

e u r o p e a n CONNEXTION

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE EU HITACHI SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FORUM

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Editorial



2006 is coming to an end, let's look forward to 2007.

I think that you will agree that in 2006, we had a successful Forum in Warsaw. We have not only received positive feedback from you the Forum members, but also via thank you letters from policy makers who have

received our Forum Report. We are now in the middle of preparations for 10th Forum, which will take place between May 11-13, 2007 in Paris, on the theme "Energy, Environment and Sustainable Society: impact on the European citizens".

In October, the 2007 Working Group Members gathered in Brussels together with the Forum Fellows and Hitachi representatives, in order to shape the agenda for the forthcoming Forum. You will find a report from Mr. Olivier Pech, the 2007 Working Group Chairman, about the main decisions and discussions that took place during this meeting, in this issue. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who participated in this year's working group meeting and especially the Working Group members whose active participation helped to create a very positive and vibrant working environment.

Over the past 10 years, the Forum has constantly evolved and changed. In the previous issue Mr. Fabrice Axisa explained what it has meant for him to participate in all Forums since its inception. In this edition, another participant who has had the opportunity to participate in all Forums, gives us his unique view on the developments of the Forum over the years. This person is of course Mr. Pierre Longin, and let me extend my great gratitude to him for the unwavering support and commitment he has given to the Forum over the years and his active participation in the European policy debate.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very successful New Year in 2007.

Ko Takahashi
General Manager
Hitachi Corporate Office, Europe

10 years of the Forum: a truly interesting journey

Juan les Pins, May 1998. Hitachi Brussels team is waiting in the hotel lobby for its guests, the first participants to the first EU Hitachi Science & Technology Forum. Participants have all spent some length of time with Hitachi in Japan, are all graduates in engineering or PhDs. They know some of the participants, are anxious to meet them again as well as to get acquainted with the other ones. In Hitachi our anxiety lies with the successful outcome of this new concept: the Forum. We were greatly encouraged by the immediate support from Hitachi, as illustrated by the attendance of two of the most senior executives from Tokyo.

The following year, in Krefeld, Forum participants suggested the theme of the following year Forum would be selected by the Forum members and that the agenda would be developed by some Forum members who would constitute the so-called "working group". This was a major step forward, the first of many others to come suggested by the Forum members. Progressively membership was enriched by the arrival of new members from additional EU countries.

Over the years Hitachi's goal, which is to contribute to the European public policy debate, took a better and more elaborate form which led to the publication of the Forum summary in 2001 which today is distributed to over 1500 recipients from academia, civil service, politicians and business friends.

One of the key characteristics of the Hitachi Forum is the constant search for improvement; the better the speakers - the better the debate, the better the topic - the better the moderators; this in turn leads to a better summary and ultimately contributes better to the European public policy debate.

Recently business friends have been invited bringing additional value to the debate. At the Forum members' request, senior Hitachi executives have delivered presentations on the last scientific and technological breakthroughs made by the Company.

2007 will mark the 10th anniversary of the Forum. A lot of ground has been covered since Juan les Pins. Forum members must be congratulated for this remarkable achievement. Their dedication, their support, their advice, their friendship make the Forum a unique gathering which combines the fun of meeting many friends with the opportunity to debate on topics which affect all our fellow European citizens daily life.

I wish to use this occasion to tell them of my gratitude for the very unique and challenging atmosphere they have built over the years due to their friendship and continued commitment. Many happy returns to the EU Hitachi Science & Technology Forum!!!

Pierre E. Longin, Forum Fellow

A fruitful Working Group Meeting puts the 10th EU Hitachi Science and Technology Forum on the right track!

The working group for the next Forum held a very important meeting in Brussels in the middle of October. The ambitious objective was to prepare the Hitachi Forum 2007 which will be a special one, as it is the 10th edition of this European event.

Mr. Takahashi and his team from HIBRU (Hitachi Corporate Office Brussels) welcomed all the participants through an excellent dinner party, enabling us to build up our strength before a marathon working session the next day! It was a good moment of conviviality at which participants, working group members, forum fellows and Hitachi staff, could become more acquainted.

Then, thanks to Florian Schmitz who expertly moderated the debates, the meeting held on Saturday achieved significant results.

The first announcement of the meeting was that the Forum 2007 will take place in Paris on May, 11-13. Let's assume that the localisation of the Forum, in downtown Paris in a "grand hotel", will be up to the standards of the 10th anniversary.

Starting from the initial definition of the topic as mentioned at the end of the 2006 Forum: "environment issues linked with energy shortage", a suitable title was discussed and in the end Working Group settled on the title:

Energy, Environment and Sustainable Society: Impact on European Citizens. A consensus was reached on this title as it raises major concerns for European citizens and as it is open to rich and intensive debate. Following the general title, we have identified three themes that will guide the debates during the forum:

Theme 1: Energy supply in a sustainable society

Theme 2: Energy Consumption towards a Sustainable Society

Theme 3: Transportation in a sustainable society

I do thank all the participants of the meeting for playing their part in building this agenda through their targeted and constructive discussions.

For this 10th edition, the wish was to enhance again the quality of the debates and to improve again the added-value of the Forum. To achieve this goal, a new format was proposed, discussed and ratified. It is a major



decision for the development of the Forum. The principle relies on alternation of lectures by experts and parallel group sessions. It means that there will be lectures followed by group discussions around theme 1, then lectures followed by group discussions around theme 2, and lectures followed by group discussions around theme 3. It was agreed that with this new format, the Forum will be driven by a better tempo, which in turn will further enhance the quality and content of the final report. Time for debates will be longer. Lectures will introduce group sessions and help to contribute to more fruitful debate.

Within this frame, it was decided to direct the group sessions around three tracks. So, for each theme, there will be one group working on the role and expectations of governments and decision makers, one group working on the role and expectations of NGOs and think-tanks, and one group working on the role and expectations of industry and consumers. Once again, these definitions were based on a consensus of all participants' thoughts. This framework should stimulate fruitful discussions and lead to a successful Forum.

Other results were achieved during the meeting such as the definition of a list of questions that the participants should try to answer during each group session, the decision to select some reference documents that will be sent out to participants before the forum in order to get them acquainted with the topic, and a list of potential speakers and moderators. All of this work must now be completed by the HIBRU team. Let's wish them "bon courage" as a lot of work awaits them.

I want to thank the Forum members working group and all the participants of the meeting for the time they spent, and the ideas they brought, to prepare the Forum 2007. My feeling is that the

next year Forum is on the right track to be a major one to contribute greatly to the European public policy debate.

So let me just invite each of you, Forum members, to join us in Paris in May 2007!

Olivier Pech

Working Group Chairman
Corporate Manufacturing Manager,
RECIF Technologies

PLEASE HELP

We are looking for contact details of the following Forum members:

Mr. Sebastian Boecker
Mr. Francois Chatonnet
Ms Karine Cormier
Mr. Frank Debarbieux
Dr. Bryn Holm
Mrs. Kantheavary Kheng
Mr. Klaus Kinnstatter
Mr Sebastien Le Gall
Ms Cecile Lheureux
Mr. Mario Luoni
Mrs. Brigitte Meunier-Sommelet
Mr. Laszlo Peter
Mr. Mathias Wagner
Mrs. Silvia Wigand

If you know how to reach one of these persons, please let us know, even with partial information, and we will search and contact them. Thanks a lot for your support.

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The Hitachi Corporate Office, Europe welcomes and encourages your comments and ideas.

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