Address
by
the President of Iceland
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Patron of IGC 2018

Our future on this earth depends on the sustainable use of its resources. At the same time, it is our common task to alleviate hunger and poverty. And this requires energy. We need energy to heat or cool our homes. We also need it to move from one place to another, either literally or in cyberspace. In short, in our daily lives we all need energy.

All over the world, governments, companies and individuals are becoming more aware of the benefits of geothermal power. Here in Iceland, we already have a tried and tested history of using geothermal resources for district heating, electricity production and other purposes.

At this conference, we should aim to exchange information and knowledge, ideas and experiences, whether positive success stories or pitfalls to avoid. Significantly, the environmental impact of drilling steam wells, building power plants and laying distribution networks for the electrical power and hot water produced must not be overlooked. Still, encouraged by our geothermal riches and our experience in harnessing this sustainable resource, we Icelanders want to contribute to the world-wide energy transformation that we all must strive for, a transformation that entails an ever greater reliance on clean and green resources.

In his opening address at the Iceland Geothermal Conference in 2016, my predecessor, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, a long-time champion of geothermal energy, mentioned that the IGC had already become “an important international forum, highlighting the global advance in geothermal utilization and how Iceland demonstrates the multi-dimensional benefits from clean energy transformation.”

Today, Grímsson's words resonate with even more strength as the negative aspects of some other widely-used energy sources are becoming increasingly evident. We have an interesting conference ahead. Furthermore, in 2020 Iceland, will proudly host the World Geothermal Congress. I wish you all a fruitful time here in Reykjavík, the capital of geothermal energy.