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## WORLD CTL 2008: THE FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE ON THE CONVERSION OF COAL INTO PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

*Please click the thumbnails below to open high-resolution photos.*



*Photo 1*



*Photo 2*

*Chicago, January 22, 2008(word count: 690)*

**World CTL 2008, the first world conference on coal liquefaction, will take place in Paris on April, 3 and 4, 2008. Organized under the auspices of the World Energy Council, the World Coal Institute and the IFP (French Petroleum Institute), it will bring together the major players in CTL (Coal-To-Liquids). Experts from industries using petroleum products, such as the petrochemical and the automotive and aviation industries, as well as the suppliers of CTL like the engineering industries, financial bodies and catalyst suppliers will contribute their expertise during a program rich in speeches about the current and future major challenges of this industry.**

The World CTL 2008 Conference will be the prime place for exchanges about CTL's strategic, environmental, technological and economic challenges. Parallel to the conference, an exhibition will be held on the same site and during the same days where companies will be able to welcome current and potential customers.

The liquefaction of coal ("Coal-To-Liquids" or "CTL") has reappeared today at the heart of strategic thinking about energy supplies. Of all the fuels consumed in South Africa, 30 % are produced from coal. The U.S. Air Force has just finished flight tests on a B-52 using similarly-produced fuel and will have tested its entire fleet before the end of 2011. The "China University of Petroleum" has just launched a CTL option, while China's leading coal producer, China Shenhua, will start up its first CTL unit in 2008 with a capacity of 20,000 bbl/day.

Beyond CTL activities, the World CTL 2008 Conference will also be an opportunity to present the production of chemical products from coal ("Coal-To-Chemicals") and the use of biomass as a raw material ("Biomass-To-Liquids").

The 2008 World CTL Award will be presented to Dr. Sadao Wasaka, researcher and executive director of NEDO of Japan, by Yves Chauvin, Nobel Prize for Chemistry 2005 winner. This award recognizes an individual whose work has contributed to knowledge, or

improving the implementation of, CTL technologies.

In strategic terms, CTL contributes towards reducing the energy dependence of many countries with large coal reserves and little oil. It will enable mining companies to become more profitable and petroleum companies to diversify their supplies. A debate between senior managers of mining and petroleum groups will put the strategies of these two major industries into perspective.

In environmental terms, coal is a substance that, because of its chemical nature, can emit a high level of carbon dioxide. This question, which is a major preoccupation of players in the CTL field, will be discussed, quantified and presented in relation to other energy sources. Researchers and industrialists will present pilot or already industrialized solutions. They will show the environmental advantages of CTL-produced fuels, known as “synthetic fuels,” in relation to conventional fuels.

In technical terms, the technical, economic and environmental performances of the processes will be presented by the leading businesses in each of the two technical routes, “indirect” and “direct.”

The economic issues specific to CTL are important. Profitability will be affected by several uncertainties: variations in coal and oil prices, the uncertain duration of fiscal policies, whether incentive or not, the cost of environment-related measures, and the reduced guarantees that licensors and engineering companies will be able to give, as industrial experience today is limited to a single company.



*Photo 3: Dr. Sadao Wasaka*



*Photo 4: Serge Perineau*

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