

Nova Scotia Energy Research & Development Forum 2010

Background

The first Nova Scotia Energy Research & Development Forum was in May 2004 with the theme of *Energy – Innovation – Opportunity*. Since then, the Forum has been held every two years with themes reflecting industry trends and project progress. The 2006 Forum's theme was *Partnership – Inspiration – Sustainability*; the 2008 Forum's theme was *Securing our Energy Future: Research, Resources, Results*.

Follow-up surveys of past forums indicated that the conferences achieved their objectives of creating opportunities for networking, collaboration and sharing technical information. There was strong support for future forums of this nature, indicating value to participants as respondents commented on the excellent event organization and speaker quality. With this enthusiasm as motivation, organizers began planning for an even larger Forum to come in 2010 at a changed location and venue, the World Trade and Convention Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

R&D Forum 2010

The 2010 Nova Scotia Energy Research & Development Forum was hosted by the Nova Scotia Department of Energy, OEER, and OETR. The theme this year was *Inspiring Energy Research Opportunities and Capabilities*. Leading industry experts and speakers from Canada and around the world representing industry, government and academia, gathered to discuss new research findings and fresh research questions underpinning the future of marine energy, renewable and oil and gas energy industries in Nova Scotia.

This year's Forum was a two-day event opened by the Honourable Bill Estabrooks, Minister, NS Department of Energy, and Murray Coolican, Deputy Minister, NS Department of Energy. The keynote speaker was the Honorable Darrell Dexter, Premier of Nova Scotia, who gave an overview of provincial energy priorities. Plenary sessions continued with Andrew Noseworthy, ACOA, who provided insight on the federal perspective on energy research and development which was followed up by Jim Meek, Bristol who had a discussion on energy research and public policy. Finally, the plenary session concluded with David Wheeler, Plymouth Business School (United Kingdom) giving his talk on the Socio Economic Sustainability of Renewable Energy in Nova Scotia, followed by a responses and Q&A session from the delegates. The Master of Ceremonies role was shared by Murray Coolican, Kevin Vessey, Saint Mary's University and Robert MacKay, St. Francis Xavier University Representative.

Over 50 speakers presented their research in the three main session categories; Marine Energy and the Environment, Renewable and Sustainable Energy and Play Fairway Analysis and Geoscience Data Package Program, Petroleum Geoscience: Offshore and Onshore Nova Scotia. These session topics provided a unique opportunity for open discussion about R&D activity and opportunities, energy issues, industry needs and the challenges facing Nova Scotia's energy sector. A facilitator was provided in each session to maintain topic focus, assure the efficiency and timing of the session and to encourage participation from the delegates. At the end of each session, the facilitators would encourage delegate and speaker interaction through the Q&A sessions. For the concluding plenary sessions on the second day, the facilitators provided session recaps for all three sessions and a final Q&A session.

An overwhelming response was received regarding the student research poster presentations. As a result, 34 posters were displayed during the Forum and presented to judges during the reception. The quality of research and professionalism demonstrated by the students was exceptional. During lunch on day two, the Honourable Bill Estabrooks, Minister of Energy, presented \$500 prizes to the student with the best research poster in each category: Geoscience & Engineering, Renewable & Alternative Energy, and Environmental.

The Forum continues to provide an opportunity to herald the future direction of practical research to solve Nova Scotia's unique energy challenges. This year's Forum surpassed previous registration numbers and sponsorship support indicating growing interest in Nova Scotia's energy research. The response from delegates was very positive and there was much encouragement for another Forum for 2011. In total, the Nova Scotia Energy Research & Development Forum brought together 263 attendees from industry, government and academia.