



## THE IMPORTANCE OF RELEVANT, CONSISTENT, RELIABLE AND COMPARABLE ENERGY DATA

By Alfonso Blaco,  
Executive Secretary, The Latin America Energy Organisation (OLADE)

The world faces long-term challenges of a surging demand for energy and a supply in process of huge transformation. The rise of new cost effective energy sources into the power generation mix; the gradual access and penetration of technologies that influence production, transport, storage and the way and efficiency with which we transform and consume energy; the existence of reserves of natural resources in many countries around the world that will result in a variety of different source in the future energy scenario; the incidence of environmental aspects associated with climate change that are a decisive factor for current and future energy infrastructure projects; the potential to optimise energy systems based on complementarity and integration; the greater participation of the private sector throughout the value chain of the energy sector, are some of the factors that are at the heart of this transformation and the focus of efforts of all the involved stakeholders.

These challenges can be addressed by forging value-driven partnerships that look beyond short-term economic and political volatility. These partnerships can drive rapid progress towards a secure and sustainable global energy system. And a key part of that system will be based on the way that coordination and collaboration takes place.

Energy markets also embrace a great dynamism that is revealed within the rapid changes in the structure of the energy matrix worldwide. The evolution of oil prices had a very different influence on the economy of exporting countries and those countries that are net importers of oil, modifying many of the structural aspects of the sector. The gradual electrification of energy demand, the substitution of liquid fuels in electricity generation, the growing penetration of natural gas as a source of higher efficiency for power generation and the support of energy generation from renewable resources, the participation of the private sector through business groups that operate along the entire chain; they are clearly key factors in the future evolution of the energy sector and on which we must work with a technical approach.

It is therefore a genuine and vital role of the IEF to support and accompany these processes facing the sector, identifying existing barriers and reducing gaps between countries. It is also the IEF's role to dynamise and promote the exchange of knowledge to achieve greater and better integration, bringing together and

sharing the available resources of countries, identifying integration opportunities and promoting innovation as a key element to generate new economic activities associated with the sector.

The IEF acts as a neutral facilitator in the global dialogue of energy issues. Recognising their interdependence in the field of energy, the IEF has been cooperating under the neutral framework of the Forum to foster greater mutual understanding and awareness of common energy interests in order to ensure global energy security. The IEF has evolved into one of the most inclusive platforms for dialogue in which stakeholder meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of common interest pertaining to the global energy scene. Such a broad and diverse base, however, does not in itself guarantee a successful and constructive dialogue. Aware that there are very diverse interests, which are often very difficult to reconcile, a necessary condition for a successful dialogue is that despite their diverse interests, there is a recognition of shared aims and an awareness of the common challenges facing the future and the high degree of energy interdependence.

A visible and concrete example of success is the establishment of the Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI). JODI remains the single most comprehensive attempt to collect monthly data from the energy sector worldwide providing a platform to raise awareness, promote data transparency and show the technical difficulties involved in improving the quality and reliability of energy data, its timeliness and sustainability. This has encouraged the IEF as the organization in charge of the JODI as well as its partners, at OLADE, to play an active role in improving data collection methods through providing advice and conducting capacity building sessions.

Of course, many challenges remain and many others are likely to emerge in the future. In OLADE we are committed to support, as much possible, both the IEF and the JODI initiative. That is why we try to participate in all instances that we can and continue promoting capacity building in our region with the aim of harmonizing methodologies and promoting the production of relevant, consistent, comprehensive, reliable, harmonised and comparable energy data.

I congratulate IEF on their work, look forward to moving in ever closer cooperation to underline the importance of the 'producer-consumer' dialogue for the greater benefit of all counties. ■