

International Gas Union (IGU) - Annual Report 1998

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What is IGU

The International Gas Union is a world-wide non-commercial, non-government organisation with currently 56 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 87% 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.

Major IGU activities in 1998

IGU sponsored two important gas events: the LNG 12 Conference in Perth, Western Australian May 4 - 7, which attracted more than 1800 delegates and the IGRC 98 conference in San Diego, California, November 8 - 11, which attracted nearly 700 delegates. Both conferences were considered very successful and IGU had the opportunity to promote its activities as well as the next World Gas Conference in Nice, France, in the year 2000.

IGU as an accredited observer takes part in meetings of the bodies set up by FCCC. It was represented by its special delegate at COP 4, the international conference on Climate Change, which was held in Buenos

Aires, Argentina in November 1998. IGU had an information stand and distributed its position paper: "Natural Gas, Part of the Solution to Global Climate Change".

The IGU representative also participated in the meetings of the so-called Subsidiary Bodies, which prepare the plenary studies and in which also technical studies are discussed.

Main activity still was the preparation of the 21st World Gas Conference and Exhibition, to be held in Nice, France, June 6-9, 2000.

The Triennial Work Programme (website: www.igu2000.com) under the responsibility of the Technical Co-ordination Committee, is making good progress, the results of the studies will be published at the World Gas Conference. A draft programme for the conference has been discussed and is near completion.

The Call for Papers was distributed at the end of August. 500 Abstracts had been received at the deadline which was December 31st. A selection will be made before June 1999.

The exhibition space of 16 000m² has already been largely taken-up.

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. However an increase in membership fee of 10% was approved for 1999.

Mr. Peter Storm from Denmark was elected deputy Secretary-General and will succeed the current Secretary-General, Mr. John F. Meeder, as of mid 2000.

Membership

In 1998 the following members joined IGU:

- SMEG (Société Monégasque de l'Electricité et du Gaz) of Monaco as Observer Member
- the Nigerian Gas Association of Nigeria, as Charter Member.

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

Total membership at the end of 1998 amounted to 57, representing 87% of world gas.

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 1998 following meetings of these bodies took place:

Council:	Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 7, 1998
Executive Committee:	Bad Valkenburg a/d Geul, the Netherlands, April 24, 1998; Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 6, 1998
Technical Co-ordinating Committee:	Bad Valkenburg a/d Geul, the Netherlands, April 24, 1998; Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 6, 1998

Contacts with other International Organisations

LNG-13

IGU as a co-sponsor is now involved in preparing the 13th Liquefied Natural Gas Conference, which will take place in Seoul, Korea May 14-17, 2001. IGU has the Secretariat of the Steering Committee which is chaired by the President of the the Institute of Gas Technology (IGT).

IGRC

IGU as a co-sponsor is now involved in preparing the IGRC 2001 Conference, which will be held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, November 5-8, 2001. The Policy Committee is chaired by the President of IGU.

Intergas Marketing

IGU maintains a close relationship with this organisation. Co-operation between IGU and Intergas Marketing is 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 Conference of Parties in Buenos Aires, Argentina. IGU, through the good services of its Argentinean member the Instituto Argentino del Petroleo y del Gas, had an

information stand at the Conference of Parties in Buenos Aires.

At these meetings, as well as during the event in Buenos Aires, a great number of the successful IGU publication "Change, the case for gas" was distributed, which is a joint publication of IGU, Eurogas and Marcogaz, as well as the new IGU brochure: "Natural Gas, Part of the Solution to Global Climate Change". IGU's delegates will continue to participate in meetings of the bodies set up by FCCC.

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 Chairman of the Technical Co-ordination Committee participates in both the Studies Committee and the Programme Committee. As a result of IGU's efforts, natural gas was very visible at the WEC Congress, which was held in Houston, September 13-17, 1998.

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.

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 1998 IGU published two Newsletters as well as one other document:

- Natural Gas - Part of the Solution to Global Climate Change

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

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. The President attended the annual conferences/meetings of the Australian Gas Association, the Mexican Gas Association, Canadian Gas Association, the Dutch Gas Association (KVGN) as well as the LNG 12 Conference, Gasex 98 in Seoul, Korea, World Energy Congress in Houston, USA, and International Energy Conference in Montreal, Canada. The Secretary-General represented IGU at the Mediterranean Gas Conference in Turkey, the LNG 12 conference, a Eurogas meeting, the Natural Gas Vehicles Conference, the annual conference of the ATG (French Member Association), the World Energy Congress and Gastech 98, Dubai.

The Chairman of the Technical Co-ordinating Committee represented IGU at the general assembly of Intergas Marketing, the Studies- and Programme Committees of WEC and the 7th Conference on Gas

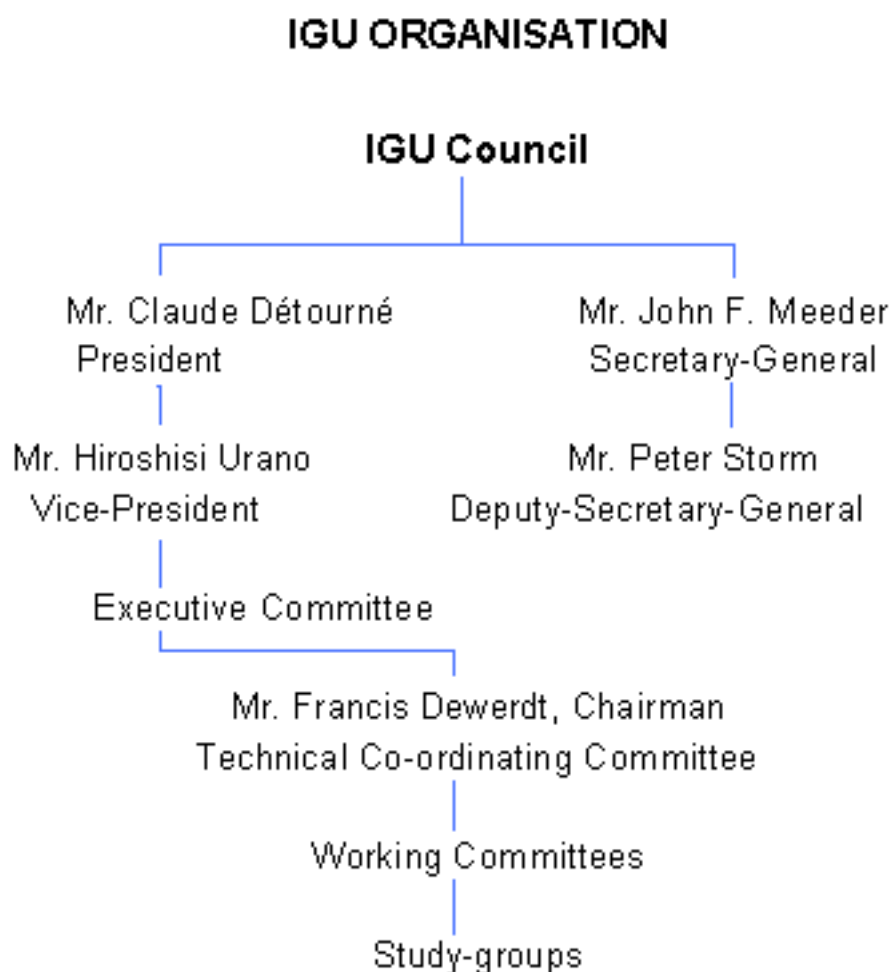
Technologies in the Czech Republic.

IGU has three Websites on Internet:

- one with general information on IGU: <http://www.igu.org>
- one providing information on the 21st World Gas Conference in 2000: <http://www.wgcnice2000.com>
- one with information on the work of the Technical Co-ordinating Committee: <http://www.igu2000.com>

Additional Information

- Organisation (names)



- 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>)
- National Organising Committee (NOC)

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- International Exhibition Committee

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*Update 9. March 1999 by Jackie
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