

Evolution not revolution for global energy

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The world is experiencing an energy evolution, rather than a revolution, and it is proceeding very slowly.

That was the opinion of Tony Hayward, chairman of the international mining group Glencore, as he reflected on the changes in the energy market since he joined the industry 35 years ago.

Speaking to an audience at the University of the West of England in Bristol, Mr Hayward said the world remained around 80 per cent reliant on fossil fuels and forecasts for 2050 indicated that the picture was unlikely to change, despite fears over global warming

‘The world will learn from the mistakes of the last two decades’

Tony Hayward

becoming the issue unifying governments across the globe.

He argued that in a rush to demonstrate leadership on climate change many governments, particularly in Europe and Australasia, had pursued disastrous energy policies.

Germany, he said, was a textbook example. It had spent 25 billion euros on the transition to renewable energy in 2016, yet its carbon emissions last year were the same as 2008 and coal consumption in the country was rising. In contrast, the US, which has not signed the global Kyoto agreement on greenhouse gas targets, had reduced its CO2 emissions by 12 per cent since 2005, largely because of the introduction of fracking, with the resulting shale gas replacing coal in its energy mix.

Revolution is coming in the form of electric vehicles, which

Mr Hayward said would dominate the global car fleet within two decades, but the resulting extra demand for power was likely to be met by fossil fuels.

“What we gain on the swings, we’ll lose on the roundabouts,” he said.

Mr Hayward said renewables, where competitive, had a part to play in a diversified energy mix, although their contribution might only account for five per cent of total power supply. Instead, he argued that the best way to reduce CO2 emissions was to invest in carbon abatement technology.

India, he said, continued to build sub-critical coal fire power plants based on a 1970s design rather than modern, coal-fired plants that, although more expensive, were more efficient and had lower emissions, where the cost of abatement would be \$5 a tonne.

South East Asia and Africa had little option but to use coal as part of their industrialisation, but they needed to utilise clean coal technology. He said: “They should be encouraged and be required to deploy the latest high-efficiency, low-emission technology which has the cost abatement of around \$20 per tonne.”

In conclusion, Mr Hayward said: “It is not a revolution, it is an evolution, and it is proceeding at a very slow pace.”

He added: “I think we will have more success in reducing CO2 emissions by recognising that fossil fuels will have a major role to play for many decades to come and invest to reduce CO2 emissions in the most cost-effective way.

“At heart I am an optimist. I believe the pace of technological development will continue to accelerate and the cost of technological deployment will continue to fall. The world will learn from the mistakes of the last two decades and will gradually get the allocation of the resources right.”



Tony Hayward, main picture, and at UWE Bristol with, from left, Professor James Longhurst, assistant vice chancellor for environment and sustainability; Josh Bertin, founder and company director of Blue Tiger Developments; Professor Nicholas O’Regan, associate dean (research and innovation); Fiona Jordan, associate dean (external engagement); and Charles Chami, president of Bristol Junior Chamber.

Little Giant set to make it big in craft beer

Bristol has welcomed its newest craft beer brand and brewery – Little Giant Brewery.

Tucked away in Fishponds, it opened its doors last week in answer to the growing demands of local beer drinkers.

The UK’s ‘beer revolution’, has seen a growth in the popularity of craft beers as drinkers turn away from commercially brewed products.

The Little Giant Brewery intends to become a giant in this little brewing world with its four independent beers, Fi, Fi, Fo, Fum, designed by award-winning master brewer, Martin Cullimore.

These ‘Blood of an Englishman’ beers focus on authentic quality ingredients and traditional hops, signified through the giant’s beard on the company logo.

A combination of the authentic ingredients and the precise brewing process con-

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The number of beers produced by Little Giant – Fe, Fi, Fo and Fum

veys the brand’s quality to beer drinkers.

The Little Giant Brewery will supply pubs, bars and restaurants across the country.

Director, Paul Mayer, said: “We are passionate about great beer and if you have the enthusiasm and drive there is nothing more fun and rewarding than brewing and supplying quality craft beer.”

The increasing popularity of craft beer has transformed many micro breweries into highly profitable businesses for entrepreneurs looking for a niche position in the food and drinks market. The Little Giant Brewery intends to tap into this with a franchise opportunity in early 2018.

For the time being, the Fishponds-based ‘Tap house’ is open Tuesday to Friday, from 12.30pm to 4.30pm, and Saturday morning. As well as offering bookable brewery tours and beer tasting, it is perfect for corporate events or Christmas parties.

Leading housebuilders insist demand remains strong despite market fears

Housebuilders Barratt Developments and Crest Nicholson have become the latest firms to shrug off property market fears, insisting that buyer demand remains strong.

The building giants said the “wide availability” of mortgage finance was helping support the new-build market, despite Brexit uncertainty and the squeeze on household finances.

Their cheery updates follow an upbeat outlook on trading from rival Bovis on Tuesday as the latest clutch of updates from the sector appear to cast aside recent gloom.

Shares in the sector were sent lower last week after Persimmon and Redrow sparked fears of a slowdown, following a survey from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors showing house sale levels were flat or falling across large swathes of the UK.

Barratt – the UK’s largest housebuilder – said it had seen a “strong start” to its financial year, having held its sales rate firm at 0.74 reservations per development per week, or 268 reservations on average a week, with forward sales up 8.4 per cent at £2.9 billion.

It said: “Market conditions



Recently constructed Barratt houses in Cullompton, Devon

remain good, and the group has delivered a strong performance since the start of the financial year, with customer demand for new homes supported by wide availability of attractive mortgage finance.”

Boss David Thomas said the group remained “confident in delivering a good performance” over the full year, although it expected “modest” growth in wholly-owned completions.

In its full-year trading update, Crest said the housing market was “generally” robust, although it added that central London was seeing

sales slow and prices weaken.

But its figures showed a solid performance for the year to October 31, which has continued so far since then, with forward sales for completions up 14.8 per cent at £265.3 million.

The group said: “Whilst there may be some impact from current economic and political uncertainty, high levels of employment and low interest rates, combined with good mortgage access and the Help to Buy scheme, underpin demand for new-build housing and continue to help many purchasers into new homes.”