

International Association for Solar Energy Education - IASEE

ISES Working Group on Education

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After a session with papers on Solar Energy Education in the conference North Sun in 1988 in Borlänge, Sweden Lars Broman, Aadu Ott and Konrad Blum initiated the founding of IASEE - the International Association for Solar Energy Education, that later became ISES Working Group on Education. During the 1990s the membership grew to several hundred scientists and teachers from more than twenty countries. Especially the organization of thirteen International Symposiums on Renewable Energy Education (ISREE), the member information and communication by *IASEE Newsletters* and the edition of a periodical *Progress in Solar Energy Education* (PiSEE) was instrumental. In 2017 Lars Broman, united two of his projects, Strömstad Academy and IASEE, in the *ISREE 2017* conference in Strömstad.¹

Introduction

It is widely understood that the transformation of the world energy system into a sustainable, renewable state needs, besides technically and economically viable solutions, acceptance and basic understanding of the general public as well as decision makers in politics and commerce[11]. General education and vocational training in the field of energy, energy efficiency, and especially renewable energy, was not so well developed in the beginning of the rise of RETs in the 1980s[4]. More or less local/regional initiatives on all levels of the educational system lacked support and the impression was that “the wheel was invented over and over again”² – thus after a session with papers on Solar Energy Education in the conference North Sun in 1988 in Borlänge, Sweden Lars Broman, Aadu Ott and Konrad Blum initiated the founding of IASEE.

¹This paper was written for a special publication on the occasion of the 80th birthday of Prof. Lars Broman, rector of Strömstad Academy

²personal communication Mark Koltun

International Association for Solar Energy Education

In a period of not as long as two years IASEE was established as “ISES Working Group for Education” and members in all continents joined the association. With the distribution of a newsletter (later an internet based discussion list), the series of International Symposium on Renewable Energy Education (ISREE) and the edition of a periodical (Progress in Solar Energy Education – PiSEE) the activities reached a level that demanded a lot of time and resources.

Eventually the founders had to accept that their main professional duties demanded that they transferred the task of conducting IASEE onto other shoulders.

But although ISREE continued, PiSEE and the newsletter expired during the 1990s[12]. Therefore ISREE 2017, organized by Strömstad Academy in June 2017, and the special edition of *Solar Energy* with the proceedings of the conference give hope for more international activities in the field of Renewable and Solar Energy Education[2].

Sequence of events

- Educational Session during North Sun 1988
- Foundation of IASEE in Gothenburg 1989
- Formation of By-Laws and presentation of IASEE in ISES WC 1990
- ISREE 1 - 1991 in Borlänge /Sweden
- PiSEE Vol. 1 (1992)
- ISREE 2 - 1992 in Oldenburg / Germany
- PiSEE Vol. 2 (1993)
- ISREE 3 - 1993 in Borlänge /Sweden
- PiSEE Vol. 3 (1994)
- ISREE 4 - 1994 in Bangkok / Thailand
- ISREE 5 - 1996 in Oldenburg / Germany
- PiSEE Vol. 4 (1996)
- PiSEE Vol. 5 (1997)
- ISREE 6 - 1998 in New Delhi / India
- ISREE 7 - 2000 in Oslo / Norway
- ISREE 8 - 2002 in Orlando, Florida / USA
- ISREE 9 - 2003 in Gothenburg / Sweden



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edited by Konrad Blum, Lars Broman and Jill Gertzén

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Figure 1: Title page of IASEE Periodical *Progress in Solar Energy Education* Vol. 5

- ISREE 10 - 2004 in Perth, Australia
- ISREE-11 - 2005 in Orlando, Florida / USA
- ISREE 12 - 2017 in Strömstad, / Sweden
- ISREE 13 - 2019 in Santiago / Chile

Personal Remarks

There are important facts that cannot be found in publications about the first years of IASEE[5]. Many discussions and decisions took place under informal circumstances. If I can trust my memories, the association would never have been created without Lars Broman's initiative after NorthSun'88. Without his experience in international cooperation in the fields of solar energy research and astronomy, IASEE would not have had

the necessary organizational structure. It was also his imagination and his contacts and connections that created the ISREE series. Lars has always been the central personality who brought people together and initiated new movement as well as necessary corrections. His friendly, collegial style, his calm, balanced nature and his almost inexhaustible energy and willingness to work, were crucial for the initial growth of the association and the integration into ISES as a working group for education.

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