

International Geothermal Association

Activities' Report - Year 2018

Delegate/Adele Manzella

1. Introduction

Climate change and energy supply are two of the biggest challenges that the world is facing today. To tackle these issues, numerous industrialized countries, among which Italy, designed the Energy Challenge in a move towards a reliable, sustainable and competitive energy system. Geothermal energy plays a main role in this view, thanks to its production of electricity and heat by a renewable source with sustainable technologies. Italy has celebrated a main anniversary in 2018, i.e. the 200 years of industrial production from geothermal fluids, and CNR organized a main workshop in collaboration with Enel Green Power on this topic. Geothermal has in Italy a lighthouse, both for having the longest history in the world of industrial use of geothermal energy, and for the recognized expertise of its industries and researchers. CNR has been the main place for research in the sector for many decades, and nowadays still maintain its main role in the sector thanks to its excellent research and its networking activity, participating to all the main European networks (ETIP-DG, EERA-JPGE, EGEC) and to International Geothermal Association (IGA). CNR has been among the founders of IGA, which nowadays remains the only association at the global scale in the geothermal sector. Although CNR did not participate to IGA Board of Directors since 2004, it has always remained connected to IGA by the participation of its researchers to the association's activity.

2. Main activities carried on by IGA during 2018 relevant for Italy and for CNR

In the actual energy transition, IGA is establishing its role as influencer and disrupter at the same time. New energy coalitions are forming, and IGA supporting geothermal energy to be part of that coalition, calling for strong leadership in politics, industry and research. It is taking its mandate to shape the global energy agenda, ensuring visibility to geothermal. Geothermal energy promotion included IGA participation to the COP24 in Katowice, Poland, also proposing innovative solutions for the climate and the role that geothermal energy may play for producing both electricity and heat. IGA participated and supported various initiatives for establishing Best Practices, such as for the United Nations and the World Bank, and supporting education and training initiatives, to which CNR researchers were invited. IGA also launched a bridge toward the oil&gas industry, to join forces in common technological targets. Such activities are of interest to CNR, since it potentially enlarges the opportunities for research, education and training, to which CNR is interested.

IGA organized the next World Geothermal Conference (WGC), that will take place in Iceland on 2020. The occasion will be a further occasion for CNR researchers to present their activity and being known. CNR and UGI, in coordination with Enel Green Power, are being proposing Italy for holding the WGC on 2023.

3. Activities carried on by Adele Manzella within IGA during 2018 and impact on the Italian scientific community

On 2018 the activity within IGA has been minimal, since the delegates do not participate directly to the IGA Board. The participation was done indirectly through the Unione Geotermica Italiana, of which Adele Manzella is President. The activity has been mainly directed on letting the Italian activities in the geothermal section be known to IGA and spreading the IGA News through the Italian network. Through UGI, Manzella organized a main overview of geothermal research status in Italy and opportunities for research fundings.

4. Evaluation of the participation in terms of benefits and membership cost

The main benefit is related to the global networking that IGA may assure, which provides updated information regarding the status of geothermal research and development in the world. When the condition will be better for launching again international training activities in Italy, IGA will be a solid base for supporting them. Research activities are not directly supported by IGA, but they can be highlighted through its large network.

5. Evaluation of Italians' attendance and how to improve interest and involvement

Italian attendance has been continuous in IGA, although not directly from CNR in the last decade. On 2019 the CNR delegate Adele Manzella launched her candidature for IGA Board of Directors, and, if elected, may strengthen the CNR participation in IGA.

6. Italian experts with important roles within IGA or within related Commissions and Programs (if known)

Bruno Della Vedova (Fondazione Internazionale Trieste) is the Secretary of IGA. Massimo Verdoya (University of Genoa) is member of IGA Board of Directors.

7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2018 CNR Commission activities

NA

8. Notes (if any)

If elected in the Board of Directors, it would be important to pay the fees as associate institution (at the moment there is only a personal enrollment).

9. Conclusions

IGA is a unique and reliable global platform for exchanging geothermal information. In the recent time it is renovating its organization and targets, to reinforce its strategic signature for geothermal development. The active participation of CNR in IGA in the next year would be valuable for the institution and for the Italian geothermal community.

Signature



Pisa, 30th September 2019