

Closing Remarks

***Justin R. Swift, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs
Office of Fossil Energy, U.S. Department of Energy
CSLF Capacity Building Workshop for Emerging Economies
19 October 2007 / Porto Alegre, Brazil***

Dear Friends, we have come to the end of several days of intense knowledge exchange – between our lecturers and our audience – among colleagues, new and old, while having coffee – and in a variety of other exchanges that are sure to continue well into the future. Hopefully we will again have the opportunity to exchange ideas if even just over a caipirinha....

The numbers we have assembled are impressive:

- One hundred and thirty (130) participants – over 3 times the number of participants we had in Pittsburgh.
- 10 countries represented here between lecturers and participants:
- At least 15 different Brazilian entities in attendance – including representatives from universities, oil and coal industry, and government.

Indeed, a record worth remembering.

The second CSLF Capacity Building for Emerging Economies has more than fulfilled its expectation. Yesterday morning, when I welcomed you, I said that this would be a “new and improved” workshop – building on our previous experience.

However, in addition to a carefully selected curriculum and increased depth of the curriculum material, this workshop provided a unique FIRST opportunity for a new generation of Brazilian engineers, geologists, scientists and future policy makers to receive, first hand, the knowledge imparted by world-renown CCS experts. Indeed, a good number in our audience are students – both graduate and undergraduate – from some of Brazil’s finest universities. It is critical that you – the leaders of the future – understand not only the topic of CCS but the interrelationship of technology, social well-being and policy if we are to have a successful future for our world – and you are the stewards of our future

Building on the success of this workshop, Petrobras is offering to host a similar capacity building workshop to be held in Salvador, Bahia, immediately preceding the Second International Seminar on Carbon Sequestration and Climate Change. The dates of the Second International Seminar are September 9 to 12, 2008.

I would especially congratulate the organizers of this conference for putting it together in such a short period of time. Only five months have elapsed since our first workshop in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Only four months have passed since Marcelo, Paulo, and I discussed this workshop in Oslo, Norway.

There are many to thank for this Herculean effort of organizing a fabulous workshop in record time. Let me do that now:

First, thanks to Marcelo Ketzer, Head of CEPAC, and his wonderful team of energetic young people:

Eduardo
Rafael
Joao Faim
Rodrigo
Gesiane and
Andrea

Thank you to all of Marcelo's undergraduate students who spent many hours gathering and copying materials, putting binders together and many other tasks.

Special thanks to Luis Henrique for creating and managing the workshop's website.

Thank you to faculty from PUC who supported Marcelo in this effort: Sandra Einloft and Jorge Villwock. Thank you to Petrobras' Carmen – the lady who we saw these last two days staffing the registration desk.

These are the people who made it possible for this workshop to be organized in such a short time.

But we have many others to thank:

Thank you to Thais Murce and Paulo Cunha for the leadership and vision they provided, giving this workshop the chance to be successful. And I believe it has been successful.

Thank you to Bob Gentile, Scott Smouse, and Maria Reidpath who provided support from the United States.

Thank you to the CSLF Secretariat for their support of this effort.

Thank you Petrobras for its generosity in providing airfare, hotel accommodations, and meals to our speakers and special guests.

Thank you CEPAC and PUC for their willingness to provide in-kind support through the CEPAC staff and by providing for all the materials used.

And, last but not least, though we did not speak with the Girl from Ipanema, we had a wonderful tour of one of the best and largest winery in Brazil. I even know this winery produced what is considered the best sparkling wine in Brazil.

I would like to make one final acknowledgement.

Yesterday we promised you a cadre of superior international experts as lecturers. Truly you have been exposed to some of the world's best and finest – and I want to thank them all.

I want to especially acknowledge, however, two individuals.

As you may know, recently the Noble Prize Commission announced that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change would share in this year's Nobel Peace Prize. We have been honored to have two of the recipients who will share in the Nobel Peace Prize as lecturers:

- Dr. John Bradshaw from Australia, and
- Dr. Stefan Bachu from Canada.

Please join be in congratulating and thanking these outstanding gentleman for their knowledge, creativity and hard work.

I look forward to gathering again in Saudi Arabia in January and then in South Africa in April. After that, we are sure we will continue on our mission of CCS capacity building in other parts of the world. Until then, my friends, I bid you good bye, good travel, and may you apply what you've learned here in a productive way for a better future for all of us and the generations to come.

Again MUITO OBRIGADO e BOA VIAGEM!