



PATH's 2007 Plan: Working Towards a Global Hydrogen Economy

by Brian Schorr, National Hydrogen Association and Partnership for Advancing the Transition to Hydrogen (PATH)

The Partnership for Advancing the Transition to Hydrogen (PATH) has an exciting program in 2007 that we believe will help strengthen the global hydrogen community through inter-association collaboration and events. With active participation from member associations and members of those associations, PATH will continue building towards a consensus vision for the hydrogen economy.

PATH's mission is to "create a worldwide network among national hydrogen associations, to provide value to their members which allows them to extend their reach to global markets, industrial partners, and academic institutions around the world." It should be noted that while some organizations focus on government to government collaboration, PATH focuses primarily on the private and academic sectors of the hydrogen economy.

Consistent with its mission, PATH is hosting a series of Executive Meetings of National Hydrogen Associations in conjunction with major international hydrogen conferences and events. These special meetings are intended for deci-

sion makers at the executive levels within hydrogen associations. The first such meeting was co-hosted by L'Association Française de l'Hydrogène (the French Hydrogen Association) and held in conjunction with the 16th World Hydrogen Energy Conference in Lyon, France last June. It was highly successful with representation spanning 5 continents, including 18 national associations and the European Hydrogen Association. Leaders of the participating associations came together to report on current hydrogen events within their home countries and begin a dialogue with those in other associations abroad.

PATH is hosting its second Executive Meeting in San Antonio, Texas on 19 March 2007. It will be held in conjunction with the National Hydrogen Association's Annual U.S. Hydrogen Conference: Hydrogen Here and Now! Once again, speakers from around the world will convene to provide hydrogen success stories and reports from their home countries while identifying inter-association and member-to-member networking opportunities. PATH expects this meeting to draw an even larger audience than last June as

it has opened the meeting up to all members of PATH member associations. This is a benefit of their affiliation with PATH through their parent hydrogen associations!

In addition to the Executive Meetings, PATH has developed an aggressive agenda for the remainder of 2007. Currently, PATH is developing a hydrogen database of national and local government-supported initiatives. It is expected to be unveiled in June at the 3rd European Hydrogen Energy Conference in Maastricht, Netherlands and be made available to members of PATH associations via the Members' Only website. The website will also be used as a forum for members to upload breaking news, announcements, and communicate with one another. PATH is also working to promote and help develop several upcoming international conferences in 2007. (A complete list may be found on PATH's website at www.hpath.org.) Finally, plans are underway to initiate a student-exchange program in which universities may use PATH to connect with exchange students and professors abroad.

As PATH is primarily a membership association-supported organization, sponsorship opportunities exist for private organizations to support development of any of PATH's programs. Please visit PATH's website or call 202-457-0076 ext. 309 for additional information. We look forward to a prosperous new year for hydrogen!



In Memorium

The NHA is deeply saddened by the passing of Shalom Zelingher, of New York Power Authority (NYPA), and member of the NHA's Board of Directors.

Shalom was Chief Technology Development Officer at NYPA. He was an in-

dustry leader in electric systems research and development. President Jeff Serfass worked with Shalom on solar and fuel cell activities for more than a decade. He was elected to the NHA Board of Directors in the Spring of 2006. He was 55 years old.

The NHA wishes to send its deepest sympathies to Shalom's family and colleagues at NYPA during this difficult time.

