

**Opening Session**  
**13th ICENES Conferences**

**José M. Martínez-Val**  
**General Chairman**

Dear Rector of Gazi University,

Dear Dean of Bahçeşehir University.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues

First of all, welcome to this ICENES that we are already celebrating and enjoying in this unique and charming city of Istanbul.

Istanbul is a crossroad and a bridge in geography, and it is also a crossroad and a bridge in time. It is a place full of history, and a place full of promises. It comes from a rich past and goes on to a bright future.

To some extent, and with a lot of modesty as compared to Istanbul, we can say the same about our conference. ICENES comes from a past where Nuclear Energy underwent a bright development. In this very moment, Nuclear Energy contributes to more than 15 % of the electricity generated all over the world, which represents close to 7 % of the total primary energy. From this point of view, it is a powerful reality coming from a rich past. And we are sure that the future will still be brighter. Nuclear Energy is still very far from the maximum performance it can deliver. There are very many ideas which deserve further and deeper exploration, and it our duty to continue proposing emerging ideas in this challenging field called Nuclear Energy, that can be and must be properly combined with other sources of energy for satisfying our energy needs.

In this context, I want to recall the memory of Meinfred Heindler, who died some months ago. He was one of the Founding Fahters of ICENES and a champion in fostering the combination of Nuclear Energy with other sources of energy.

As General Chairman of ICENES Conferences, I am very proud of this event, the 13<sup>th</sup> ICENES, outstandingly organized by our highly esteemed colleague Sumer Şahin, an ICENES oldtimer who is fully involved in opening new possibilities for our common future. I am pretty sure that some of the ICENES ideas will contribute to the deployment of a better, more sustainable energy world.

I want to thank the Host organizations, Gazi University and Bahçeşehir University, (the City Garden University) for doing it so well, and I want also to express the gratitude of the ICENES community to the Turkish Atomic Energy Authority for helping us to meet together in Istanbul, in this marvellous city, to hold this conference, which will be remembered by all of us because of the quality and variety of its technical contents, and because of its unique social programme. And I wish to finish my speech by recognizing that there is also a unique main author for all this. This author is our friend Sumer Şahin. Sumer, on behalf of the ICENES community, it is a honour for me to present to you this Diploma, conferring you the ICENES fellowship.