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IGU Annual Report 2001

What is IGU?

The International Gas Union, which was established 71 years ago, is a world-wide non-commercial, non-government organisation with currently 64 members from all over the world. These members are primarily the most representative gas organisations of a country, which may encompass producers, transporters, distributors, technological and scientific institutes, and appliance manufacturers.

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 of both 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. The Working Committees report at the World Gas Conference.

Together IGU's members cover about 90% 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 - now standing at about 100 - where gas is being used or emerging, IGU is expanding its network with more developing countries.

Major IGU Activities in 2001

- World Gas Conference (WGC)

At the end of the 21st World Gas Conference held in Nice, France on 5-9 June 2000, Mr. Hiroshi Urano from Japan succeeded Mr. Claude Détourné as President of IGU. This is the first IGU Presidency from Asia. The term of Mr. Urano will come to a close at the end of the 22nd World Gas Conference, taking place in Tokyo, Japan in June 2003.

The theme for the Japanese Presidency and the 22nd World Gas Conference is:
"Catalysing an Eco-Responsible Future."

The Japanese National Organisation Committee has already carried out active preparations for this, the 22nd World Gas Conference and Exhibition..

Information about the Conference and Exhibition can be found through the IGU Web site www.igu.org or directly on www.wgc2003.com

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

IGU, as an UN-accredited non-government organisation, took again part in meetings within the UNFCCC, having decided on a more active approach already back in the year 2000.



At the "follow-up" meetings of the 6th Conference of the Parties (COP 6) held in November 2000, now called "COP 6½", which took place in Bonn in July 2001, IGU was present.

A major involvement was planned for COP 7, taking place in Marrakech, Morocco from 29 October - 9 November 2001. IGU had an information stand and organised a Special Event where presentations of IGU representatives were given mainly on issues related to the Natural Gas Industry and Sustainable Development.

- Technology Transfer

To initiate and underline IGU's commitment to accelerate transfer of technology among its members, the President of IGU, Mr. Hiroshi Urano took the initiative to involve IGU in the organisation of the Annual Gas Meeting of China Gas Association (CGA).

Hence, following this Annual Gas Meeting in Chongqing, China in November 2001, CGA - together with Japan Gas Association and IGU - organised the seminar CHINA GAS 2001, where experts from IGU joined Chinese experts in discussing safety issues and other gas topics. The seminar constituted a major possibility to establish contacts with the emerging gas market in China.

The Secretariat

Since July 2000 the Secretariat of IGU has been located in Hoersholm, north of Copenhagen in Denmark. One full-time assistant assists the Secretary-General. Office space is made available by DONG A/S, which also renders some supporting services.

Because the Secretary-General is seconded by the host organisation – DGF, Danish Gas Association - the cost of the secretariat is relatively low.

Membership

In 2001 the following members joined IGU:

- Brunei
- Trinidad and Tobago.

Total membership at the end of 2001 amounted to 64, of which 18 Observer Members, representing 90% of world gas.

Membership fees for 2001 amount to a modest EUR 4,000.- per year for Charter Members and EUR 2,000.- for new Observer Members.

The IGU rules for membership is under revision in a Task Force – B with a view to expand possibilities for membership.



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 along the directions of the President, Council and Executive Committee.

The Council is the main ruling body of IGU in which each Member 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 coordinate the activities of the IGU Working Committees and to provide for all arrangements relevant to the Technical Programme of the World Gas Conference.

During 2001 the following meetings of these bodies took place:

Council:	Virtual Meeting 3-5 October, 2001
Executive Committee:	Seville, Spain, 27 April, 2001 Virtual Meeting 28 September-2 October, 2001
Technical Co-ordinating Committee:	Seville, Spain, 27 April, 2001 Virtual Meeting 28 September-2 October, 2001

Back in 2000 IGU established three Task forces, as follows:

Task Force A (TF-A) to prepare a Symposium on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Gas Industry to be held in Prague, Czech Republic 23-25 April 2002 and to consider the future organisation of ICT within the Union.

TF-A reports to TCC.

Task Force B (TF-B) to consider medium and long term changes in the IGU.

TF-B reports to the Executive Committee and to the Council.

Task Force C (TF-C) to consider and propose the position of the Union to issues within Climate Change and Sustainable development.

TF-C reports to the Executive Committee and to the Council.



Contacts with other International Organisations

LNG 13/LNG 14

IGU was as a co-sponsor involved in preparing the 13th Liquefied Natural Gas Conference, which took place in Seoul, Korea May 14-17, 2001. IGU has the Secretariat of the Steering Committee, which was then chaired by Mr. Bernie Lee, who retired from IGT at the end of 1999.

After LNG 13, preparations for LNG 14 to be held in Doha, Qatar 21-24 March 2004 have begun. The LNG 14 Steering Committee chaired by Mr. Hiroshi Urano, President of IGU met early in 2002 for its first meeting.

IGRC

IGU was as a co-sponsor involved in preparing the IGRC 2001 Conference, which was held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, November 5-8, 2001. The Policy Committee was then chaired by Mr. Hiroshi Urano, President of IGU.

Following IGRC 2001, preparations for IGRC 2004 planned to be held in Vancouver, Canada have been initiated. The Policy Committee is chaired by Mr. George H.B. Verberg, Vice President of IGU.

Intergas Marketing (IGM)

IGU maintains a close relationship with IGM. Co-operation between IGU and IGM is further strengthened by integrating some IGM subjects and IGM representatives in the work of IGU as indicated in the IGU 2000-2003 Triennial Work Programme.

Eurogas

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

World Energy Council (WEC)

IGU is normally represented in several working groups and bodies of WEC. The Secretary-General of IGU represents IGU in the meeting of the Executive Assembly.

At the 18th World Energy Congress (arranged by WEC) on 21-26 October 2001 in Buenos Aires, Argentina IGU had a booth together with the National Organising Committee for WGC 2003 in the Exhibition Area.

Mr. Urano, President of IGU, chaired one Panel Session and participated in a Round Table Session, while Mr. Verberg, Vice President of IGU, chaired a Discussion Session.

United Nations, Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

IGU is represented by its Secretary-General in the Plenary Meetings of the Working Party on Gas in Geneva.

Publications

In 2001 IGU published one printed Newsletter in March and one electronic issue in December (on display on the IGU Web site, only).



In May IGU published a General Brochure which was distributed among IGU Members and other contacts to mark the 70th Anniversary of IGU.

In close co-operation with Working Committee 8, IGU issued the Brochure "Towards a Sustainable Future" that was sent to all IGU members and contacts.

The publications listed below can be obtained from the IGU Secretariat:

- The proceedings from 20th World Gas Conference in Copenhagen on CD-ROM
- The proceedings from 21st World Gas Conference in Nice in CD-ROM
- The Triennial Work Programme 2000-2003
- The booklet: "Global Natural Gas Perspectives"
- Climate change - the case for gas (Joint IGU/Eurogas/Marcogas brochure)
- IGU General Brochure
- IGU Brochure: "Towards a Sustainable Future"

The IGU Environmental Charter, which can be found on the IGU Web site is under revision. A new text is due to be published in the course of 2002.

Also the Vision, Mission and Objectives of IGU, published in 2001 and most of the materials mentioned above can be found on the IGU Web site: www.igu.org.

Communication

Fruitful communication both within the world-wide IGU organisation and with the outside world, is getting constant attention.

Within IGU its officers try to maintain close personal relationship with members by attending annual meetings and special events – when possible.

Thus in year 2001 the President, the Secretary General and the TCC Chairman attended numerous events both within IGU, with other International Organisations and at different Conferences.

The IGU Web site is found at www.igu.org.

It is divided into

- a public part with general and detailed information about IGU, its member organisations, its publications and its documentation.
It also contains general information from TCC, a link to NOC/WGC2003 (providing information about the next World Gas Conference), numerous links to related organisations/energy entities as well as a Calendar of events.
- A "Members Only" part which requires Username and Password, containing internal messages and documents within the organisation

Nearly all IGU members now have electronic contact with the IGU Secretariat.



Additional Information

IGU ORGANISATION

IGU Council

President from June 9, 2000:	Mr. Hiroshi Urano
Vice President from June 9, 2000	Mr. George H.B. Verberg
Secretary General from July 1, 2000:	Mr. Peter K. Storm

Executive Committee

Chairman: The IGU President

Countries represented at
the Executive Committee (2000-2003):

Algeria
Argentina
Canada
France
Germany
Great Britain
Italy
Japan
Malaysia
the Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Russia
Spain
USA



Technical Co-ordinating Committee (TCC)

Chairman of TCC from June 9, 2000: Mr. Chiaki (Jack) Gomi

10 Working Committees each with a number of Study groups.
(For further information please refer to the Triennial Work Programme)

Member Associations

Please visit the IGU Web site: www.igu.org

NOC for 22nd World Gas Conference in Tokyo, June 2003

Secretary General: Akira Fukushima

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(LOGO WGC 2003)

See also Web site at: www.wgc2003.com

Secretariat of International Gas Union

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Peter K. Storm, Secretary General, 16 April 2002.