



REPORT BACK FROM THE 31ST ETDE EXCO MEETING IN CUERNAVACA, MEXICO ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2009 TO 1 OCTOBER 2009

Purpose of the Visit

South Africa's participation in the EDTE Implementing Agreement became effective on 5 November 2008 and as such, an invitation was extended to Ms D Govender to attend which was accepted.

Highlights of the Meeting

The 31st EDTE EXCO meeting was held at the Hosteria Las Quintas, Cuernavaca, Mexico on 29 September, 30 September and 1 October 2009.

Mexico is focusing more and more on renewable energy sources (their target is 35% of the energy mix). The value that information exchange has had in helping them to achieve this goals formally recognized. Sharing information and technology advances through the ETDEWEB is to the mutual benefit of all members and in recent years, has been having a positive impact on the developing world. The ETDEWEB database serves as a major resource of research and proven technologies and is one of the most visited sites within Mexico.

SA was formally welcomed as this was the first official meeting. It was also almost a year since SA joined the IA. A formal cake cutting ceremony took place to celebrate.

The Chairperson has attempted to regain membership from the UK and France as this might have negative implications for other countries wanting to join the EDTE. Attempts will also be made to regain other countries like Japan, Italy and Australia. It was noted that countries like India and China who are developing at such an alarming rate be encouraged to join the EDTE as well.

Member countries were encouraged to add the widgets/ URL links etc to their websites in order to promote the use of the ETDEWEB amongst the universities/researchers/institutions.

After deliberating on numerous cost saving excercises, it was decided that the membership costs would remain the same until 2012. The Operating Agent agreed to look at possible revised contribution levels based on more R&D funding information and this will be discussed at the 32nd EXCO meeting.

Brian Hitson , from the OA was re- nominated as the Chair of the ETDE, whilst Germany was nominated at the Vice Chair for the TWG and Denmark was nominated for the Vice Chair General.

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