

Keep Energy Options Open To Meet Global Energy Demand

The World Energy Council has released a report outlining where world energy resources are, in what form and in what quantities. The Survey of Energy Resources details 16 key energy resources with the latest data provided by 94 WEC Member Committees worldwide. "Energy demand will grow significantly over the coming years and is foreseen to double by 2050. This recent update on available energy resources proves that there is sufficient amount in place to meet the demand if all energy options are kept open," says WEC secretary general Gerald Doucet. Economically recoverable reserves of coal exist in some 70 countries, with the global total at end-2005 approximately seven per cent lower than at end-2002, according to the report. The strongest growth for coal is occurring in developing countries. The report also finds that the world's proved reserves of natural gas have increased at an average annual rate of 3.4 per cent since 1980. The volume of proved gas reserves has more than doubled during this period. Conventional sources of natural gas are already augmented by substantial quantities of coal-bed methane and other nonconventional sources will come to play a part in gas supply. Renewables accounted for one-fifth of total power generation in 2005, of which hydro held the major share at 87 per cent. Wind energy capacity has grown rapidly since 1990, doubling every three and a half years, to reach some 72,000 MW by end- 2006, with annual output of around 160 TWh. In 2005, sales of photo voltaic solar devices for terrestrial applications exceeded 1700 MW and the global market is growing at about 35 per cent per year.

[Source essa news]