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Festive Address of Juris Savickis, the President of ITERA Latvija and the Chairman of the Editorial Board of the Journal "Energy and World"

The editorial column by Juris Savickis, the president of ITERA Latvija and the Chairman of the Editorial Board of the journal "Enerģija un Pasaule" addresses the main topics in the Baltic energy sector dynamics in 2015 – the transformation of the legal framework of the Latvian and Baltic natural gas supply systems and its practical implications.

According to the author, for Latvia general transformation of the natural gas sector in order to meet requirements of the Third Energy Package and still brings a great amount of uncertainty for the closest future. Nevertheless, efforts to diversify the Baltic natural gas supply routes and sources by introduction of new natural gas delivery channels – liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminals, are seen as a good signal, if the principles of the free market are respected for all competing market participants – both existing and new. Unfortunately, regard LNG new build in Klaipeda, not all significant trends seems to be consistent with the above mentioned principle.

In the editorial improvement of the regional natural gas supply systems' interconnectivity among countries is welcomed with particular accent to necessity to ensure physical natural gas flows throughout the Baltic region. Especially the Southern interconnection route with Poland is stressed as rather important one, as in autumn this year the first stationary LNG import terminal in the Central and Eastern Europe – Swinoujscje LNG, was commissioned in the North Western Poland. In this case, the exclusive role of Latvia as strategic point in the Baltic natural gas infrastructure is still topical, because only our country has a potential of large underground natural gas storages, which can serve both regional security of supply and storage of the commercial natural gas resources delivered from different countries and via different routes.

On the Seminar „Energy Statistics – Trends of Development and Quality”

On September 28, 2015, in the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia (CSB), 1 Lāčplēša Street, Riga, the seminar "Energy statistics – development, trends and quality" took place. It was dedicated to the development and improvement of energy statistics according to the needs of policy makers, researchers, non-governmental organizations and other data users.

Chief of Staff to the Minister of Economics Gatis Ābele and Director of Climate Change Department at Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development Ilze Prūse reviewed trends in the development of energy and climate policy in relation to energy statistics. But the head of

the Energy Unit of the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) Gita Bergere and CSB energy experts reported on changing indicators of energy statistics, their quality, as well as on the most significant methodology updates. In conclusion of the seminar its participants discussed whether current data gathering and dissemination process allows to estimate implementation of policy aims of the energy and climate changes and how to ensure development of energy statistics according to the increasing needs of data users.

Technical Experts of Baltic Distribution Networks Meet for Seminar for 20th Time

In order to strengthen the professional industry relations between countries and discuss the current issues related to the development and operation of distribution networks in the Baltics, one of the Baltic power companies hosts a seminar for technical experts of distribution networks on an annual basis. This year, the Lithuanian Lesto AB became the organizer of the 20th seminar, which took place in Palanga on 7 and 8 October 2015 and saw the participation of senior technical employees of the Latvian Sadales tīkls AS, Lithuanian Lesto AS and Estonian Elektrilevi OÜ and Narva VKG Elektrivõrgud OÜ.

Regular exchange of knowledge and experience helps with faster and more successful implementation of suitable technologies for power network renovation and modernization, as well as construction of more secure and higher-quality distribution networks in conformity with European standards. The rapid changes and development in the Baltic countries and the increasing customer demand for high-quality power supply serves as motivation to continue organizing exchange of experience in search of optimal solutions.

The seminars for the technical experts of the Baltic distribution networks have been held since 1996. The seminar tradition was established by Mārtiņš Budahs, Research and Standards Director of Sadales tīkls AS, Valdas Bancevičius, representative of the Lithuanian company Lesto AB and Raivo Rebane, representative of the Estonian company Elektrilevi OÜ.

Japanese Scientists Share their Knowledge in Nuclear Energy

Latvenergo AS has joined Visaginas NPP project in 2006. Since then Latvenergo employees are regularly trained in various nuclear courses. Japanese government in cooperation with Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) and JAIF International Cooperation Centre (JICC) supports Lithuania, which is planning to build Visaginas NPP in its territory. With the support from Lithuanian Ministry of Energy, National Nuclear Safety Inspectorate (VATESI) and Visaginas atomine elektrine (VAE) and together with academic staff from Kaunas Technological University (KTU) and Lithuanian Energy Institute (LEI) a number of seminars and nuclear energy courses were organised in Lithuania.

Guest lectures from leading Japanese universities, primarily from the Tokyo University of Technology and representatives of equipment manufacturers from Hitachi Company, are invited to conduct these courses. Along with Latvenergo AS employees, the training courses are actively attended by the representatives of the Ministry of Economics of Latvia, university professors and students.

Wave Energy Factors and Development Perspective Analysis in Latvia

This article is about one of the forms of alternative energy sources – marine and ocean wave energy development possibilities in Latvia. Up until now, wave energy is one of the untapped energy sources in Latvia. This “green energy” potential in Latvia is estimated to be around 7.8 TWh, and shows a promising possibility of producing 1.12 TWh/year. For this purpose, effective hydroelectric power stations, which can convert wave energy into electricity, are necessary. This calls for the development of new technology to produce the necessary equipment – wave energy receivers and converters.

The search for such technology, as well as the testing at various stages of development, is ongoing all over the world. The development of the previously mentioned equipment depends on the number of specialists involved, the professionalism, motivation, and constant budget size. The creation of such equipment in Latvia could become a critical argument for the establishment of such specific equipment factories. In this case, Latvia would take its place in the European renewable energy industry, whilst enjoying the growing industrial leverage and the improving import-export balance advantages. Marine spatial planning with the appropriate zoning of wave hydroelectric power stations is an important cornerstone for this development of this significant macroeconomic branch.

Radiation Facility Project at the Ignalina NPP

The Ignalina nuclear power plant project was provided for four blocks. The draft of the third block, experts Salaspils nuclear reactor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, propose an industrial source of gamma-rays. The gamma-rays could develop new materials containing polymers. Such a source of radiation – radiation circuit – was created and successfully worked in the Salaspils nuclear reactor.

The Ignalina NPP radiation workshop planned production of 20 000 t strength polymer materials in year. The radiation circuit of Ignalina NPP would be the most powerful gamma-ray source in the world. But this project was not implemented, as the construction of the third unit refused.