Pacific region on energy.
- UN Commission on Sustainable Development: The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established by the UN General Assembly in December 1992, to ensure effective follow-up of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit. From its inception, the CSD was highly participatory in structure and outlook, by engaging in its formal proceedings, a wide range of official stakeholders and partners through innovative formulae.
- Energy security: The International Energy Agency (IEA) defines energy security as “the uninterrupted availability of energy sources at an affordable price”. Energy security has many forms: long-term energy security deals with timely investments to supply energy in line with economic developments and sustainable environmental needs. Short-term energy security focuses on the ability of the energy system to react promptly to sudden changes within the supply-demand balance.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Sustainable development has been the goal of the international community since the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992. The Conference called upon governments to develop national strategies for sustainable development, incorporating policy measures outlined in the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21. Despite the efforts of many governments around the world to implement such strategies as well as international cooperation to support national governments, there are many people that worry about global economic and environmental developments in many countries.

These have been intensified by recent prolonged global energy, food and financial crises, and underscored by continued warnings from global scientists that society is in danger of transgressing a number of planetary boundaries or ecological limits.

Chapter 8 of Agenda 21 calls upon countries to adopt National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSDS) that should build upon and harmonize the various sectoral economic, social and environmental policies and plans that are operating in the country.

Five years later, the 1997 Special Session of the General Assembly again noted the importance of NSDS and set a target of 2002 for their formulation and elaboration. Ten years later, the concept of three reinforcing pillars of sustainable development was incorporated into the 2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI). The need to strengthen the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD) is addressed in Chapter XI. The JPOI highlighted the need to enhance the integration of

sustainable development in the activities of all relevant United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, and the international financial institutions, within their mandates.

The IFSD discussion also encompasses the role of institutions comprising the economic and social pillars, e.g. considering how to step up efforts to bridge the gap between the international financial institutions (IFIs) and the multilateral development banks (MDBs), and the rest of the UN system.

In 2009, 106 Member States of the UN implemented a National APEC that member economies have supported for a long time for the development of clean and renewable energy.

The 2011 APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration invited economies to speed up the change towards a global low-carbon economy in a way that provides energy security and supports APEC's aspiration to reduce the accumulated energy intensity by 45% by 2035.

The 2012 Leaders' Declaration also stressed the need to promote energy efficiency and cleaner energy supplies as a priority to boost sustainable development and energy security. As a result, carbon emissions can be easily reduced.

The 2013 Leader's Declaration emphasized on the fact that energy security is an important ingredient towards sustainable growth and development in the Asian-Pacific region.

APEC member economies must strengthen their efforts to promote renewable energy resources. The President of the Korean Energy Economics Institute on a paper he published, states that, sustainability in the energy sector is said to have three dimensions: economic, environmental and social.

Economic sustainability is mostly related to energy supply security; without secure energy supply, a continued and stable growth is hard to achieve. Environmental stability lies on a commitment that draws more attention to the welfare of the future generations in the long-run energy policymaking.

In the Asia-Pacific region, there are international cooperative energy projects that are being conducted and some discussions are underway for cooperation in the years to come.

Southeast Asian countries are at forefront in advancing regional energy cooperation mostly through the Trans-ASEAN energy network project. In Northeast Asia, an active discussion is going on for a variety of potential international cooperative projects, especially those of cross-border energy projects.

The President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin, visited India on December 2014 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Mr. Narendra Modi, for the Annual Summit between the two countries.

Acknowledging natural complementarities in the area of energy, the two sides will engage in a bilateral cooperation in the field of energy, including oil, gas electric power production, renewable energy sources and energy efficiency.

This bilateral programme underlines the need of the two sides to develop cooperation in the area of oil and gas sphere. Both sides will promote natural gas utilization as an environmentally friendly source of energy.

Indian companies will strongly take place and participate in projects related to new oil and gas fields in the territory of Russian Federation. There will be studies conducted on the possibilities of building a hydrocarbon pipeline system that connects Russia with India.

Furthermore, nuclear energy is viewed as a clean reliable source of energy by both countries. The two states are going to expand the cooperation in science and technology industry, uranium mining and also making and supply of nuclear fuel. The serial construction of the nuclear power units is going to happen based on Russian design. The energy efficiency agencies of these two countries will engage closely to exchange experiences and practices. Also they will also cooperate in the development and efficient use of renewable energy.



In South Africa, a team at the University of Cape Town with the collaboration of the country's Energy Research Center researched ways to bring sustainable development in South Africa. South Africa's energy demand, is characterized by relatively high energy intensity, makes the more efficient use of energy particularly important.

Important energy policy initiatives are already underway with respect to energy efficiency and renewable energy. Many interventions were proposed and studied in detail and these suggest that it makes economic sense to promote end-use energy efficiency and demand-side management.

A key policy question, which is examined here, is why greater efficiency is not realized. It is suggested that cross-cutting policy instruments, such as energy-environmental taxes, could play an important role in this regard.

The building of local manufacturing capacity for added-value industries is identified as a way of changing existing patterns of investment in sectors that see their competitive advantage in cheap electricity.

COUNTRIES INVOLVED

Asia

In the continent of Asia aside from the APEC and APEF other things have taken place in order to solve the issue of energy security and sustainability, for example the Asia Sustainable and Alternative Energy Program (ASTAE).

The Asia Sustainable and Alternative Energy Program (ASTAE) was created in 1992 as a Global Partnership Program. Its mandate is to scale up the use of sustainable energy options in Asia to reduce energy poverty and protect the environment. Achieving this objective rests on promoting ASTAE's three pillars for sustainable development: renewable energy, energy efficiency and access to energy. The program has been instrumental in increasing the share of sustainable energy projects in the World Bank energy portfolio in Asia. It has been especially successful in the East Asia and Pacific Region.

Europe

Created on 13th April 2000, EREC, the European Renewable Energy Council, is the umbrella organisation of the major European renewable energy industry, trade and research associations active in the field of photovoltaics, small hydropower, solar thermal, bioenergy, geothermal, solar thermal electricity and ocean energy.

It represents an industry with an annual economic activity of more than €130 billion and more than 1 million employees. An Extraordinary General Assembly of EREC which took place in Brussels on 6th March 2014 decided the "voluntary" dissolution of the non-profit organisation after over a decade of existence.

Africa

The Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) is a multi-donor trust fund administered by the African Development Bank to support small- and medium-scale Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency projects in Africa. In many African countries, smaller renewable energy projects are potentially viable, but the initial development costs often prevent these projects from accessing necessary financing. SEFA is founded on the premise that reliable, clean and affordable energy can contribute to strong African economies and can have a positive impact in creating employment opportunities across the continent.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The solutions that you have to propose are simple. The problem as you can see in the study guide is this: How can we produce renewable and sustainable energy. Furthermore, you must consider the environmental and the economic affects that those solutions have and will have.

Your work here is to find and propose solutions that tackle the issue and can help us solve this problem. Propose solutions that show how we can do this and not just what we should do. We must create a new, better world for the next generations to live in.

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