

Sustainability: Role of Thorium

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World population is estimated to increase by a third by 2050, driven mainly by population growth in the emerging countries. As a result, 85% of the world's population and 60% of global GDP is expected to be in these emerging countries by 2050. At the same time, the global urbanization is expected to increase from 50% today to 70%. The focus in the emerging economies is to improve quality of life and reduce poverty. Raising the emerging countries from poverty requires economic growth and more use of resources, including energy. Our future will thus inevitably be resource and pollution constrained.

As a consequence there is a Green Race going on about who will be the leading suppliers of resource efficient, low polluting products and services. Anyone aiming to win this race must as a country transform the home market and build competence and scale that can as a result be exported to global markets. This is true for making Thorium Energy a reality.

In 2010, The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) presented a 'Vision 2050' report, with the vision being "9 billion people living well within the limits of the planet". The report describes the pathway to a sustainable world, consisting of nine critical elements: values and behaviors, human development, economy, agriculture, forests, energy and power, buildings, mobility and materials.

The task to renew the world's energy infrastructure, where fossil fuels account for 80% of supply, is enormous. The two carbon neutral energy sources - renewable and nuclear - should be the base of the world's future energy mix. Nuclear, however, suffers from a bad public opinion and lack of government support in many parts of the world.

We can conclude that the world needs an 'on demand' energy source that is affordable, clean, safe and scalable. Thorium Energy could be that energy source. It is the most energy dense solution we know, fitting well to the modular and size-constrained requirements of an urbanizing world.

No part of society can create a sustainable world on their own and markets are too slow to drive transformational changes. We need new partnerships between governments, business, civil society and academia where each part is delivering on their specific responsibilities and roles.

Governments must create the regulatory framework that can stimulate actions towards resilient societies.

Business must innovate and implement actions for a resource efficient low pollution world.

Civil society has a crucial role to support the difficult trade-offs between conflicting priorities that governments and business will be facing.

Academia must educate leaders that can lead society toward a resilient world and stimulate innovation of new solutions.

The WBCSD was founded on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to ensure the business voice was heard at the forum. Today, it is a CEO-led organization of forward-thinking companies that stimulate the global business community to create a sustainable future for business, society and the environment. Together with its members, the council applies its respected thought leadership and effective advocacy to generate constructive solutions and take shared action.

The International Thorium Energy Organisation can play a similar role to WBCSD in the pathway to Thorium Energy. For the community to achieve its goals, a unified voice towards decision makers, general public and business is required.

Prof. Bjorn Stigson

Prof. Bjorn Stigson has extensive experience in international business. In 1969 he began his career with the Kockums Group, then the world's biggest shipyard. During 1971- 82 he held various positions with ESAB, the international supplier of equipment for welding. In 1983-91 he was President and CEO of the Fläkt Group, the world leader in environmental control technology. Following the acquisition of Fläkt by ABB, he became Executive Vice President and a member of ABB's Executive Management Group. During 1995 -2011 he was President of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), a coalition of some 200 leading international corporations. Bjorn Stigson is now chairman of his own consulting company and since April 2010, a visiting professor at the School of Business, Economics and Law at the University of Gothenburg and Honorary Professor on Sustainable Development at EBS Business School, Wiesbaden. Bjorn Stigson has served on boards and advisory councils of a variety of international companies, organizations and governments. This includes the US Congress, the Chinese government and the German government as Chairman of the Peer Review on Sustainable Development Policies in Germany. He has also been a member of the Deans Council at the Kennedy School at Harvard University. He is presently a member of the following boards/advisory councils: Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics at Lund University ,the Advisory Council on Sustainable development to the President of Catalonia, Chairman of the Board of the Centre for Sustainable Markets at the Stockholm School of Economics , member of the EBS University Academic Advisory Council ,Wiesbaden, member of the Future Earth Engagement Committee to enhance science on sustainable development. Björn Stigson also serves as senior advisor to the head of IIASA (International Institute for Applied systems Analysis), Vienna and to the Royal Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA) Sweden.

