

A VIEW FROM THE TOP: INTERVIEWS WITH INDUSTRY LEADERS



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“To achieve sustainable energy development, scientific progress and technological innovation are the key, whilst outstanding talents are the core”

What are the key aspects that define the energy industry that the youth has “inherited” from previous generations?

From more than half a century of working experience in the oil industry, I would summarise the spirit of ‘triple pursuit’ as my motto: pursuit of victory, pursuit of ambition, and pursuit of honour. Pursuit of victory means being always striving to be the first. Pursuit of ambition means being ambitious, courageous and wise to succeed for the sake of one’s motherland. Pursuit of honour means being persistent in pursuing excellent achievements to bring honour to your country, your industry, your company, and your family. I take the ‘triple pursuit’ spirit as the extension of ‘Daqing Spirit’ and ‘Iron-Man Spirit’ in my own thinking and behaviour.

The energy industry is an attractive and challenging career, which requires courage and wisdom. Young people should inherit all the valuable merits of their predecessors, such as hard work, never giving up, being innovative and pioneering, etc. In the period of reform and opening-up, we should carry on all these merits, accept our responsibilities and think globally, in order to accomplish every task with the ‘triple pursuit’ spirit and make contributions to our country’s progress and prosperity.

What would you consider the key aspects of a vision for the future of the energy industry that are not sufficiently addressed at present?

Now, and from now on, three issues are closely related to the sustainable development of the energy industry. The first is how to establish an international



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cooperation system. This system should satisfy the needs of both producers and consumers, aiming at the comprehensive management of increasing energy consumption, with more emphasis on cooperation than on conflict. The second is how to achieve better energy substitution, including regional expansion of energy production, exploitation and utilisation of alternative energy sources, etc, which requires technological cooperation. The third is how to deal with ecological and environmental problems closely related to energy development.

What is the most efficient way to advance change in this “inherited” industry towards the youth’s vision of a sustainable energy future?

Currently, a new phase of the energy revolution is just getting started. Talent and technology competition among countries grows ever more intense. The concept of combining energy exploitation with eco-environmental protection is becoming increasingly rooted in people’s minds. International cooperation in the energy field is continuously expanding. Some people think that the integration of new energy and the internet is the symbol of the ‘third industrial revolution’. As far as I’m concerned, to achieve sustainable development of the energy industry, scientific progress and technological innovation are the key, while outstanding talents are the core. Therefore, I believe it’s very important to create a positive environment for talented people. First of all, access should be provided for them to take part in cutting-edge technological innovation and research into the clean utilisation of both new and traditional

energy sources, based on the reality of our country. Secondly, their horizons should be broadened to learn about the current situations and problems of the international energy industry, and to know about technological development trends in other countries with an open mind, instead of being “a frog living at the bottom of a well”. Thirdly, they should have a strong sense of conscientiousness and responsibility, in order to overcome all the difficulties and meet the challenges in the process of energy industry development. Generally speaking, young people should take full advantage of the opportunity of the coming ‘third industrial revolution’, and try to become the pathfinders, exploiters or pioneers of the new age.

What should be the role of the youth, and women, in bringing about this change?

The youth are the future of our country, as well as the future of the energy industry. Just as Comrade Mao Zedong said to Chinese students studying in Moscow: “The world is yours, as well as ours, but in the last analysis, it is yours. You young people, full of vigour and vitality, are in the bloom of life, like the sun at 8 or 9 in the morning. Our hope is placed on you.” The youth are also the hope of energy industry innovation and sustainable development. Women are becoming more and more important, infusing some new colours into the energy industry. With the rapid development of information technology, an increasing number of women will be attracted to join the energy family. Women’s resilience and wisdom will make a difference to the energy industry, and eventually change the external impression of this industry. ■