

## Italian Affiliate Activities in 2009

Editor's Note: We're pleased to provide the following summary of the activities of the IAEE Italian Affiliate in 2009.

### 20 YEARS OF AIEE

AIEE – the Italian Association of Energy Economists, and the second largest affiliate of the IAEE after the US Chapter – celebrated on April 27 2009 its twentieth anniversary, with the presence of IAEE President, Georg Erdmann.

### TYPES OF ACTIVITY

1. Organization of Seminars, Conferences and Workshops
2. Studies
3. Publications
4. Training courses and university Master courses
5. Awards in the field of sustainable energy.

### 1. Organization of Seminars, Conferences and Workshops

- AIEE organized in 2009, 12 national seminars in Rome, Milan and other cities and participated in various other national and international events with presentations, sessions chairing etc.
- Workshop - Roundtable "Energy prices in Italy: analysis and proposals" - January 28, 2009 in Rome - This workshop discussed the deep and rapid changes in the energy market, the collapse of oil prices and possible effects of global economic crisis on sustainable energy. It had more than one hundred participants and many newspapers and specialized websites wrote about it.
- Conference on "Prospects for a sustainable energy system in Italy: the role of energy efficiency and renewables" Date: February 12, 2009. Location: Rome - This conference was organized on the occasion of the EU Sustainable Energy Week and was directed to a large audience, not only to energy specialists.
- Seminar on "The energy sector in 2008: Situation and Prospects" - Date: March 9, 2009 in Rome This is a traditional meeting sponsored by the AIEE at the beginning of each year to summarize what happened in the energy field during the previous year and examine short and medium term trends.
- Seminar on "Tools for promoting the dissemination of renewable energy in Italy" - Date: April 7, 2009. Location: Rome. It discussed the Government initiatives in the energy field.
- Seminar on "Sustainable Mobility and Hybrid Cars" -Date: April 27, 2009. Location: Rome, with the participation of Georg Erdmann, who presented the results of his ongoing research on possible contribution of hybrid cars in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Seminar on "The accounting requirements of energy companies in light of the decision of the Energy Authority ('the Robin Hood tax') - Date: June 9, 2009. Location: Rome - This seminar was organized on the basis of specific requests made by energy companies, which encountered serious difficulties in implementing the resolution of the Authority. The event was cosponsored by Pricewaterhouse.
- Seminar on "Policies to promote energy efficiency in Italy" : June 11, 2009. Location: Rome. This seminar presented a study made by the AIEE on the legislative instruments used to promote the efficiency in the energy final uses.
- Workshop "Developing renewable energy and the adjustment of the electric grids" Date: October 8, Location: Rome, This workshop was organized in collaboration with ISES (Solar Energy Association). It has a large attendance and stimulated a very lively debate in the specialized press
- Seminar on "Initiatives of industrial research in energy efficiency" Date: October 30, 2009. The seminar discussed various aspects of the program in particular Industry 2015 - energy efficiency of the Ministry of Economic Development.
- Workshop "Fourth Day on energy efficiency in industry" - Date: November 24, 2009. Location: Milan, Maggiore House FAST - Presented the concrete results of the industry producing systems and energy-efficient devices.
- Conference "Research on end-use energy: situation and prospects" Date: December 15, 2009, Rome, The conference highlighted the richness of ideas and opportunities in the end-use efficiency field, but also the weakness of research on this subject (in Italy as well as in other countries) with respect to research on energy supply.
- Participation in events organized mainly by others. We cite, for co-sponsorship:
  - a) Conference "BRIC countries", May 15, 2009, Rome, organized by AIESEC
  - b) Conference "Building for the quality of life" June 10, 2009, Milan, organized by Megalia
  - c) Conference on "Electricity Market: short term deadlines and future prospects", 14 October 2009, Rome
  - d) Seminar "Is there a future for nuclear power in Italy?" Oct. 28 or ganized by QualEnergia in Rimini
  - e) Roundtable on Energy Efficiency, October 30, 2009, organized by the WEC (World Energy Council) in Rimini
- AIEE representatives participated also in conferences, seminars, and workshops, with presentations or chair

of sessions, roundtable discussions etc.

- 32nd IAEE International Conference “The Global View”, San Francisco, 21-24 June 2009
- 0th IAEE European Conference “Energy, Policies and Technologies for Sustainable Economies, Vienna, 7-10 September 009
- Economic and Social Commission for Europe, “Overshoot Day”, Brussels, September 25, 2009
- IEA (International Energy Agency) Workshop “From Roadmaps to Implementation” and the IEA meeting of the Expert Group on Assessment and Priorities in Energy Research, Paris, 2-4 November 2009.... and many others

## 2. Studies and models

- Several studies were carried out by AIEE in collaboration with various partners (generally AIEE Associate members). Examples:
- The development of the MARKAL-TIMES model and its applications
- AIEE continued the development of the technological-economic model MARKAL-TIMES adapted to Italy already used in previous years with various applications: the comparison of different scenarios to reduce emissions, increase energy efficiency and develop renewable sources (known as 20/20/20).
- Regulatory policy instruments to promote energy efficiency in Italy: a comparative analysis  
This is an analysis of the effectiveness of legislation adopted in Italy to promote end-use efficiency, with particular reference to the building sector. It studied the mechanisms used in other countries (particularly European) compared to Italy. It drew some suggestions for improving the instruments used in Italy, with particular reference to the system of the Energy Efficiency Certificates.
- Plans for the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency in some Italian regions - Campania Region
- Requested by ENEA and the Campania Region. It followed a similar study for the Lazio Region the previous year, but the Campania Region required a more detailed analysis on the territory to arrive at some concrete proposals. This was also done on the basis of a series of site visits and interviews with entrepreneurs. The natural gas market in Italy, with particular reference to LNG
- Requested by Sorgenia. The Italian energy balance has come to depend more and more on the natural gas and this has led to positive results of the environment and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases but it raised some concerns about security of energy supply, as was shown by the consequences of crisis between Russia and Ukraine. A security factor is the presence of regasification plants for liquefied natural gas, which add flexibility to the system. The study examined some alternative strategies in this area.
- The impact of incentives for renewable sources in Italy
- The system of incentives regarding renewable energy sources in Italy (particularly green certificates and feed-in tariffs) has helped the development of our country in this field, especially for electricity production but the costs are higher than in other European countries. The study shows that it should be possible to further improve the position of renewable and gradually decrease the costs.

## 3. Publications

- Volume on “Electricity from the Sun”. The text of a new volume of the AIEE collection covering PV and solar thermodynamic technologies was completed. It includes three parts: a presentation and discussion of technologies, a market analysis, and a collection and explanation of the incentive mechanisms. The book was published in 2010.
- Articles and reviews for various energy periodicals.
- The presence in the media was very intense throughout the year. The daily newspapers “Staffetta Quotidiana” and “Quotidiano Energia” issued a total of fifty contributions of the AIEE on issues of sustainable energy and about thirty articles and interviews have appeared in magazines and other periodicals, among which the bimonthly Nuova Energia (New Energy).
- TV and radio speeches
- Many AIEE representatives were invited to participate in radio and television round tables, debates, interviews concerning energy etc..
- AIEE continued the publication of its monthly Newsletter “Energy and Economy” and of the “Letter on Energy” which has become a monthly publication instead of quarterly and is publishing the articles of the AIEE Student members.
- The A.I.E.E has continued producing a report called: the Energy Monitoring and Forecasting Service. The Service (published only in Italian) provides a quarterly report on the evolution of international and national markets containing also short and medium term forecasts. It also informs on the price situation of the main energy products (oil, petroleum products, gas, coal, electricity) and their evolution during the months to follow (up to 24 months) with estimates of the fuel and of the electricity and gas tariffs.

## 4. Education and Training courses

- AIEE continued the successful organisation of the Master in Energy and Environmental Management together with the University of Rome - Department of Engineering that arrived at its 6th edition .
- Our educational activity is now very well known and much appreciated in Italy and abroad and the AIEE

teachers are often asked to contribute to other special training courses in energy, organized by various institutions.

- AIEE together with the Link Campus - University of Malta organised a new Master course, an International MBA in Management of Energy and Environment, for Mediterranean countries.
- The Master was an annual course, in English, with intensive teaching. The formal courses (for about 450 hours) lasted about six months. Classes were held at the Link Campus facilities and partly also at EMUNI University in Slovenia (in the frame of a EU collaboration). The teaching period was followed by 4 to 6 months of working stages at energy companies and institutions and to the preparation of a thesis. The Master was directed to University graduates from Mediterranean countries; some of its modules were opened to personnel from institutions and companies of the energy sector who wished to update and specialise in certain specific fields.
- Many important Italian and foreign companies have shown great interest in the initiative.

### 5. Prizes and Awards

- Awards in the field of sustainable energy:
- Man of the Year 2008 for energy in Italy. The award was made in conjunction with a seminar on energy prices in Italy Prize "Sustainable Energy 2008".
- The Energy Foundation Sustainable Energy Award, sponsored by the IAEA, was given only in the second half of 2009, and went to Prof. Carlo Carraro, professor of environmental economics and rector of the University of Venice.

### Membership

- The number of the AIEE members remained almost unchanged in 2009 as compared with 2008, (around 400), the number of withdrawn members and new members being almost the same.
- The "Student Section" has now almost 50 members. A lot of young people interested in energy enjoyed the opportunity to take part in the AIEE activities and were happy to join the association.
- This group was very active in the association activity in 2009 under the leadership of its new organising committee, created its own page on Facebook, interacting and exchanging information with many other national and international organizations.
- The General Assembly of the AIEE May, 2009 confirmed Edgardo Curcio as President and C.A. Bollino as Vice President.

### Sustainable Energy Europe

- In 2007 AIEE became a partner of the project Sustainable Energy Europe, a European campaign to raise awareness and change the landscape of energy.
- The objectives of the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign are to raise the awareness of decision-makers (at local, regional, national and European level), spread best-practice, ensure a strong level of public awareness, understanding and support, and stimulate the necessary trends towards an increase in private investment in sustainable energy technologies by encouraging the commitment of Partners from local to European levels.
- In 2009 many of the AIEE activities and projects were connected to the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign contributing to the achievement of EU energy policy goals and targets in the fields of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and clean transport and alternative fuels.

*Edgardo Curcio*



Edgardo Curcio, second from right, at a recent AIEE meeting.