



Engine Workshop 6

Increasing policy makers' awareness and public acceptance



Meeting Announcement and Call for Papers

September 13-14, 2007

**Hotel Holiday Inn,
Athens, Greece**



Geothermal Energy, policy makers' awareness and public

It is widely known that the geothermal energy is a versatile renewable energy source that is among the cleanest of the commercially viable technologies available today. Towards this direction, there has been a lot of literature attestation. However there has not been the predictable development in this field. An important reason is that many geothermal projects face strong opposition from politicians, neighbouring communities or environmental pressure groups. This is why there is a global tendency for geothermal companies to develop their policy and their social responsibility.

Geothermal companies should be aware that paying careful attention to public acceptance issues and encouraging public support is in the best interest of the geothermal industry. In facing the coming decade, geothermal proponents should consider why public support has been lukewarm and how it can be strengthened.

Some of the benefits of geothermal energy that can be used as arguments in order to contribute to the increase of public acceptance is that geothermal does not involve large-scale land disruption to extract the resource as does coal, it does not produce massive air pollution, it does not have to be imported, it does not pose risk of major catastrophe as in the nuclear power industry and environmental impacts can be mitigated.

Public response to previous large-scale geothermal and other energy developments can provide useful insights. These earlier experiences may be applicable to public acceptance of future geothermal projects.

The aim of the workshop *"Increasing policy makers' awareness and public acceptance"* is to make policy makers' aware of the need of a strategy and examine the policy that should be followed in order to eliminate any social opposition.



Join us for discussions in the historical city of Athens



The Workshop Location - Hotel Holiday Inn

Holiday Inn Athens hotel is situated in the heart of Athens, very close to the historical sites of Athens, only 10min. from Acropolis, the traditional Plaka area (old town) and Syntagma (Constitution) square. The hotel is only 5min. walking distance from metro station and 30min. by car from El. Venizelos International airport. In the summertime at the roof garden pool, you may enjoy the panoramic view of Lycabettus hill and the Acropolis.



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<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/925/en/hd/athgr>

Meeting Topics, Abstract submission & Registration Information

We invite you to present your latest work on the state of the art concerning policy makers' awareness and public acceptance of geothermal projects at the ENGINE workshop 6 that will be held in Athens, Greece on September 13 and 14, 2007.

The aim of the workshop is to bring together experts to exchange ideas on policy makers' awareness and public acceptance on geothermal projects that face strong opposition nowadays from politicians, neighbouring communities or environmental pressure groups.

Deadlines

Submission of abstracts: July 13, 2007

Registration: August 13, 2007

>Please find more information about online abstract submission and registration forms at <http://engine.brgm.fr> following the link *conferences&workshops*.

Meeting Topics

- Case studies on policy makers' awareness and public acceptance.
- Measures towards the increase of knowledge and flow of information in order to increase the public perception and acceptance.
- Environmental impact assessment and public acceptance.
- Miscommunication between companies and public.
- Non-technical barriers and possible ways to overcome them (difficulties with funding, financing and insuring of geothermal projects and solutions to overcome them, improvement of the funding conditions for specific geothermal projects with challenging or unproven technologies, governmental policy in several countries and measures taken towards the development of geothermal projects, difficulties with regulation and legal framework governing the use of geothermal energy in several countries).

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