

Opening Remarks

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CSLF Capacity Building Workshop for Emerging Economies
18 October 2007 / Porto Alegre, Brazil***

Thank you very much. It is my pleasure to have the opportunity to provide opening remarks today for the second capacity building workshop conducted within the framework of the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum and the Task Force on Capacity Building for Emerging Economies. As Chairperson of this Task Force, I am extremely thankful for this Brazilian initiative, taken upon by Petrobras and the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul in a very diligent manner. I would also like to congratulate the organizers of this wonderful event for their hard work in convening this workshop as well as the international seminar that was held yesterday. To everyone involved in planning this event, I offer my most sincere “muito obrigado”.

As my good friend Paulo Cunha mentioned yesterday, this workshop is the continuation of the first CSLF Capacity Building workshop that was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania this past May. This first workshop was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Energy Technology Laboratory. Given my acquaintance with the organizers here in Brazil, I anticipate this workshop to be nothing but the exact meaning of the phrase “new and improved”: “New” from the perspective that this is the first workshop offered in one of the targeted emerging economies and, we hope, not the last one. And “improved” in that we have had the opportunity to evaluate the lessons learned from the first workshop, improve on the contents, and using input from our CSLF members and the ideas and needs of our Brazilian hosts, expand and increase the depth of the workshop contents.

Most of you are aware of the CSLF but, just in case there are some among you unfamiliar with it, let me tell you that the International Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum is a cooperative partnership of developed and developing nations. The Forum's mission is to develop and make widely available the technology and best practices necessary to conduct the safe management and long-term storage of man-made carbon dioxide. Organized in 2003, the Forum is a voluntary climate initiative of developed and developing nations. Together the members account for at least 75 percent of all man-made carbon dioxide emissions and a slightly larger share of global economic activity. The Forum’s responsibility is the timely development and availability of the technologies and best practices that will contribute significantly to making stabilization the most practical and most constructive answer.

Carbon capture and storage is an emerging technology that is not completely well-known or understood by the technical and scientific communities and the public at large. Its application, however, is crucial if the use of fossil fuel based energy is to continue. Industrialized nations around the world are increasingly aware and involved in learning the basics, new developments, and applications of CCS but this is not necessarily the case in emerging economies. As a response to this need, a CSLF initiative was proposed to assist emerging economy Members to build capacity for sequestration. The CSLF has six emerging economy Members - Brazil, China, Colombia, India, Mexico, and South Africa - that would benefit directly from this proposed initiative.

At the CSLF Policy Group meeting in Berlin in 2005, the objectives of the CSLF Capacity Building Initiative were established, namely:

- Assist emerging economy Members to develop the knowledge, skills, expertise and institutions they need to understand and implement carbon sequestration;
- Develop a set of informational, training and educational resources that all CSLF Members can utilize; and
- Identify, document and transfer lessons learned from the prior experience of CSLF-recognized projects and sequestration-related institution building.

The Capacity Building Task Force has 11 members, including:

- Australia
- Canada
- Colombia
- European Commission
- India
- Italy
- Mexico
- Saudi Arabia
- South Africa
- United Kingdom
- United States, who Chairs this task force

Several of these members have diligently worked in various ways to make sure that the activities of the Task Force can be conducted and that emerging technologies are able to participate. Some examples of contributions include, but are not limited to, providing international experts, providing financial support to participating nations, and supporting the efforts of the Task Force with their attendance and through multiple consultations via e-mail and other means.

As I said before, the Pittsburgh workshop was the beginning of what we hope to be several workshops. We are here, in Porto Alegre starting the second workshop. Next, we are scheduled to be in Saudi Arabia, in late January 2008, and then on to South Africa for the fourth workshop. We anticipate that each workshop will build on the previous one thus creating a solid base of knowledge that will carry our nations into the future with Carbon Capture and Sequestration technologies.

We have a cadre of superior international experts who have come from many countries to impart their CCS knowledge. We thank Petrobras and PUC for their diligence and generosity in securing these experts.

Welcome to the workshop and may all of you realize your expectations and carry with you the necessary knowledge that will be offered here.

Thank you very much.