

## **IECEX International Hydrogen Conference; Jo Cops – Keynote address**

Hello and welcome everyone to the 2024 IECEX International Hydrogen Conference.

I am honoured to address this eminent gathering of experts and leaders in the field, who are paving the way ahead for a safe, efficient and sustainable future.

We are witnessing a global energy transition, with strong hopes for hydrogen. The world is seeing it as a key contender in the diverse mix of potential energy alternatives aiming to replace polluting fossil fuels; offering promise in our quest for cleaner energy.

There are challenges of course, but despite them, hydrogen has immense potential to be used as a solution to decarbonize industries that are hard to electrify directly, such as steel, aluminium, concrete, chemical and other manufacturing processes.

While research and innovation in developing low-emission hydrogen production is progressing rapidly, there is still a long way to go.

International cooperation is essential in contributing to collaborative efforts among nations to establish safe international hydrogen markets and trade.

I am excited therefore for this event to advance conversations towards a clean pathway to a sustainable future.

And it is a pleasure to be hosting it in Singapore, for which my heartfelt thanks go out to Enterprise Singapore. The 2024 International Hydrogen Conference, while organised by the IEC and IECEX is done so in full partnership with ISO, IRENA, UNECE and the Hydrogen Council. IEC appreciates the exemplary international cooperation, which echoes the institutes' strong collaboration in promoting work around a low carbon hydrogen infrastructure. This remains a core facet of our plans for an energy transition outlook. IEC is also a knowledge partner in the Alliance for Industry Decarbonization. We greatly value such powerful collaborations by like-minded partners and look forward to our continued work together.

The spirit of collaboration resonates across all our work, including the synergy between standardization and conformity assessment.

Conformity Assessment Systems feed into the demand drivers behind standards development. They enhance, international trade, facilitate broad electricity access and ultimately enable a more sustainable world.

The IEC Conformity Assessment Systems including IECEX are a crucial pillar of the IEC, supporting its vision alongside standards development. Thanks to their efforts, industry, authorities and regulators are able to ensure that equipment, as well as the people working in Ex areas, benefit from the highest level of safety.

IECEX has been leveraging the power of cooperation by bringing standardization and conformity assessment closer together.

IECEX's longstanding collaboration with the IEC Technical Committee 31, which is at the forefront of shaping standards for equipment used in hazardous environments, is vital to effectively see the impact of IEC's work in diverse sectors.

IECEX has also established formal liaisons with ISO TC 197 relating to testing and certification in the area of hydrogen technologies, and more recently with IEC TC 105 for fuel

cells. Both these partnerships will go a long way in fostering a safe infrastructure for hydrogen use in energy sector. .

Hydrogen's prominence in the news underscores its importance. But even though hydrogen technologies have been topping the news charts recently, dealing with hydrogen is not a new thing for IECEx. IECEx has been providing testing and certification of Equipment suitable for use in areas where Hydrogen may be present for decades now. For Ex related services in the field and competence of people, IECEx has issued more than 30,000 IECEx certificates to date covering such equipment.

With the growing conversation around the scaling of the hydrogen economy within the energy infrastructure, IECEx and other global organizations will have an important role to play in carefully navigating the challenges of clean hydrogen production in the future.

Even in areas beyond hydrogen, IECEx has grown to become a beacon of trust within industries, since its first certificate issued in 2003. Now, more than 160,000 certificates and reports later, being issued from the more than 100 IECEx approved Certification bodies, IECEx has gained international trust and global recognition. The 2022 United Nations UNECE publication "Common Regulatory Arrangements", acknowledges IECEx as the recommended model for all United Nations Member states to use in relation to environments with an explosive atmosphere.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the brilliant minds working hard in the IECEx team. I'd like to extend my appreciation for the excellent IECEx Leadership led by Chair Paul Meanwell and Vice Chair Katy Holdredge, along with the entire IECEx family of experts for their tireless efforts for over 25 years.

I look forward to the engaging sessions planned for the conference.

I trust that today's conference will provide ample material for a fruitful discussion at tomorrow's meeting of the IECEx Expert Working Group on Hydrogen Technologies where many experts from our partner organizations converge.

I wish you all an illuminating time at this conference – connecting minds, fostering learning, and inspiring impactful outcomes.

Thank you.