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World leading energy scientists in Stockholm symposium

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, awarding the Nobel Prizes in Physics and Chemistry, and the Prize in Economic Sciences, has invited some of the world's most influential scientists to a unique meeting in October on future energy options.

Political awareness of climate change is growing rapidly. Consequently, the scientific community's responsibility for providing facts, advice and solutions is also growing.

–Consensus among world politicians has never been greater with respect to the necessity of reducing world's dependency on fossil fuels. Already today it appears technically possible to increase the non-fossil fuel share of the energy supply up to 50 % by the year 2050. However, the question is what combination of efforts will be needed to get there, says Prof. Sven Kullander, Chairman of The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences' Energy Committee.

Among more than 15 participating leading scientists can be mentioned Prof. CARLO RUBBIA, Nobel Prize Laureate in Physics 1984, former Director of the CERN Laboratory and member of the high-level Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change set up by EU's President Barroso in 2007, Prof. GEORGE A OLAH, Nobel Prize Laureate in Chemistry 1994 and Professor at University of Southern California and Prof. JULIA KING, Vice-Chancellor of the Aston University and previously appointed by Gordon Brown to examine low-carbon vehicles and fuel technologies in the UK.

The aim of the symposium is to suggest a road map of feasible and necessary steps for future energy development of special interest in view of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009.

–Sweden has a unique position with a practically fossil-fuel-free energy mix in its electricity production, experience that will be valuable for the future expansion of electricity usage in Europe, Sven Kullander continues.

The symposium, which is an associated event to the Swedish EU Presidency, is a forum for scientists and policymakers with the overall objective of replacing fossil fuels by environmentally friendly energy.

The latest developments in different energy areas will be presented and debated in the meeting for two days. Topics of special interest are energy efficiency, fuels for transportation, renewable energy sources such as sun- and wind-power, fourth generation nuclear energy and technologies for removing existing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere or transforming it into fuels.

The symposium Energy 2050 is taking place in Aula Magna, Stockholm University on 19–20 October, 2009.

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The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, founded in 1739, is an independent organization whose overall objective is to promote the sciences and strengthen their influence in society. The Academy takes special responsibility for the natural sciences and mathematics, but endeavours to promote the exchange of ideas between various disciplines.