

International Gas Union (IGU) - Annual Report 1997



- [What is IGU](#)
- [Outlook for Gas, world-wide](#)
- [Major IGU activities in 1997](#)
- [The Presidency](#)
- [The Secretariat](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Meetings of IGU Bodies](#)
- [Triennial Work Programme 1997 - 2000](#)
- [Contacts with other International Organisations](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Communication](#)
- [Additional Information](#)

What is IGU

The International Gas Union is a world-wide non-commercial, non-government organisation with currently 55 members from all over the world. These members are generally speaking the most representative gas organisations of a country which may encompass producers, transporters, distributors, technological institutes, appliance manufacturers. Together IGU's members cover about 85% of marketed world gas production. As a result of the advance of natural gas in the world's energy balance and the ever increasing number of countries where gas is being used or emerging which now stands at about 100, interest in membership of IGU is on the increase and IGU expects to cover more than 90% of world gas production by the end of this decade.

The main objective of IGU is to promote the technical and economic progress of the gas industry world-wide mainly by facilitating the exchange of information both of a technological nature and of a more general, business-oriented nature. To that end it organises the World Gas Conference and Exhibition and manages currently 10 Working Committees which study all aspects of the gas industry from the well to the burner tip and which report at the World Gas Conference. They also prepare the technical programme for that conference

Outlook for Gas, world-wide

Optimism reigned at the 20th World Gas Conference held at Copenhagen from June 10 - 13, 1997. The International Gas Union, which organises this major gas event every three years, believes that natural gas could become the energy of choice of the 21st century, provided general conditions under which the gas industries have to work remain favourable. It bases its optimism on world wide availability, a resource base which suffices for close to 200 years of current production, competitive pricing, the superior properties of gas and environmental awareness which favours gas. Gas demand could grow by 50% from 1995 to 2010 and by more than 90% to 2030. The share of the energy market would go up from 23% in 1995 to 25% by 2010 and international trade in gas would develop spectacularly.

Major IGU activities in 1997

20th World Gas Conference

The 20th World Gas Conference, held in Copenhagen from 10 through 13 June 1997, was attended by 3324 delegates from 68 countries, including over 300 press representatives.

They participated in a well balanced and very diverse programme consisting of presentations of reports by IGU's 10 Working Committees and 2 Task Forces, in which together some 1000 experts from all over the world have participated, of presentations of 83 papers and 91 posters in which 600 authors from 34 countries contributed and of more than 80 papers in 20 Round Tables.

Papers and poster are more often than not the result of joint international efforts. These figures clearly illustrate the co-operative, truly global character of IGU. The posters were presented at a very successful Technology Forum. Executives both from the gas industry and from other sectors presented their views on major topics in 6 key-note and 3 luncheon addresses, which drew very high audiences.

The World Gas Exhibition which took place at the same location, covered 14 000 m² and was also very well visited. In total the Bella Centre where both events took place, saw more than 12 000 people during the conference days. The Press paid extensive attention to this 20th World Gas Conference.

Delegates' reactions to both the conference and Exhibition have been very positive. As IGU believes that the major conclusions of this conference merit wider attention, they were reported in some detail in the September 1997 issue of the IGU Newsletter.

The Presidency

At the Council Meeting in Copenhagen, on June 9, 1997, Mr. Claude Détourné, Inspecteur Général of Gaz de France, was elected President of IGU for the triennium 1997-2000.

He succeeds Mr. Hans Jørgen Rasmusen, Executive Vice-President at DONG, Denmark, who ended his three-year term with the successful World Gas Conference for which he bore the ultimate responsibility. Mr. Hiroshi Urano, Managing Director of the Japan Gas Association, was elected Vice-President for this period.

The Secretariat

The Secretariat of IGU is located in Groningen, The Netherlands. The Secretary-General is assisted by one full-time assistant. Office space is made available by N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie which also renders supporting services. Because the Secretary-General is seconded by the host organisation - KVGN, the Royal Dutch Association of Gas Manufactures - and as a result of the arrangements as described here, the cost of the secretariat are very low and membership fees could be kept at a modest Dfl 7350 (about US\$ 3675) for Charter Members and Dfl 3675 (about US\$1850) for Observer Members.

Membership

In 1997 the following members joined IGU:

- Qatar Liquefied Gas Company Limited, Qatar
- Gas Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnia Herzegovina
- Republic of Belarus, Beltransgas
- Chile, Compania de Consumidores de Gas de Santiago S.A. (GASCO)

Membership of Libya was terminated, due to not paying the membership fees in arrears for more than two years.

Meetings of IGU Bodies

IGU's activities are supervised by the Council, the Executive Committee and the Technical Co-ordinating Committee. The Secretariat ensures that the business of IGU is conducted in accordance with the Articles of Association and with

the directions of the President, Council and Executive Committee.

The Council is the main ruling body of IGU in which each Member Association is represented. The Executive Committee governs the IGU in accordance with the aims and means fixed by the Council and is chaired by the President of IGU. The function of the Technical Co-ordinating Committee is to co-ordinate the activities of the IGU Working Committees and to provide for all arrangements relevant to the Programme of the World Gas Conference.

During 1997 following meetings of these bodies took place:

Council	Copenhagen, Denmark, June 9, 1997	Deauville, France, October 1, 1997
Executive Committee	St. Petersburg, Russia, April 11, 1997	Deauville, France, September 30, 1997
Technical Co-ordinating Committee	St. Petersburg, Russia, April 11, 1997	Deauville, France, September 30, 1997

Triennial Work Programme 1997 - 2000

The Triennial Work Programme is the result of broad discussion within IGU's member associations, Working Committees and the Technical Co-ordinating Committee.

Ten Working Committees have been set-up to conduct the IGU programme leading up to the World Gas Conference in 2000. These are:

- WOC1 Exploration, Production, Treatment and Underground Storage's of Natural Gas
- WOC2 Production of Manufactured Gas
- WOC3 Liquefied Gases
- WOC4 Transmission
- WOC5 Distribution
- WOC6 Utilisation of Gases for the Domestic, Commercial and Transportation Sectors
- WOC7 Industrial Utilisation and Power Generation
- WOC8 Environment, Safety and Health
- WOC9 World Gas Prospects, Strategy and Economics
- WOC10 Gas and Developing/Transitional Economy Countries

Under the guidance of these Committees a total of 33 Study-Groups will carry out studies on specific subjects. Full details of these studies are laid down in the IGU publication "TWP 1997 - 2000", website: <http://www.igu2000.com>
 IGU has also set up a Task Force to organise the Symposium on Computing in the Gas Industry, to be held in Italy, Florence, April 26-28, 1999, website <http://www.wscgi99.atig.it>.

Contacts with other International Organisations

LNG-12

IGU sponsors this major international Liquefied Natural Gas Conference, which will take place in Perth, Western Australia, May 4 - 7, 1998. It has the Secretariat of the Steering Committee which is chaired by the President of the IGU. The Steering Committee met during the World Gas Conference in Copenhagen.

IGRC

IGU sponsors the International Gas Research Conference, which will be held in San Diego, California on November 8 - 11, 1998. The Policy Committee which is chaired by the President of IGU, met during the World Gas Conference in Copenhagen. The Programme Committee is chaired by the chairman of the Technical Co-ordinating Committee of IGU.

Intergas Marketing

IGU maintains a close relationship with this organisation. Co-operation between IGU and Intergas Marketing will be further strengthened amongst others by input from Intergas Marketing in IGU's Triennial Work Programme.

Eurogas

IGU is represented by its Secretary-General in the Plenary Meetings of Eurogas.

Framework Convention on Climate Change

IGU as an Accredited Observer takes part in meetings of the bodies set up within FCCC. It attended several meetings of the subsidiary bodies as well as the conferences of Parties in Geneva and in Kyoto.

IGU, jointly with the Japan Gas Association, had information stands both at the Conference of Parties in Kyoto and at the ECO Japan Exhibition.

At these meetings, as well as during the events in Kyoto, a great number of the successful IGU publication "Climate Change, the case for gas" were distributed. This is a joint publication of IGU, Eurogas and Marcogaz.

World Energy Council

IGU is represented in several working groups and bodies of WEC. The Secretary-General of IGU represents IGU in the meeting of the Executive Assembly. The Secretary-General attended a meeting of the International Advisory Panel which acts as an advisory body to the WEC Congress to be held in Houston in 1998.

An IGU representative took part in the WEC Regional Forum in Beijing

United Nations, Economic Commission for Europe

IGU is represented by its Secretary-General in the Plenary Meetings of the Working Party on Gas of this organisation in Geneva. In January the Secretary-General was invited to give a presentation on IGU's activities concerning the Environment.

World Petroleum Congress

IGU maintains good relations with WPC. Its representatives attended the 15th World Petroleum Congress in Beijing. IGU presented a paper on World Gas Prospects.

IEA - International Centre for Gas Technology Information

This world-wide electronic information service administers IGU's Website <http://www.igu.org>.

Also the Centre and IGU started co-operation in publishing -in electronic form - the International Directory for Documentation Centres, which was previously only published in printed version once every three years at the occasion of the World Gas Conference.

Publications

In 1997 IGU published three Newsletters as well as four other documents:

- the IGU Environmental Charter, which underscores IGU's Members' commitment to a better environment
- IGU's Mission and Policy Objectives
- Climate Change, the Case for Gas
- Triennial Work Programme 1997 - 2000

All of these publications can be obtained from the IGU Secretariat; the Environmental Charter, the Mission and Policy Objectives and the Triennial Work Programme are also available on IGU's Websites on Internet.

Furthermore the revised Articles of Association have been printed and distributed amongst members.

Communication

Good communication both within the world-wide IGU organisation and with the outside world, are getting constant attention. Within the IGU, its officers try to maintain good personal relationship with members by attending annual meetings and special events. In early 1997 the President and the Secretary-General on a mission to south-east Asia met with leading Gas Executives and with the Press in Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur. The new President attended the 9th forum of the natural gas industry in Toronto, Canada, jointly organised by the American Gas Association, the Canadian Gas Association and the Mexican Gas Association.

Other countries visited were Australia (annual conference of the Australian Gas Association), Mexico, Czech Republic (150th celebration of gas in the Czech Lands), France (114th conference of ATG) and Belgium (jubilee annual meeting of the Belgian Gas Association).

The IGU Newsletter was published three times, one extra issue focussed on the results of the 20th World Gas Conference.

IGU has three Websites on Internet:

- one with general information on IGU, including the Newsletter as well as the proceedings of the 20th World Gas Conference: <http://www.igu.org>;
- one providing information on the 21st World Gas Conference in 2000: <http://www.wgcnice2000.com>;
- and one with information on the work of the Technical Co-ordinating Committee: <http://www.igu2000.com>.

These Websites are cross-linked to each other.

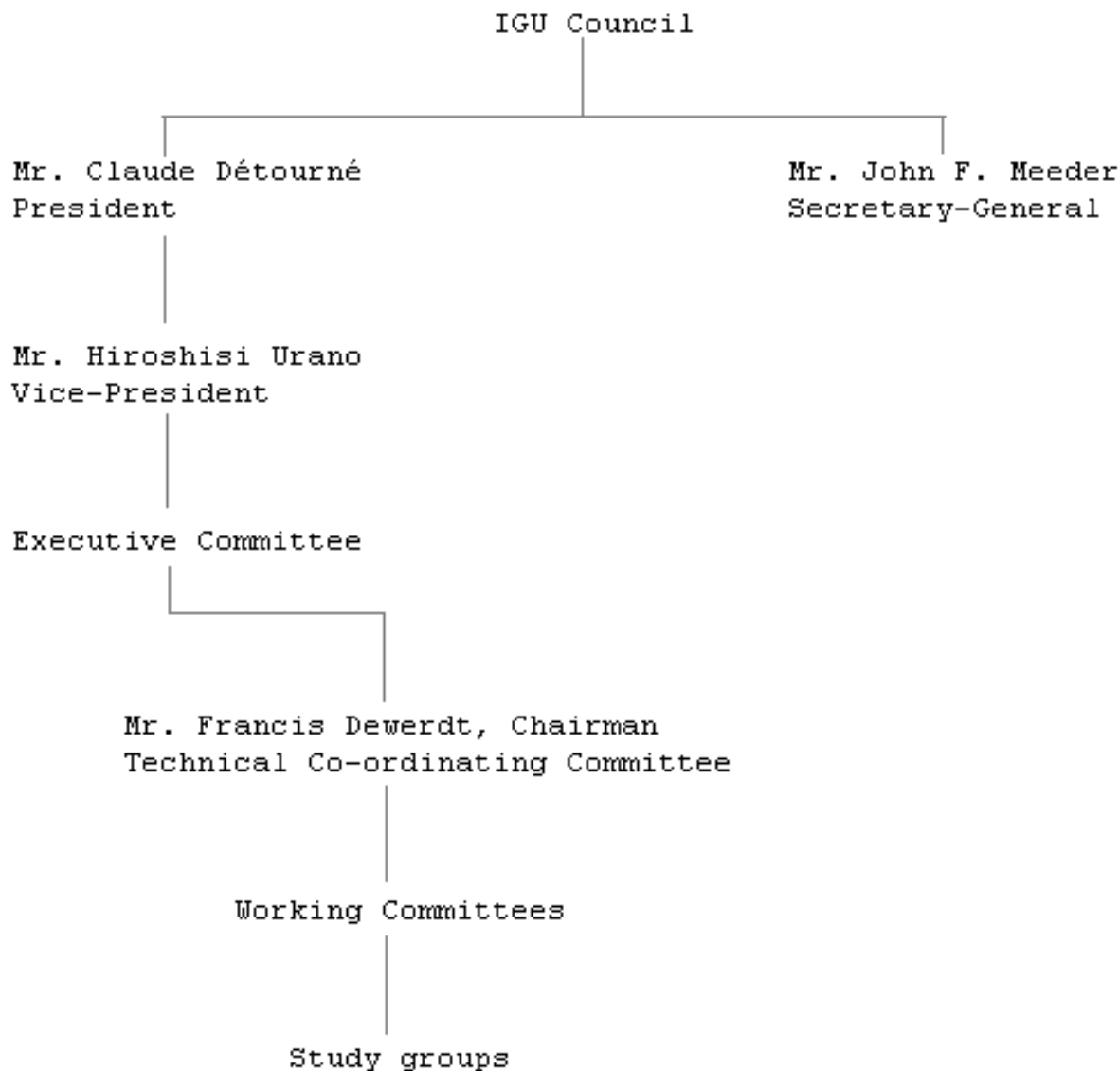
In 1997 preparation of meetings of the Executive Committee by making use of Internet was initiated, followed by dissemination of Minutes of both the Executive Committee and Council meetings by means of Internet. These are only accessible by means of a password available to delegates.

Furthermore, a message board has been installed which will facilitate communications between the secretariat at Groningen and the 50+ member associations all over the world.

Additional Information

- Organisation (names)

IGU Organisation



- Member Associations (Please visit our website: <http://www.igu.org/membership.html>)
- Countries represented at the Executive Committee:

Algeria

Argentina

Canada

Denmark Immediate Past President

France Presidency and Chairmanship of the Technical Co-ordinating Committee

Germany

Italy

Japan both member and Vice-Presidency

Korea

the Netherlands

Norway

Pakistan

Russia

Spain

United Kingdom

USA

- Chairmen of the Working Committees and Task Force A (please visit the site: http://www.igu2000.com/english/d7_1.htm and click on TCC online - "the IGU TCC and the WOCs Chairmen")
- Secretariat (please visit the site: <http://www.igu.org/address.html>)
- National Organising Committee (NOC)

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- International Exhibition Committee

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Home

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IEA International Centre for Gas Technology Information