

Editorial Note

The 2nd Geoprogress Global Forum

This issue of the journal publishes some first contributions proposed for the international conference, held in Brussels on 7 September 2017, whose poster is shown at the bottom of this note. This conference is the starting event of the 2nd Geoprogress Global Forum (GGF) which focuses on “Sustainability and Energy Issues”, assuming energy the key issue for a sustainable global development.

The question of how to achieve a global development which guarantees a sound, better and more equitable living environment for future generations, is not reduced to the energy issue, namely the issue of how to ensure sufficient energy and ecological security for all. Certainly, however, the energy issue is a large part of the question and is also the essential part.

The "energy", which is the ability of a body or physical system to work, has its first source in food, which gives the energy for life and human action. This physical energy and human intelligence, of which the physical one is a condition, are subordinate to other forms of energy produced by human action and the sources that generate it.

The previous Global Forum promoted by the GeoProgress Journal has already focused on food issues and especially on the global issue of ensuring healthy and sufficient food for all the people of the planet who will reach mid-century their maximum number, estimated at about 9.1 billion people.

In this Forum, whose initiatives will continue at least throughout the 2018, intends instead dwell on the other forms of energy that, applied to machines, multiply the ability of man to work, to act and to move, to satisfy better multiple needs, including food and other recreational needs (culture, sports, fun, rest) of their strength and intelligence.

Energy will not be consider in itself but in relation to the natural environment: to the global need to ensure a healthy environment, which is - and has to be recognize - a fundamental right of all beings. The problem is to increase energy production without increasing environment degradation - that really is dictated not only by fuels, but also by the food production itself and in particular meat. Therefore, food production will continue to be an important issue and the question of how to ensure sustainable energy for everyone will largely identify how to achieve sustainable world-wide development, which technologies, financial resources and cultural approaches.

This GGF anyhow intends to focus on energy security and sustainability needs facing the present market and resistances to change. In particular, it - and consequently this and the next issues of this journal - aims:

- to analyse current energy geography, which involves great differences in energy problems in different territories and requires different solutions and overall a new re-launch of cooperation among people for a sustainable development;
- to discuss the strategies of energy security for humanity in sustainability and put forward policies and regulations, nationally and internationally.

Its purpose is not only to give continuity to the debate concerning global environment issues that should be constantly in the spotlight of the scholars and public decision makers; but also to try to further involve the scientific community in the global problems.

This community should not only contribute to find techniques, of production and organization, that are to be increasingly sustainable, but also contribute to identify and remove resistances and obstacles toward the diffusion of such techniques and toward the satisfaction the energy needs of billions of people.

The conference of Brussels, as first initiative of the new Forum on Energy and Environment, was aiming to give a first picture of the main issues to be addressed to ensure sustainable energy for all by the middle of the century. These problems, together with the needed policies, development strategies and technologies, will be developed later on in new meetings and debates with all stakeholders and in specific studies.

I am convinced that, in order to ensure sustainable energy for all, there are enough both physical and financial resources and technologies - as is evident from studies by physicists, geographers and geologists, and by engineers and technologists in general, and how it will also result from contributions that will follow in this conference. What is lacking and needs to be built is a multilateral political willing together with an international shared strategy for sustainable development. For this purpose, in my paper in this issue on the I.E.F (International Environment Fund) I question the fundamentals of the current funding mechanisms and reiterate the need to build a more stable "international environmental system" based on more solid political bases and therefore legal ones.

At the end of the Brussels Conference, in this regard the participants urged Geoprogress to set up a study group to update the proposal of the IEF constitution and to take initiatives to create the necessary consensus to be approved internationally. Furthermore, they have adopted the conclusions and recommendations of Dario Chello's paper.

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