

**MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF IPHE
IN BEIJING MAY 2004
ICELANDIC STATEMENT**

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It seems only few days ago, when the IPHE was signed in Washington last November but already the process of IPHE is up and running, and the speed is increasing.

We want to thank the US chairmanship of the Steering Committee and the secretariat for excellent agenda and documents - and the Chinese authorities for hosting the meeting.

The challenges and tasks we are facing are global in nature and therefore call for global solutions and co-operation. For this reason – IPHE should pay special attention to the multilateral dimension. I believe that the private sector will play a vital role on the road towards the hydrogen economy, and consequently private-public partnership is very important

For several years, it has been the policy of the Government of Iceland to increase the utilization of the renewable energy resources in harmony with the environment. And now all electricity production in Iceland is totally carbon-free. The hydrogen policy and priorities are just one part of this long-term policy.

A major element of the Icelandic policy is to propose *Iceland as an international platform for hydrogen research and testing*. The policy has 5 main aspects:

- Favorable framework for business & research,
- international co-operation,
- hydrogen research,
- education and training, and
- ongoing policy formulation.

This policy is a coherent part of our long-term policies on renewable energy and protection of the climate. Iceland alone is not able to take big steps in this area, but in co-operation with others important further steps can be taken

The most recognized hydrogen research project in Iceland is the ECTOS project – on Ecological City Transport System. The project was the first one in Europe of its kind, and has been used as a role model for similar projects in some other European countries. The partners Daimler Chrysler, Shell Hydrogen, Norsk Hydro and Icelandic companies with support from the European Union, come from many countries, including both sides of the Atlantic, US and Europe. In this project we see clearly how important international co-operation is - and the project is also a good example of successful international co-operation.

But in Iceland we are also working on other projects – such as, first the Euro Hyport on hydrogen transport to mainland Europe, secondly the project on analyzing hydrogen infrastructure and thirdly the project on New Hydrogen Ship. In addition there are several other projects e.g. on seminars, summer school, publications and educational materials. You may see more about these programs in the Icelandic IPHE Country paper, in the Implementation and Liaison Committee documents. I want to highlight and thank the European Union for the important steps they have already taken towards many hydrogen projects.

In recent months our work in Iceland - towards the hydrogen economy has been focusing more on the roadmap and its different roads – and special attention has been paid to the various elements of the framework for the platform – like for example - taxes and tariffs. A small unit has also been set up at the Icelandic Energy Agency in Iceland focusing specially on hydrogen as well as other environmental-friendly fuels.

To summarize - we in Iceland have been able to build up expertise and knowledge in the hydrogen area like for example;

- Start-up of hydrogen programs, projects and team-building
- International co-operation and links
- Knowledge on hydrogen infrastructure
- Economic and social research and values and hydrogen demonstration projects
- Hydrogen seminars, education, training materials and programs

Finally,

Since the meeting in Washington last November the hydrogen issue has been higher on the political agenda and other agendas as well – both internationally and domestically - not least because of the steps we took by starting the IPHE process - thanks to the US Government and others. Because of that - building a partnership is easier, which includes businesses, the research society and other stakeholders, and such partnership is essential for success. Working on hydrogen programs at regional and national levels - has also got more attention and drive than before – thanks to the IPHE process.

The task of IPHE in leading the way towards the hydrogen economy is challenging and we have to make international co-operation possible, practical and successful. The work we have started in this committee as well as within the Implementation and Liaison Committee look promising.

Thank you.