UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

MULTI-YEAR EXPERT MEETING ON COMMODITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

9-10 April 2014

Technology options to flexibly cope with stochastic renewable resources including the role of biofuels or synthetic fuels

by

Prof Daniel Favrat

Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) Energy Center and

Member of WFEO Executive and Energy Committees (World Federation of Engineering Organizations)

The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.

Technology options to flexibly cope with stochastic renewable resources including the role of biofuels or synthetic fuels

Prof Daniel Favrat



Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) Energy Center and member of WFEO Executive and Energy Committees (World Federation of Engineering Organizations)



Major trends Worldwide



We need innovation towards less degradation and lower emissions

- Physics: conservation of mass and energy
- The confusion about the term energy:
 - from the Greek word $\sum_{i} \sum_{i} \sum_{i} \sum_{i} \langle i, | \langle i, | \langle i, | \rangle \rangle$
- But: driving forces result from unbalances (of exergy levels, of concentration in materials and fluids,....)
- Nature is a story of degradation: By degrading high "exergy" value from the Sun, Earth is able to generate vegetation and ultimately fuels and food for animals and humans
 - Degradation is part of life..... But



Expert meeting on commodities Favrat 2014

Degradation is part of life ...But

would be sustainable if the tremendous potential of the Sun-Earth-Space unbalance would be used properly to:

- satisfy energy services
- recycle materials and wastes

clean or dessalinate water ,
 Hence efficient use of commodities and renewable



The world energy demand until 2035 IEA current policies



Share of electricity generation by source (New Policy Scenario)



FEDERALE DE LAUSANNE

But significant growth of renewable electricity everywhere

WEO2012© OECD/IEA

Exploiting renewable: the daily and seasonal variations

- Solar: daily cycles + cloud/clear hours
- Wind: stochastic with dead periods (> a week)
- Hydro run of river: seasonal
- Geothermal: relatively constant

• Storage is the key

- The most flexible:
 - hydro accumulation
 - fuel (wood, wastes, biofuels, H₂ or fossil)
 conversion units



Storage scales and technologies

- For hourly and daily fluctuations:
 - Hydro pump storage whenever possible even envisaged at small scale (16 kV level)
 - Compressed air (including compressed compressed and hydro)
 - Batteries (ex: Li-Titanate with or without supercaps)
- For seasonal variations:
 - Hydro dams but often far from sufficient
 - Advanced conversion from fuels (either fossil, biofuels or synthetic fuels (power to gas or power to liquid fuels
 - Engines with ORC waste heat conversion,



Fuel cells (SOFC) or hybrid SOFC-GT with CO₂

separation



Statement and medium term vision

- Fossil fuels are still the cheapest and less cumbersome way to store energy
- Liquid and gaseous fossil fuels should be essentially used to backup renewable energies, in particular the stochastic ones (less and less used for base load production)
- In a longer term replaced by synthetic fuels







Renewable fuel refinery based on H₂



Swiss seasonal variations highlighted by Swiss energyscope.ch , a platform for energy scenarios



The example of Switzerland: Future renewable electricity





Renewable technologies have significant requirements for:

- materials
- embedded energy



Expert meeting on commodities Favrat 2014 <u>http://energycenter.epfl.ch</u>





EDEBALE DE LAUSANN



Diversification of the economy towards other ("small") metals



%20economie%20mat%20premieres%20ACFAS.pdf





Innovation towards sustainability

From a non sustainable abundance to:

 An energy and materials moderated approach (eco efficient energy and materials use, increased use of renewable, proper waste management including for CO2 and nuclear wastes)

Need for innovation

- with novel indicators (both technical and economical)
- Novel design and planning methods (holistic, LCA, etc.)
- Integrated systems with advanced technologies



Let us manage efficiently our commodities



Thank you for your attention I