BIG energy seminar series

Addressing the scale and complexity of the global energy challenge.

Renewable Energy Futures to 2050: "Current Thinking"

Eric Martinot
University of California at Berkeley

Date: Monday March 18th 4:00 p.m.
Location: Fleming Room 154

Abstract:

The REN21 Renewables Global Futures Report provides a synthesis of the full range of credible possibilities for the future of renewable energy. Conservative projections show 15-20% global energy shares from renewables in the long-term to 2030 and 2050, about the same as the current share. High-renewables projections show shares in the 50-95% range. A range of integration options for electric power grids, buildings, industry, and transport are possible. Annual investment in renewable energy rose from $40 billion in 2004 to over $260 billion today, and several projections reach to $500 billion by 2020 and beyond, from new sources of finance. Strong future growth in national markets is projected from a range of policies and targets, with cases for the US, EU, Japan, China, and India. Projections for global technology markets show cost reductions, technology evolution possibilities, and multi-fold capacity increases.

Biosketch:

Eric Martinot is the lead author of the just-released REN21 Renewables Global Futures Report, and was lead author of the REN21 Renewables Global Status Report. He currently serves as senior research director with the Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies in Tokyo and teaching fellow with Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. He also maintains research affiliations with the Worldwatch Institute and the Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association. He was formerly a senior energy specialist with the World Bank. He holds a Ph.D. in Energy and Resources from the University of California at Berkeley and a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from MIT

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