

DECLARATION OF OIL SHALE SYMPOSIUM IN TALLINN ON 18–19 NOVEMBER 2002

The symposium was attended by 230 participants from thirteen countries. In plenary sessions and sections 41 presentations were given and 35 posters were presented.

Oil shale deposits range from early Palaeozoic to Cenozoic in age and are found in many parts of the world. Several countries, including Canada, the USA, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, France, Australia, Jordan and South Africa, have had notable oil shale industries in the past, but they have been closed for economic reasons. The total world resource of oil shale is estimated at over 10^{13} tonnes. Oil shale resources are also quite big in Estonia and so it is understandable that the first international oil shale symposium in 1968 and the second international oil shale symposium in 2002 took place in Estonia. Estonian oil shale has been used for the production of power, shale oil, gas and chemicals. The utilisation of oil shale and insufficient efficiency in power and shale oil production are connected with big losses in the mining and enrichment of oil shale and the use of outdated technologies, accompanied by damage to the environment. Soon and especially after Estonia's accession to the EU, Estonia will need to restructure its oil shale industry.

Hopefully Estonia's experiment in oil shale industry will be of interest to the world community. Research and development show that by implementing new technologies (for example, circulating fluidised bed combustion) it is possible to increase significantly the energy efficiency of oil shale use and to reduce environmental impacts. It is also necessary to develop research and development on the structure of the organic matter of oil shale as well as on the production of liquid and gaseous products with improved properties.

In view of the great resources of oil shale in the world and its future prospects, we should develop international co-operation to exchange advanced oil shale know-how between countries. The symposium decided that symposiums on oil shale will become regular and will be held every four years, whereas the place of the symposiums will be determined by the organising committee on the basis of competition, and the members of the organising committee will be invited from the countries taking part in this symposium.

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