Policy Group Chairman's Address

Jeffrey D. Jarrett
Assist Secretary for Fossil Energy, United States Department of Energy and
Chairman, CSLF Policy Group

Minister Shinde, Secretary Shahi, thank you for your welcome and your thoughtful remarks.

Your presence and India's participation are a signal to the world that cooperation between developed and developing nations is a constructive and productive approach to shared concerns about greenhouse gases.

With the understanding of the delegates, and for the sake of time in this session, I propose to withhold the other customary welcomes and recognitions until we take up our regular order of business in a few minutes.

I'll respond to the Minister and the Secretary by adding some thoughts on capture and sequestration now instead of making a formal Chairman's Statement later in the day. Since I am a newcomer, I want to say that I welcome the opportunity to become part of this effort.

I've had a fairly long career in energy production and in environmental protection in both the private sector and the government sector.

I bring with me a deep appreciation for the potential of technology and for how the steady improvement of technology can change both the rules of the game and the game itself. This comes from the professional experience of a lifetime.

I understand from experience that energy and the environment cannot be separated. They are one item and they must be considered together.

I know that technology can deliver answers where none seem to exist. I have seen this happen.

Energy and the environment also can't be separated from economic strength and growth. You can't change any one of the three without changing the others. Given just a little less than enough energy and the world begins to contract.

Projections generally agree that only oil, natural gas and coal can be depended on to do the bulk of the world's work over the next several decades. This implies an increase in worldwide CO₂ emissions.

And, much of the rise in fossil energy demand and in CO2 will be linked to electric power.

Electric power is the most versatile and useful energy. It raises standards of living and is critical to sustaining a modern economy. Yet one of every three people in the world does not have access to it. There are two billion human beings in the world without electricity. The urgent and on-going electrification of many nations will depend on the ability to use fossil fuels. Fossil fuels are critical to developed and developing nations alike.

Their ready availability is almost a pre-condition for economic progress and rising productivity. But they must be used in ways that are clean.

Our mission is to find ways to keep the lights turned on in the developed nations while enabling the developing nations to keep turning on the lights.

The Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum has members at every stage of development. Working together, we can make the difference.

The Forum's focus on collaboration, cooperation and consensus is both appropriate and necessary. The emphasis on technology development and on practical and constructive activity is the same.

Our mission is to bring forward an exciting set of technologies and approaches that will put the world on a path towards environmental balance that will keep it on the road toward a shared and widening prosperity.

Our mission is nothing less than to catalyze a transformation of the way the world produces and uses energy.

Energy, the environment, economic well-being – these concerns are indivisible.

Capture and storage is necessary. We can't get where we want to go without it.

The signs say capture and storage is entering a new phase.

Last year the G8 nations' recognized this Forum and our efforts in the Gleneagles Plan of Action on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development.

Then the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recognized the necessity for capture and storage in a special report for the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

These were big steps forward in beginning to win public awareness.

In this meeting we'll hear new information from Chevron and BP and we'll receive updates on:

• The CO2-enhanced oil recovery project of Shell and Statoil;

- The European Technology Platform on zero-emissions fossil-fuel power plants.
- And the U.S. FutureGen project.

Also a zero-emissions initiative, FutureGen is open to participation by all Forum members in the spirit of the charter's emphasis on multi-lateral activity.

FutureGen, as a zero-emissions plant, will use coal gasification as the basis for the polygeneration of hydrogen and electric power while capturing and storing carbon dioxide.

Our host nation India is the first government member to join the FutureGen initiative. The formal agreement will be signed here in New Delhi in another room in just a few minutes.

The reality is that the world will have to rely on fossil energy for at least the foreseeable future while beginning to control atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Fossil energy will make the difference in satisfying the world's growing demand for the kind of energy that supports economic growth, especially electric power.

FutureGen provides one pathway, albeit an important one, towards zero-emissions fossil energy.

And fossil energy linked with economically feasible carbon sequestration is a reality-based answer.

Our efforts in capture and storage technology will make the difference in greenhouse-gas and pollution control as energy demand rises.

What we're doing can enable each nation to tailor its capabilities to its requirements and its means.

The work of this Forum and its members can change all present outlooks for the future can change the game, can change it for the better.

Working cooperatively together we, as members of this Forum, can brighten the outlook for our future generations by transforming hope into reality.