

The French Affiliate

The Association of Energy Economists (AEE) was founded in 1985 with the support of French energy firms (Electricité de France, Gaz de France, Elf Aquitaine, Total), l'Agence de la Maîtrise de l'Énergie et de l'Environnement, research centers (Institut français du Pétrole, Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique) and some governmental administrations. The academic community has joined the AEE through individual membership. The AEE now has ten institutional members (enterprises and administrations) and 165 individual members, 45 of which are students. Since 2000 the AEE supports the development of a very active chapter of students in energy economics.

Traditional and past activities

Through its activities (an annual meeting and conferences), the AEE has become a national platform for companies, institutions and academics. Its goal is to encourage debate in energy economics and energy policy by bringing together individuals with a wide range of energy expertise and encouraging the exchange of ideas and information. On the international scene, the AEE organized, in 1992, the 15th Annual International Conference of the IAEE "*Coping with the energy future : markets and regulation*" in Tours and in 1999, the European Conference "*Energy and Technology*" in Paris.

In addition to AEE's activities, academic institutes in different universities (CGEMP in Paris Dauphine University, CERNA in the Paris School of Mines, CREDEN in Montpellier University, GRJM in Paris-Sud University, the Institut Français des Relations Internationales, IFP) are also very active in organizing events in energy economics between academics, companies and institutions. Professional associations (AFTP in oil activities, ATG in gas activities, SFEN in the nuclear field) also propose such activities. Part of the AEE's activities, over the years, has been to work in partnership with these other associations.

The AEE also encourages its members to participate in the IAEE International and European conferences. In particular it supports young economists by helping them with travel expenses.

Specialized seminars

Recently, the AEE has taken new initiatives to raise the level of dialog between professionals and academic economists. Since 2005 the main activity of the AEE has been the organization of a series of presentations and debates with representatives from the academic and business worlds on theoretical approaches applied to relevant strategic and political issues. This initiative for improving reflection through specialized events receives the support of the Conseil Français de l'Énergie, the French affiliate of the World Energy Council, which co-organizes this series of quarterly seminars with the AEE.

Seminars are organized on a regular basis throughout the year (quarterly) so as to give the opportunity to a maximum of AEE members to participate. The first one was held on the issue of "Energy investment up against market and regulatory risks" (June 15, 2005). It focused on the relevance and limits of decision-making methods under uncertainties from the newly liberalized markets and public policies. It highlighted

the difficulties of managing different types of risks in the strategic decisions of companies and in the long-term policies for climate protection and energy security. Guest speaker was Christian Gollier, professor at Toulouse University and MIT, a very well-known specialist of decision theory under risk.

These quarterly seminars which attract around 70 participants include a theoretical presentation on the issue by a professor together with comments on applications to the business world from a professional economist. The following topics were discussed in the first four seminars:

- "Economics of Technical Change and Environmental Policy", with presentations by Claude Henry, Professor at the Ecole Polytechnique and Cédric Philibert, International Energy Agency (May 18, 2006)
- "Risk aversion and economic decision" with Louis Eeckhoudt, Professor at Mons University (Belgium) and CORE (Leuven University) and Sandrine Spaeter (Professor, BETA, Strasbourg University). June 28, 2006)
- "The oil price as indicator of future rarefaction: the relevance of the exhaustible natural resources theory" by Pierre-Noël Giraud, Professor, Ecole des Mines de Paris and Denis Babusiaux, professor, Institut Français du Pétrole (September 28, 2006)
- "The efficiency of economic instruments for sustainable development : from theory to practical designs" by Olivier Godard, professor at the Ecole Polytechnique and Jean-Michel Trochet, EDF Senior economist (January 23, 2007)

Student Chapter

The AEE created and maintains a very active students' chapter which now serves as a benchmark to incite other national affiliates to create similar sections. It includes 45 members doing doctoral theses in the field of energy economics on a range of subjects such as energy-economy links, energy efficiency policy, renewable energy sources, CO2 policy instruments, industrial strategies on electricity and gas markets, efficiency of new market regulations.

The main objectives of the Student Chapter are two-fold. Firstly it provides space for networking between students from various academic research centers in France who are involved in PhD research in energy economics. Secondly, it gives them the opportunity to exchange views on their research work with professional economists and academic researchers. The AEE student chapter organizes twice yearly workshops where ten members present a progress report on their research to a panel of professors and professionals. During these meetings, the students benefit from their comments and advice for their research.

Website

More information about the French chapter of the IAEE and the presentation of its activities is available at www.aee-france.fr/. This web site, which was initially created in 2006 by the Student Chapter to support its various initiatives and to circulate information, has now become a valuable platform for the whole association.

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