
Greetings from the IAHE President

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Biographical notes: T. Nejat Veziroğlu, a native of Turkey, graduated from the Imperial College, and the University of London, with degrees in Mechanical Engineering (ACGI, BSc), Advanced Studies in Engineering (DIC) and Heat Transfer (PhD). In 1962 he joined the University of Miami Engineering Faculty. He served as Chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the Associate Dean for Research. He took a three years Leave of Absence (2004–2007) and founded United Nations Industrial Development Organization – International Centre for Hydrogen Energy Technologies (UNIDO-ICHET) in Istanbul, Turkey. At present, he is the Director of the Clean Energy Research Institute at the University of Miami. In 1974, he proposed the Hydrogen Energy System as a permanent solution for the depletion of the fossil fuels and the environmental problems caused by their utilisation. He has published some 350 papers and scientific reports, and edited 160 volumes of books and proceedings.

It was about 35 years ago, during the first international conference on hydrogen energy (*The Hydrogen Economy Miami Energy Conference*, 18–20 March 1974, Miami Beach, FL, USA) when a small group of ‘hydrogen romantics’ got together. It was agreed that the hydrogen energy system was an idea whose time had arrived. It was viewed as the best way to achieve a permanent solution to the global environmental problems and the depletion of fossil fuels.

In order to achieve this, the International Association for Hydrogen Energy (IAHE) was established by the end of 1974, and started working in earnest. One of the first activities of IAHE was to establish, in 1975, the *International Journal of Hydrogen Energy* (IJHE), an official journal of IAHE, followed by the organisation of the biennial *World Hydrogen Energy Conferences* and the international special-purpose hydrogen conferences.

During those years, hydrogen energy was also widely discussed in the USSR at national conferences. For example, at the conference *Gases in Metals* (Donetsk, September 1975), Professor Anatoly N. Podgorny and coauthors reported on the main ideas of hydrogen energy, and they found a broad response among the USSR scientists. In 1976, the main state journal of the USSR published the article by Academician Valery A. Legasov ‘Universal possibilities of hydrogen’. It was an official acceptance of the necessity to develop large-scale activities in hydrogen energy in the USSR. As a result, the USSR joined the IAHE.

During all those years, the Donetsk National Technical University (DonNTU), the leading technical university of the Donbass region of Ukraine, has been amongst the world-renowned universities in the field of hydrogen economy and hydrogen materials science, thanks to the activities of a special hydrogen laboratory headed by Professor V.A. Goltsov, a scientist awarded (in June 2000) with the IAHE Rudolf E. Erren Award for 'Outstanding Contributions to Hydrogen Energy in General, and to Hydrogen Treatment of Materials in Particular', a member of the Board of Directors of IAHE and a member of the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Hydrogen Energy*.

Since the mid-1970s, national and international conferences on hydrogen energy and hydrogen materials problems have been held in Donetsk biennially or triennially. This emphasised that hydrogen activities were of fundamental importance, and at the Hydrogen Treatment of Materials Conference (HTM)-2001 (Donetsk, 14–18 May 2001) the Joint Scientific and Coordinating Council on the Prospects of Transition to the Hydrogen Economy (JSC-Council) was established.

New times and new tasks require new solutions, and now the new journal *Bulletin of Hydrogen Economy and Ecology*, an official journal of the JSC-Council, and under the auspices of IAHE, will inform and consolidate the Russian-speaking hydrogen community of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries as a part of the World Hydrogen Movement.

It is with no great surprise, then, that Donbass, one of the greatest industrial megalopolises in the world, with severe environmental problems, advocates the hydrogen economy, the only one known as clean, efficient, sustainable, abundant and hospitable to life on Planet Earth.

My colleagues, participants of the *Fifth International Conference 'Hydrogen Economy and Hydrogen Treatment of Materials'*, and readers of *IJNHPA*, present or future active members of the World Hydrogen Movement, I wish you great success in your hydrogen activities. You can be proud of your contributions to the development of the hydrogen economy; good luck in your endeavours.