

Guðni A Jóhannesson

Meeting OS EERI PAS

Opening remarks

Ladies and gentlemen

It is of high interest and concern to participate in this opening conference project between Mineral and Energy Economy Research Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences (MEERI PAS) in Poland and Orkustofnun.

The cooperation of Polish decision makers and researchers has been active for many years with numerous contacts and visits. One of the prime motors and messengers has been prof. Beata Kępińska that since being a fellow at the UNU geothermal training program in Iceland has been instrumental in connecting professionals and decision makers from both countries around geothermal issues.

The project “Capacity Building of the Key Stakeholders in the Area of Geothermal Energy” is both timely and of high significance and the funding from the EEA grant agreement will provide opportunities to bring the cooperation to more depth and result oriented activities.

Iceland has today 90 % of its heating from geothermal and 30 % of the electricity comes from high enthalpy geothermal power plants. The Icelandic policy for a long time has been to promote geothermal energy in the outer world.

The UNU geothermal training program has been going on for almost half a century. Icelandic experts have been involved in geothermal utilisation around the world. In China Icelandic and Chinese companies in partnership have been successful in utilising low enthalpy sources and geothermal heating built and

planned is now reaching 500 M square meters of heated space area.

It has been estimated that 20-30 % of heating in Europe can be provided from geothermal sources. Geothermal energy was well under the radar of EU – SETPLAN the third call we are cooperating AN But through concerted actions of some EEA countries the Geothermal Eranet with emphasis on minimizing the fragmentation of the sector, building European know how and contributing to framework and policy was established in 2012.

A co funding ERAnet, Geothermica, was then started in 2017. In two calls that have been executed so far the total project cost has been 83 M€ and the implementation plan endorsed by SETPLAN assumes 940 M€ in the next 5-10 years.

Orkustofnun has been the coordinator for both the Eranet and the Geothermica. In next call, the one number three, Geothermica will cooperate with Smart Energy Heating and cooling where we will try to explore the value chain from source to consumer.

I believe that this is a good time for Poland to join this activity and benefit from the technology and knowledge transfer and find partners with similar challenges and preconditions. The combined effect of the EEA Grant program and the European cooperation under SETPLAN can be to accelerate the development in order to make a significant contribution to the energy transition.

The Covid has not stopped us. Meanwhile we have adopted technology and working modes for virtual meetings and activities that will benefit us in future work.

Thank you