

Opening address

By Laszlo Kapolyi

Dr Laszlo Kapolyi greeted the participants in the name of the Government of Hungary and gave a brief introduction to the management of natural resources in Hungary, more specifically to the development of the mining industry and its contribution to the industrialization of Hungary.

The Minister emphasized the fact that natural resources determine to a large extent the options of industrial policy and industrial development. The development of natural resource management is necessary for the co-ordinated achievement of public goals for growth, efficiency and innovation.

The Minister provided a detailed description of Hungarian natural resources and mineral reserves. He outlined the long-term Hungarian energy policy which regards hydrocarbons, coal and fissile materials as of equal importance in meeting domestic energy demands.

He commented on the problems related to the exploitation of natural resources and those of the Hungarian mining industry, within the wider context of the industrial restructuring policy of Hungary. A basic principle of the development of industrial policy in the short-, medium- and long run is a flexible adaptation to changing circumstances. He emphasized that in industrial restructuring activity, the energy sector and the production of raw materials cannot be dealt with independently as, in their interaction, they form an integral part of the industry as a whole.

The development of the raw material processing industry necessitates a systems approach, demanding a realistic judgement of the cost-effectiveness of the utilization of the mineral reserves. In the mining industry, priority is given to automation, the up-dating of technology, and a wide application of computer-aided processes (design, control, etc.).

The long-term policy for mining development in Hungary matches international development trends, focusing as it

does primarily on the advancement of technology.

The increased independence of Hungarian enterprises can greatly facilitate the achievement of the goals set for industrial policy.

In conclusion, the Minister emphasized the role of Hungarian industry in the international division of labour as well as the necessity of keeping pace with trends in the world economy.