

Declared "Of public Utility" in 2013

The Forum was declared "Of National Interest" in 2018

## International specialists discussed with national leaders, the role of Hydrogen in decarbonization

- The First International Hydrogen Forum updates the country about the state of this technology and the worldwide implementation.
- Experts from Japan, Canada, United States, Europe and leaders from public and private national organizations came together on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of August at the Intercontinental Hotel.

**13<sup>th</sup> of August 2018.** The First International Hydrogen Forum, Costa Rica, was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of August at the Intercontinental Hotel in San José. The forum grouped leaders from public and private organizations, and eight International experts to discuss about the role of Hydrogen in the decarbonization of Costa Rica.

Experts from Japan, Canada, United States and Europe shared with the community the main Hydrogen implementation programs worldwide, the state of this technology, its growth, and the perspectives for the short and mid-terms. The main focus of the first day was to update the national decision makers about the current state of this technology around the world, while on the second day of the forum, the efforts focused on Costa Rica's experience and its perspectives on the use of Hydrogen in the decarbonization of its energetic matrix, including transportation. Two main panels provided a highly interactive atmosphere during the two days.

"On this first encounter, we will learn how Costa Rica could innovate and be a leader worldwide in technologies that radically reduce the carbon footprint" commented the Vice President of *Estrategia Siglo XXI*, Carlos Mora de la Orden.

The imports of hydrocarbons to Costa Rica during 2016, represented a cost of US\$1.000 million to the country, according to the *Refinadora Costarricense de Petróleo* (RECOPE). This consumption represents up to 70% of the contaminating gas emissions that impact the environment and public health, according to the Environment and Energy Ministry (MINAE).

The *Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos*, pointed out that by the year 2015, even though light load vehicles, buses and heavy-duty vehicles only made up 18% of the vehicular fleet, they produced 43% of the contaminating emissions. Countries like China, Germany and Japan, are already implementing Hydrogen as a clean combustible, reducing their carbon footprint. The forum aligns with the recent decision made by the Costa Rican Government to promote Hydrogen Investigations.

"Costa Rica stands out internationally for its efforts to protect the environment; and the steps that are being taken towards the decarbonization of transportation is just one more step in this commitment", mentioned the Minister of Environment and Energy, Carlos Manuel Rodríguez.

The event was organized by the *Asociación Estrategia Siglo XXI* (<http://www.estrategia.cr/>) in collaboration with the Presidency of the Republic, the Ministry of Environment and Energy and RECOPE. The streaming is now available at the association's Facebook Page *Estrategia Siglo XXI* (<https://www.facebook.com/Estrategia.cr/>).

The forum was attended by representatives of the government sector, private entrepreneurs, deputies and organizations in favor of the country's development.