

German IAEE Affiliate *Gesellschaft für Energiewissenschaft und Energiepolitik (GEE) e.V.*

In 2009 the German Affiliate will celebrate its 30th anniversary. The organization was founded in the midst of the debate on nuclear energy in Germany. At that time it was the aim to move the debate from military manifestations between antinuclear groups and the police to places such as energy dinners, seminars and conferences where the different positions could be discussed in a controversial but friendly manner. To implement this concept it was necessary to elect some representatives from ecologist groups into the GEE board, but in the beginning some members from the energy industry had some problems with this.

In the mean time the concept of an independent organization is well accepted. GEE meetings have a broader scope. Market liberalization and regulation, the new trade with electricity, natural gas and greenhouse gas emissions, energy prices and the prospects for energy investments are regular topics for our meetings which are famous for their stimulating discussions and source for new ideas. In the rather competitive market for energy conferences, the German affiliate is known as regularly presenting new speakers which are later invited by other conference organizers.

This is possible through the important role the academia has in our organization, in addition to business people from industry, consulting and administration. The GEE is not a mere energy economic association. Many of our 250 members have their academic roots in disciplines such as Engineering, Legal and Political Sciences. Therefore the first “E” in our name does not stand for “Economics” but for “Energy Sciences” while the second “E” stands for “Energy Policy”.

The energy markets in Germany and Europe are subject to fundamental changes. The market dynamics requires more young professionals to join the scene. GEE is actively involved in this process, among others by sponsoring a “best student award” which becomes more and more popular. As the German energy industry globalizes, *GEE* is well positioned by its affiliation with the IAEE which is another important asset for our organization to flourish in the future.

*Georg Erdmann
President of the GEE*