

Closing Session
13th ICENES Conferences

José M. Martínez-Val
General Chairman

Dear colleagues:

Our duty as ICENES organisers is to provide a friendly forum for you to present and discuss fresh ideas on Nuclear Energy. It is up to you to decide if we have been able to meet our objective, but I really think that the direct organisers of the conference have done a superb job. The infrastructure, the technical support, accommodations and meals, don't forget it, the social program, have been an outstanding achievement. I wish to start my list of gratitude by Backus Travel & Tours, and namely by Mrs. and Mr. Tanrıseven, for all their work, including such a challenging task as it was our social programme. I wish to express my thanks to all the Backus collaborators who have taken care of us during these marvelous, unforgettable days.

I kindly ask you to join me in an applause to them.

I wish to mention now the host organizations, Gazi University and Bahçeşehir University, who have shown to us the strong commitment they have for Nuclear Energy. This is our common field of interest, which covers a very broad spectrum of elementary nuclear reactions and a very large set of potential applications, ranging from nuclear fission in thermal reactors up to advanced fusion schemes that could minimize the radiological burden.

In many occasions during this conference, we have been told that Energy supply will be one of the fundamental issues in the 21st century and beyond, and Nuclear Energy can play a role and must play a role in the short, mid and long term, with current, advanced and emerging systems. Both the Rector of Gazi University in his opening salutation and Turkey's minister of Energy in his speech commented on this very important problem. They pointed out that we need a secure and safe system of energy supply, and Nuclear Energy can contribute to it. However, Nuclear Energy has a

social and political problem that it is not easy to deal with, and will require time and technology.

Of course, society in general and particularly politicians are not prepared to understand technology very well, but technology advancements can open new lines of understanding and can offer new deployments for reducing the radiological risks of the nuclear installations and their wastes. Indeed, our conferences are particularly aimed at proposing and discussing new ideas for this advancement. It is true that Nuclear Energy is a mature field on engineering that generates more than 15 % of the total electricity of the globe, but it is also true that we need new types of applications in order to create a really Nuclear Energy Sustainable scenario. In our quest, we need conferences like this one, and we need people ready to organise them. This is why I am particularly obliged to Prof. Sümer Sahin's team, as Mehmet Sahin, Adem Acir and the rest of collaborators, to whom we are very much grateful.

Dear Sümer, this Icenex Conference has been a unique occasion that we will not forget because of the magnificent environment of Istanbul and the extraordinary organisation of the conference. Thank you very much once more, for that.

And we cannot lose momentum in our quest. This is why we must prepare our next event, and this is why I am particularly honored to announce that next ICENES will be held in Portugal, in two years from now. Two years. This is the time you have for thinking over your proposals and advance new ones. Portugal, this is the place where we will meet. It is a pleasure for me to ask Prof. Carlos Varandas for coming here to address some words to you as General Chairman of 14th ICENES.