

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

We are definitely witnessing extraordinary times with extraordinary challenges. Ripples from a global financial crisis, which is rooted in profligacy and is still gathering momentum, are being felt across the board.

At present, the world's power consumption is forecasted to double by 2050. Without any drastic shift of culture, the prospects for mankind may be grim. Saving our precious energy & water resources, and protecting the environment should not be mere wishful thinking. It should be the duty of everyone.

Global warming is now a matter of fact and no longer mere conjecture. With a climate change crisis looming and non-renewable fuels dwindling worldwide, due to geology or to inadequate investment, energy alternatives are becoming increasingly more relevant for our economic and social progress.

Reducing our Green House Gas emissions to low concentration levels in line with Kyoto requirements is an environmental responsibility, not only to our own community but also to all Mankind.

Today, we meet to discuss some of the most pervasive yet increasingly more pressing issues in light of climate change, for our development: available, affordable and clean Energy and Water. Meeting this daunting challenge requires concerted efforts to which governments, businesses and communities alike, must rise.

Since the launching of Dubai's Sustainability drive, marked by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's declaration of the Green Buildings Initiative on October 24, 2007.

In line with Dubai's Strategic Plan's focus on sustainable development, environmental stewardship and meeting stakeholder expectations, the Green Buildings initiative is rooted in the belief that resource efficiency in general, energy and water in particular, is no longer an option.

Unlike conventional buildings, the design, construction and operation of Green Buildings depend on the use of systems that rationalize the consumption of resources up to 30-40% throughout a building's lifecycle; this reduces the burden on the basic structures in cities, and provides a healthy and comfortable environment for living and working.

With its significantly enhanced focus on efficiency, conservation and environment, the proposed integrated scheme, currently under development,

promises to propel Dubai on the world's sustainability map by significantly reducing its carbon footprint.

In DEWA, we adopt two parallel approaches to sustainability:

- First, we seek to better utilize our existing resources:
  - The Green Buildings is a quantum first leap in this direction. Other strategies at DEWA that deliver similar desirable outcomes are Demand-Side Management, conservation programs, and the use of efficient technologies such as combined cycle cogeneration. Various Demand Response strategies are also being studied, to reduce or substitute demand.
  - Recent resource efficiency and effectiveness examples include: the enforcement of thermal energy storage and the use of non-desalinated water for district cooling. In a related vein, we reduced our line losses for power to roughly 5% and our unaccounted-for-water to <13%, both figures being among the lowest worldwide.
  
- Second, we continuously seek to tap cleaner sources of energy:
  - We have already explored certain fuel alternatives for power generation, namely wind, solar, geothermal, tidal, nuclear as well as imported power from interconnection with other grids.
  - We are also conducting feasibility studies to explore alternative proven technologies such as Clean Coal Technology – IGCC (Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle) and Supercritical Coal fired Power Plants. A diversified power generation portfolio that combines natural gas, renewables and alternative energy sources is now becoming a more concrete eventuality.
  - Moreover, we are embarking on Clean Development Mechanism projects in line with our environmental policy to apply best international practices in Environmental Management. In fact, even as Oil prices have fallen drastically since their peak at \$147 last summer due to weaker demand and growing global recession fears, investing in clean technologies will become increasingly economic, especially if CO<sub>2</sub> will have to be paid for - as is already the case in many parts the developed world.
  - “Peak oil” may probably arrive soon. Although oil may still be abundant in other forms (tar sands, liquefied coal, etc) and in

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deep onshore or offshore reservoirs, it will get more difficult and less economic to produce, eventually raising the floor of today's price.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In Dubai, we boast a great vision, and we are cultivating the awareness. What we need now is to boldly act to power and protect our future in a sustainable fashion, for our own sake and that of our children.

Thank you.