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Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Systems

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Abstract:

With the increase of the production of power/energy from renewables it becomes much important to look at methods and techniques to store this energy. In principle, the renewable energy can be transformed into another form of storable energy and to be transformed back when needed.

The main Energy storage techniques can be classified as: 1) Magnetic systems: Superconducting Magnetic Energy Storage, 2) Electrochemical systems: Batteries, fuel cells, Super-capacitors, 3) Hydro Systems: Water pumps, 4) Pneumatic systems: Air compressors, 5) Mechanical systems: Flywheels, 6) Thermal systems: Molten Salt, Water or oil heaters.

When we are talking about energy storage systems, we should consider the criteria of selection for method and technique of storing this energy. Researchers and scientists have classified different criteria in selecting the energy storage techniques, the main points to be considered are: 1) the available energy resources, 2) energy requirement and application, 3) energy storage efficiency, 4) energy storage cost, 5) energy storage infrastructure, 6) other factors.

This editorial describes articles presented at the 8th International Conference on Sustainable Energy and Environmental Protection SEEP2015. Main topics include renewable energy and energy storage systems and various articles related to the conference scope.

Keywords: Renewable Energy, Energy Storage Systems, Wind, Solar, Heat Pipe, Environment.

1- Introduction:

The eighth international conference on sustainable energy and environmental protection is part of the series of SEEP Conferences which have been established in 2004 by Prof A.G.Olabi, during the last years seven special issues has been published [1-8], the conference editor has contributed in many publications related to renewable energy and environmental issues under different subtitles such as; Hydrogen and Fuel Cell [9-12], Biofuel [13-17], Solar Energy and Air Pollution and Environmental issues [18-22]. Many articles have been published in the previous SEEP conferences; articles were published to cover all renewable energy and environment themes. The main themes are; Hydrogen and Fuel Cell developments [23-28], Electric Vehicles [29-31], Wind and planning issues [32-35], PV and Solar Energy [36-44], Bio-Energy [45-58], Alternative Energy and Environmental Issues, Pipe Heat Exchanger and related Fuel Efficiency and Environmental Protection [59-119].

This special issue presents some selected and peer reviewed papers from the 8th International Conference on Sustainable Energy and Environmental Protection SEEP 2015 which was held at the University of West of Scotland in Paisley Campus between 11th and 14th August 2015. In SEEP2015, about 180 papers were presented, 60 papers were invited to submit an extended version to the Energy. After peer review, 21 papers were selected to be published as a special issue in this journal.

These articles can be described as:

Three-dimensional proton exchange membrane fuel cell model: Comparison of double channel and open pore cellular foam flow plates [120].

Investigation of the effects of thermal, oxidative and irradiation treatments on the behaviour of poly-ethylene glycol as a phase change material in thermal energy storage systems [121]. The ignition characteristics and combustion processes of the single coal slime particle under different hot-coflow conditions in N2/O2 atmosphere [122].

An investigation into the use of the heat pipe technology in thermal energy storage heat exchangers [123].

Energy savings and reduction of CO2 emission using Ca(OH)2 incorporated zeolite as an additive for warm and hot mix asphalt production [124].

Cost reduction for the lipid production from distillery and domestic mixed wastewater by Rhodosporidium toruloides via the reutilization of spent seed culture medium [125].

Performance and emission characteristics of an IC engine under SI, SICAI and CAI combustion modes [126].

Trends and prospects of energy efficiency development in Slovenian industry [127].

The performance of a heat pipe based solar PV/T roof collector and its potential contribution in district heating applications [128].

Optimal management of a theoretical coastal aquifer with combined pollution and salinization problems, using genetic algorithms [129].

Design and development of an hybrid light commercial vehicle [130].

A new pH phenomenon to predict polarity reversal in lead-acid cells [131].

Energetic potential of the co-digestion of sludge with bio-waste in existing wastewater treatment plant digesters: A case study of an Italian province [132].

Modeling of energy efficiency increase of urban areas through synergies with industries [133].

Early fault detection and diagnosis in bearings for more efficient operation of rotating machinery [134].

Design and optimization of baffled fluid distributor for realizing target flow distribution in a tubular solar receiver [135].

Co-hydrotreating of algae and used engine oil for the direct production of gasoline and diesel fuels or blending components [136].

Supplying bio-compressed natural gas to the transport industry in Ireland: Is the current regulatory framework facilitating or hindering development? [137].

Theoretical and empirical study of heat and mass transfer inside a basin type solar still [138]. A model calculation of the carbon footprint of agricultural products: The case of Slovenia [139].

Development of a global energy management system for non-energy intensive multi-site industrial organisations: a methodology [140].

2- Content Details:

The first paper [120], presents a study to develop a unique three-dimensional computational fluid dynamic electrochemical model for open pore cellular foam material as a flow plate, comparing it to a double channel flow plate and experimental results, researching its application as an alternative to conventional flow plate materials in proton exchange membrane fuel cells.

Using the same membrane electrode assembly and operating parameters, the model simulations, including hydrogen and oxygen distribution and water activity, are examined. IV-curves obtained from the model and experimentally, are analysed and the results are discussed. The model is validated by comparing simulated IV-curve results against experimental results, and model limitations are identified.

The results indicate that the open pore cellular foam material flow plate distributes both hydrogen and oxygen more evenly from inlet to outlet through the fuel cell, when compared to the double channel fuel cell, outperforming it in both simulated and experimental runs.

The second paper [121], PEG (poly-ethylene glyco1) with an average molecular weight of 2000 g/mol has been investigated as a phase change material for thermal energy storage applications. PEG sets were maintained at 80°C for 861 h in air, nitrogen, and vacuum environment; the samples maintained in vacuum were further treated with air for a period of several weeks. The experiments showed that the presence of oxygen led to the degradation of the polymer and to a slight decrease of its melting temperature, while the treatment with electron radiation reduced polymer's heat of fusion. FTIR (Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy) spectrum analysis showed bands assigned to carbonyl/carboxylate functional groups, indicating the degradation of PEG in the presence of air/oxygen.

The third paper [122], presented work on the ignition characteristics and combustion processes of single coal slime particle in a vertical heating tube furnace in N2/O2 oxidant atmosphere were investigated under different hot-coflow conditions, including variations in coflow temperature (Tc = 923, 1073, and 1173 K), gas flow rate (V = 0 - 30 L/min), and oxygen concentration (O2% = 5% - 100%). All investigated hot-coflow conditions exhibited three ignition behaviours, homogeneous ignition of volatiles, heterogeneous ignition of char, and heterogeneous ignition of coal. Additionally, three corresponding ignition regimes were observed in the oxygen concentration-coflow temperature plane. Critical conditions for the transitions of the three ignition mechanisms varied as flow was increased from 0 to 30 L/min. Various ignition mechanisms resulted in various combustion processes.

In paper [123], the issue of the low conductivity of PCMs has been addressed by using an embedded finned water-charged heat pipes into the PCM bulk. Both heat pipes and the PCM tank used in this investigation were made of 316 L stainless steel. The PCM used in this work was PLUSICE S89, which has a melting temperature of 89°C and crystallization point of

77°C. The evaporator section of the heat pipe was heated by condensing a steam flow. The heat that was absorbed in the evaporator section was then discharged to the PCMs by the heat pipe multi-legged finned condenser. Tests were conducted for both charging (melting) and discharging (crystallization) of PLUSICE S89. It was observed that the thermal resistance posed by PCM during the discharging stage was higher compared to that during the charging process.

Next paper [124], investigated the energy saving and CO2 emission reduction properties of Ca(OH)2 incorporated zeolite (CaZ), synthesized by a solegel method and used as an additive for ASCON (asphalt concrete) production at different temperatures (120, 140 and 180°C). The addition of up to 6 wt.% CaZ lowered the ASCON production temperature to 120°C, leading to a production cost saving of 0.882 million US\$/y, and an energy saving of 24,831 GJ/y for 140,000 Tonne/y compared to conventional HMA (hot mix asphalt) production at 180°C. In addition, CO2 emission was reduced from 7500 ppm for HMA production to 500 ppm for WMA production at 120°C. The significantly lower energy consumption and CO2 emission resulting from addition of CaZ composite are associated with easy release of water vapor due to the dendrite nano structure of the synthesized CaZ, accompanied by easy volume expansion and asphalt viscosity reduction.

This study [125] explores the possibility to reuse the spent seed culture medium while saving resource and cost. The cells produced from the 2nd time reused medium without extra nutrient addition showed similar performances to the fresh medium in lipid production (biomass 7.42 ± 0.31 g/L, lipid yield 2.74 ± 0.42 g/L, and lipid content $36.90 \pm 4.36\%$) and removal efficiencies for organics and nutrients (chemical oxygen demand, total nitrogen, and total phosphorus removal of $86.47 \pm 1.40\%$, $50.73 \pm 6.15\%$, and $74.36 \pm 3.39\%$, respectively), in non-sterile distillery and domestic mixed wastewater after two-day cultivation. The 3rd time reused medium showed relatively low removal efficiencies for organics and nutrients as well as poor lipid production at the early culture stage, resulting in the reutilization of 3rd time spent medium not recommended even with 50% nutrient supplementation. Around 30% reduction in the material cost for the medium preparation could be achieved by the spent medium reutilization.

The objective of paper [126] is to determine the effects of spark ignition (SI), spark assist controlled auto ignition (SI-CAI) and pure CAI combustion modes on the performance and

emissions in a modified IC engine. For this purpose, the emissions, performance, and heat release analyses for these combustion modes were obtained at two different engine speeds (1500-2000 rpm) and various excess air ratio (EAR) in the range of 1.0-1.3 with 0.1 increments for both wide open throttle (WOT) and 50% opening throttle positions.

Reference [127], presents an overview of the energy efficiency development trends in Slovenian industry. To assess the development of energy efficiency, an energy efficiency index (ODEX) is applied, also highlighting some of the non-technical, structural changes. Furthermore, the future development prospects of energy-intensive industry in Slovenia are addressed in compliance with the national legislative framework and energy efficiency targets.

Paper [128], presents the findings of six experimental configurations of solar-thermal collectors are presented and analyzed. Five of the solar-thermal panel configurations were implemented with a cooling cycle. Two of the solar-thermal panels were equipped with monocrystalline silicon modules, the other two collectors were equipped with polycrystalline silicone modules, one of the collectors was based on heat pipe technology and was equipped with a cooling system, while the last collector did not include any cooling cycle. The duration of the experiments was four days during the September of 2014 and they were conducted under different solar radiation conditions. The second part of the paper presents the simulation results for five of the solar-thermal panels connected with a cooling water tank (volume of 500 L), a domestic hot water tank (volume 350 L) and a water heat pump, in terms of covering the hot water demands of a single family dwelling. The results showed that the hybrid solar collectors would be able to cover approximately 60% of the dwelling's hot water needs for days with low levels of solar radiation, while for days with high solar radiation they could cover the hot water requirements of the family by 100%.

Paper [129], discusses optimal management of a theoretical coastal aquifer, providing water for drinking and/or irrigation purposes, which is threatened by seawater intrusion from the coast and by nonconservative pollutant plumes from the inland. A new computational tool, able to address the combined pollution-salinization problem, is used. It optimizes the classic Pump-And-Treat and Hydraulic Control techniques without compromising aquifer's sustainability.

Paper [130] presents the powertrain control strategy and the development process of the first prototype. Finally, the work focuses on the main results which have been achieved by the first vehicle prototype during an experimental campaign carried out on a chassis dynamometer.

This paper [131] discusses new experimental work investigating the change in pH of the electrolyte of individual cells in Lead-Acid batteries during discharge with a view to predicting cell polarity reversal and thereby pre-empting potentially catastrophic failure in batteries. The discharge tests were carried out on batteries which were classified as 'new' and 'aged' as a means of indicating their state of health. A new pH phenomenon has been recorded for the first time in this paper as evidenced by experimental results including measurement of half-cell potentials. The trends observed during the discharge tests could be used as additional means of indicating impending cell reversal in series connected lead-acid cells.

Paper [132], studies the effect of co-digesting sludge with bio-waste was investigated using an experimental apparatus set for reproducing the operating conditions of a full-scale digester in an existing wastewater treatment plant of 90,000 PE (population equivalent). An increase in the organic loading rate from 1.46 kgVS/m3 day to 2.1 kgVS/m3 day obtained by introducing 40 kg of biowaste per m3 of sludge in the digester caused an increase in the specific methane generation from 90 NL/kgVS to 435 NL/kgVS. These results were used to assess the energetic potential of digesters in eight existing wastewater treatment plants operating in an Italian province with 28,000 PE to 90,000 PE. Results showed that these facilities were able to codigest globally about 2900 tonnes per year of bio-waste and to generate about 3400 MWh/year of electricity.

Due to the lack of research concerning the symbiosis of industry and cities, no figures are available which enables an economic comparison with other energy production technologies. An economic assessment was carried out [133] using four towns as examples. With the help of the annuity method, amortization times are determined. Additionally levelized costs for electricity and heat under different scenarios are calculated. They reach from 60 to 91 V/MWh for electricity and 25e38 V/MWh for heat. A sensitivity analysis takes into account possible price fluctuations.

Early fault detection and diagnosis plays an increasingly important role in various energy systems where it is critical to avoid deteriorating condition, degraded efficiency and unexpected failures. Rollingelement bearings are among the most common components of rotating machinery used for transformation of energy. Mechanical wear and defective bearings cause rotating machinery to decrease its efficiency, and thus increase energy consumption. A new technique for early fault detection and diagnosis in rolling-element bearings based on vibration signal analysis is presented. After normalization and the wavelet transform of vibration signals, the standard deviation as a measure of average energy and the logarithmic energy entropy as a measure of the degree of disorder are extracted in sub-bands of interest as representative features. Then the feature space dimension is optimally reduced to two using scatter matrices. In the reduced two-dimensional feature space the fault detection and diagnosis is performed by quadratic classifiers. Accuracy of the new technique was tested on four classes of the recorded vibrations signals, i.e. normal, with the fault of inner race, outer race and balls operation. An overall accuracy of 100% was achieved. The new technique will be further tested and implemented in a real production environment [134].

Paper [135], presents an original study on the design and optimization of baffled fluid distributor for the realization of optimal fluid flow distribution in a tubular solar receiver. The basic idea is to install a perforated baffle in the inlet fluid distributor and to optimize the configuration of orifices on the baffle so as to approach the target flow distribution among downstream parallel tubes. A pressurized-air solar receiver comprising of 45 parallel tubes is used for study, with copper or Inconel 600 used as the filling material.

In Ref [136], the microalgae and UEO blends were converted into three fractions (oil, gas and solid) when subjected to the co-hydrotreating processes. The most abundant product fraction was upgraded oil. Mass loss is predominantly ascribed to the light oil fraction loss during the solvent vaporization process. The solids primarily consisted of the catalyst, inorganic salts and char. The dispersing and clearing agents in the UEO are potential sources for the control of solid formation. The gaseous products consisted predominantly of unreacted H2 along with CO2 and CH4 formed during the cohydrotreating process. Large quantities of C2eC5 hydrocarbons were observed in the gaseous products produced at more severe temperatures. The addition of the noble metal catalysts promoted the in situ hydrogenation and cracking of oil intermediates, which led to oil with low viscosity and easy recovery. Catalysts also promoted the secondary reactions of the gaseous products to form heavier oil molecules. The

presence of hydrogen can improve the oil quality by promoting the in situ hydrocracking and hydrorefining of the oil.

Paper [137] critiques the current regulatory framework in Ireland, highlights areas of ambiguity and puts forward an aligned solution to allow bio-CNG market participants to utilise the network safely, in a regulatory sound and cost-effective manner.

In paper [138], two recent models for calculating the coefficient of evaporative heat transfer (he,w-gc) have been investigated by taking into account view factors of radiative heat exchange. In the first model (Model 1), the vapour concentration ratio (Cr=he,w-gc/hc,w-gc) depends on different thermodynamic variables inside the solar still. The other model of Cr (Model 2) is a third-order polynomial function of the operating temperature of the solar still (Ti). Results show that Cr has a critical value for Model 1 with no turning point for Model 2 in the considered temperature range. There exists an operating temperature Ti¹/4Tis at which the two models yield the same value of Cr. Estimates of the coefficient of he,w-gc obtained by using Model 1 are higher than those of Model 2 when Ti < Tis, with a reversed trend when Ti > Tis. Model 1 exhibits lower values of the root mean square error.

In paper [139], a model calculation of the carbon footprint in the agricultural sector was developed in order to calculate the carbon footprint of grains, fruit, and other agriculture products based on a calculation of total greenhouse gas emissions resulting from production, from the beginning of the production process to storage and delivery to the final consumer or the food industry.

Paper [140] presents the systematic development and implementation of a novel energy management methodology for multi-site organisations to reach optimal efficiency across their network. The methodology, a Global Energy Management System, is based on the following strategic pillars: (1) Site Characterisation; (2) Performance Evaluation; (3) Energy Strategy; and (4) Shared learnings and dissemination. These pillars are underpinned by essential foundations: (a) Global energy team and communication forum; (b) Knowledge base at site and global level; and (c) Corporate Energy Policy. The methodology incorporates both quantitative performance evaluation using novel key performance indicators and benchmarking, as well as qualitative characterisation using energy management maturity models.

Conclusions and remarks

In this special issue of the international conference of sustainable energy and environmental protection SEEP2015, all the above topics have been presented and discussed, which cover many important themes related to the conference scope. This conference series wish to contribute to the developments of achieving 100% renewable energy by 2050 and to sort out all issues related to Energy Storage Systems..

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