

**Plenary Session – Opening Remarks
Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum**

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Thank you Bernard Frois and good morning everyone.

Welcome one and all to the 2008 annual meeting of the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum. Welcome delegates, stakeholders, and honored guests.

As we meet here, interest in carbon capture and storage is escalating daily among policy-makers and the press and, therefore, the public.

So it is timely we that are proceeding under the theme: Overcoming Barriers to CCS Deployment.

Before we begin, on behalf of the Forum's Policy and Technical Committees, I want to thank Chairman Frois, the members of his National Organizing Committee and the Government of France for the human energy expended and the hospitality extended.

It is clear that our hosts have spared no effort or expense in providing us with the setting and support required for a successful meeting.

In volunteering for this formidable task, they have placed France in the vanguard of the worldwide effort to come to practical and constructive terms with rising concern about the greenhouse CO₂ and a rising requirement for secure energy.

Chairman Frois, members of the committee, the Forum's delegates appreciate your effort and your hospitality.

I also want to recognize our distinguished keynote guests beginning with two representatives of the Government of France:

- The Honorable Sophie Galey-LeRuste, Director of Energy and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Economy, Finances and Industry;

- And, the Honorable Gilles Bloch, Director General of Research and Innovation, Ministry of Research.

In a moment we will hear keynote remarks from each of them.

Our keynote panel on overcoming barriers is comprised of executives and experts eminent in the world of energy:

- The Honorable Claude Mandil, Executive Director, International Energy Agency;
- John Easton, of the Edison Electric Institute, which represents the U.S. electric utility industry;
- Stan Pillay, of Anglo Coal, South Africa;
- And their moderator, Howard Herzog, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In a few moments each will speak to the question of barriers and their removal. Then all will engage in discussion.

This afternoon we'll have reports covering on progress to date in important areas. These include legal issues; our cooperative efforts with the International Energy Agency and the G8 Nations on Climate Change, Energy Security and Sustainable Development; the Projects Interaction and Review Team; and the review and identification of Standards for CO₂ Storage Capacity.

To close we'll hear presentations from a diverse seven-member panel of stakeholders and engage in extended dialogue with them.

This morning's plenary session is the product of ideas put in motion by my friend and predecessor Jeff Jarrett, who asked me to convey his regards and best wishes for success. Our 2008 meeting will proceed along simplified lines and within a framework designed to expedite the business of establishing CCS.

Jeff believed – as I do, as most here do – that stakeholder acceptance is the indispensable ingredient in establishing CCS. It must be recognized and accepted worldwide as effective, safe and enduring.

Industry stakeholders must embrace the technology if it is to be used and public-interest stakeholders are critical in winning the public acceptance that will allow its use. And so, this meeting expands the opportunity for stakeholder participation in every way possible.

The proof is in the stakeholder panel and dialogue we will have later today; in stakeholder presence on the task forces; in Tuesday's day-long technical session; and in the very design of this three-day meeting. It was organized to minimize overlap – to eliminate prior duplications of effort and reports.

Stakeholders now exercise full rights of discussion in every activity; but the process of determining consensus still is reserved to delegates appointed by member governments. In addition, we now have a Strategic Plan with specific goals; and we have instituted a system of reporting that will keep all interest parties informed of progress toward those goals. We are identifying gaps in knowledge and moving to close those gaps. The plan can be adjusted to meet changing conditions.

Of all the consensuses said to be emerging on climate, there is one consistently forgotten consensus backed by all forecasts – the consensus that atmospheric levels of CO₂ cannot be stabilized in this or any other century unless key developing nations can be persuaded to join the effort.

It is important that we are making a start on establishing the capability and the capacity to engage in capture and storage in developing nations through collaboration and cooperation. In the course of this meeting we will move forward in other areas such as our discussions of finance.

And finally, the CSLF is continuing to remain focused on the mission set forth in its charter.

To facilitate the development of improved cost-effective technologies for the separation and capture of carbon dioxide and for its transport and long-term safe storage; to make these technologies broadly available internationally; and to identify and address wider issues relating to carbon capture and storage.

The adjustments that Jeff Jarrett set in motion mean the Forum is well grounded now and will facilitate its continuing evolution.

It's worth noting as we begin our work here that we meet in a place with a symbolic connection to our purpose.

This room is named for the French painter Raoul Dufy whose masterwork was a very large fresco entitled: *La Fée Electricité*. It covers 6,500 square feet or 600 square meters. It's on display at the City Museum of Paris.

I'm told that the English translation which comes closest to the essence of the French title is this: *The Magic Spirit of Electricity*.

Created for a world's fair 70 years ago, Dufy's work includes scenes depicting the ways in which electricity lifted humankind out of drudgery and toward prosperity. Its size alone speaks of electricity's role in society then.

We all know how much electricity's place in everyday life has grown since – how much it has grown in the last 20 years due to the evolution of computers alone.

Now electric power is the indispensable commodity.

Yet today two billion souls on earth have none at all. Billions more do not have enough. And the remaining billion or so who do have enough now will need more in the future because the utility of electricity widens day by day, month by month, year by year. It is driven by, and at the same time drives, the march of invention and innovation.

Only CCS can enable continued growth in the world's supply of electric power through the near- and mid-terms while dealing with concerns about the greenhouse gas CO₂. Where CCS was once thought of as science fiction – when thought of at all – CCS now is now gaining wide recognition as a matter of applied science and engineering.

Carbon capture and storage is an idea for which the time is coming on – rapidly coming on.

It can be seen in news reports from Europe, from the U.S., from Australia and Canada, from Japan and Asia, from most nations around the world. It can be felt in the tempo of political activity.

Just two weeks ago I testified on CCS before a committee of the U.S. Congress. The line of people seeking entry to the hearing stretched down the hall and around the corner. And I can assure you the interest was in CCS and the program, not in Tom Shope the witness.

It was the first such inquiry by Congress in the 10 years the program has existed. I know it won't be the last.

Four bills on CO₂ were pending in Congress when our delegation left Washington and the number may be five by now. One proposes 80 percent reductions.

In Europe, there is a formal Commission consultation on CCS and discussion of as many as 12 large-scale storage demonstrations. There is also the new commitment to 20 percent CO₂ reductions; the negotiating position of 30 percent reductions for the post-2012 era; and the United Kingdom's goal of 60 percent reductions.

Meanwhile, greenhouse gases and technical innovation will be high on the agenda for the G8 meeting this summer.

As the G8 Chairman Ms. Merkel, of Germany, told the *Financial Times* newspaper earlier this month: "We will not achieve our targets with today's technologies."

These are among the many signs that say carbon capture and storage is an idea whose time is rapidly coming on.

The Forum's mission is to be sure CCS is ready when the time comes.

CCS is the only means by which all nations of the world can benefit equally from the Magic Sprit of Electricity – from La Fée Electricité.

Our work is important work, and it is time to begin.

For myself, for my predecessor and friend Jeff Jarrett, thank you for your participation here in Paris this week and for your attention this morning.