

EDITORIAL

Television, newspapers and journals continue to speak in detail about the recent catastrophes in Japan. It is not our task to repeat all this. The big question remains whether the science, technology and political sectors were careful enough and whether they took actions too quickly, without sufficient attention to possible repercussions. Today, the consequences are again before us, but once again we are pressed to act in haste. Can we turn so quickly from the policy we have promoted for so many years – making a change from today to tomorrow?

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Not long before these events, some concerned people took the initiative to create the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA, p. 94). In this connection, one should never forget my friend Hermann Scheer who played a leading role in its formation. His task was not easy, and his activities in the promotion of renewable energy were not always readily accepted.

We congratulate Adnan Amin on his election as Director General of IRENA in Abu Dhabi, and are confident that he will move this organisation toward success.

We hope that the first results of IRENA's work will be seen in December's "Eye on Earth Summit" through which Abu Dhabi's Environment Agency and UNEP will seek to strengthen existing initiatives to provide the best available multi-disciplinary data and information on the state of the environment for decision making at all levels.

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It is significant to highlight remarks made by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations at the closing of the General Assembly's thematic debate on "The Rule of Law and Global Challenges" when she said:*

"The rule of law plays a critical role in preventing conflict and violence, both of which threaten global and regional peace. It is also essential in providing the platform for stable and sustainable economic development".

19 April 2011

- Wolfgang R. S. -

* See: www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/dsgsm546.doc.htm.