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GIA-IGA Workshop

(Madrid 5-05-2009)

Dear Chairman, dear delegates, authorities and everybody,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here at the opening of these meetings between the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the International Geothermal Association (IGA) on geothermal Energy as follows:

- Today and tomorrow , The Workshop between the Geothermal Implementing Agreement (GIA) & The International Geothermal Association (IGA)
- And on Thursday and Friday:
 - The 21st Executive Committee Meeting
 - Several IGA Committee and
 - The 47th IGA Meeting of the Board of Directors

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the International Energy Agency for this opportunity to host this working group in Spain, as well as for all the work made to organise it.

I wouldn't like to steal much of your precious time, at the light of the very hard agenda you are in front of, so I would try to be brief.

We all agree that if we continue in a business as usual scenario of fossil-fuel based economies, we can not expect a sustainable energy future.



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Spain has a very high energy dependency based on fossil-fuels of about an 85%, so it is clear the important the role that renewable energy can play for shifting to a new model.

Spain has made a clear commitment to achieve maximum integration of renewable energy in our energy system and to achieve the very ambitious target for the 2020 of a 20% of the total final energy consumption will come from renewable energy Sources. We will need all Renewable energies to contribute the final amount.

We are very aware of it, and renewable energies, together with energy efficiency, are considered by our Government as a key tool to meet the objectives of the energy policy: competitiveness, security of supply and sustainability.

In this way The Spanish Government through the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade has started to drawn up a draft of an Efficiency and Renewable Energy Law and simultaneously are preparing a new RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAN 2011 -2020 which will include geothermal and ocean energy for the first time.

We are aware of the important role that geothermal energy could play in the medium and long term in Spain.

Just to finish, let me reiterate my warmest welcome to all of you to Madrid. I hope all the meetings will be as successful as we all wish.

Thank you very much.