



REVIEW 2010

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT FOR 2010

Introduction

The year under review witnessed the gradual recovery of the global economy and an increase in business confidence. This was reflected in the coal industry by an increase in the price of export coal which was unfortunately also accompanied by increases in the cost of most mining inputs.

Against this background the Fossil Fuel Foundation continued to pursue its broad objectives of providing fora for discussions of issues impacting on the fossil fuel industry, focussing mainly on coal, and presenting education and training opportunities for persons in this industry.

Education

Seven Masters Modules took place in collaboration with Wits University, each comprising one week of intense education in coal-related subjects. The courses were attended by 264 people from industry.

Two postgraduate Research Students Colloquia were hosted at which a number of researchers from several universities in South Africa presented their work on coal and coal-related issues (UCT, Wits, NWU and UWC).

The FFF sponsored a student prize for the best poster in coal-related topics at 4th year level at Wits University. The quality of the posters was exceptional and indicates that the future of research in South Africa is in good hands.

Conferences

Eight well attended conferences were held during 2010. The most significant ones were those dealing with coal in Botswana and KZN and a thought-provoking series of events concerning clean coal technology and the future role of coal in electricity generation.

Others events covered Spontaneous Combustion, Junior Coal Mining and the Optimisation of Industrial Boilers.

In addition the FFF hosted Prof Carol Dahl from the Colorado School of Mines who presented a 3-day course on energy economics and Prof Perry Shoshoni, President of Menlo Economics in California, gave an evening presentation on "Energy and Environmental Sustainability on a Finite Planet".

National Issues

The SA Coal Road Map Initiative commenced in 2010 with the FFF handling the administration. This process is on track with the completion of phase 1 expected by mid 2011.

The FFF also submitted comment and presented its views on the Integrated Resource Plan for electricity (IRP2010). This was the first time that the FFF has commented on a national issue - a practice we plan to continue in the future.

The FFF supported the view that nuclear and renewables were essential for the long-term future supply of South Africa's electricity. It however qualified its support by stating that coal should only begin to be phased out once renewables and other alternative energy sources were able to supply sufficient energy in a secure, reliable and affordable manner. Until then, coal and society should not be burdened with unnecessary and damaging administrative and imposed costs.

Communication

The efforts to achieve increased public exposure for FFF events were successful in obtaining extensive media coverage for our conferences and courses.

Strategic Planning

Two major strategic planning sessions were held to determine critical steps to ensure the future of the FFF. The main resolutions were that:

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- The FFF should attempt to host a parallel event by a high profile individual at the Mining Indaba in Cape Town for 2012.
 - The FFF should consider having a sideshow or stand at COP 17 (organised by the U.N.) which will be held in S.A in 2011
 - High profile persons be invited as keynote speakers at conferences next year.
 - That a prominent individual be invited to act as the “face” (patron) of the organisation.
 - The FFF should endeavour to be the authority on, and be the main source of information on all fossil fuels.
 - The FFF would endeavour to include oil, gas in its activities and become the voice that links the fossil fuel sector.
 - The FFF must endeavour to build credibility and get high-level participation from the coal industry.
 - Access to reports and conferences on the FFF website should be free of charge
 - The FFF would collaborate with the World Coal Institute and identify appropriate environmental groups, particularly those dealing with climate change and renewable energy – to be aware of their thinking, strategies, scheduled functions and timelines for implementing technology.
 - The communication between the FFF Council and the Board of Trustees is to be improved to obtain more involvement from the Trustees.

Management and Administration

An organisation such as the FFF cannot subsist without a solid management and competent administrative services.

In order to achieve this, the administration of the FFF was augmented by the appointment of a person to provide secretarial services to Council meetings and meetings of the SA Coal Road Map Steering Committee. Late in 2010 a former President of the FFF, Paul White, also took up a part time position to assist with the management of the FFF.

Conclusion

The FFF, in its capacity as the only interdisciplinary, independent non-profit-making organisation working in coal and related fossil fuels, stood its ground and provided independent opinions drawn from some of the best experts in the country and internationally.

I also wish to express my appreciation for the contributions and co-operation of the Council members and the support of the Board of Trustees which played a significant part in making 2010 a successful year for the FFF.

I also have to acknowledge the enormous effort of the administrative staff during the year. Without their hard work very little would have been achieved.

It was a privilege to have served as the President of the FFF for three years – it was **FUN!**

I wish my successor all the best for his term of office and assure him of my continuing support for the FFF.

DICK KRUGER

Looking for the future

