

Preface

In South America, we live in a time that calls for changes of the most fundamental aspects of our societies. It is clear that the established political and economic systems, and the decision-makers, do not address current needs such as those related to social justice, equal opportunity and, more generally, a decent life for everyone. Energy is crucial for any society, and it seems paradoxical that this commodity is not readily at hand in countries where the potential for solar energy is very high. There are many challenges in the quest for affordable energy and there are obstacles to overcome but the goal - a world wherein energy comes preponderantly from renewable sources - must stay firm. We at the Universities must strive to provide excellent energy-related research and innovation and to give first-class training of people so that they can enter the energy sector and offer benign solutions to energy-related issues. Many questions and challenges lie in front of us but some things are certain: that communication and exchange of knowledge are essential in order to generate the synergies that are needed to build better societies. JOPES 2019 takes us a humble, but hopefully still important, step towards a world with affordable energy and operating in harmony with Nature.

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