

Prime Minister Haarde addresses an FT-World Energy Council



The Prime Minister of Iceland, Mr Geir H Haarde, addressed in London on the 16th September, the Financial Times-World Energy Council meeting on Investment Opportunities in Clean Energy Businesses by presenting an insight into how Iceland has over the years utilised its unique resources in sustainable energy, geothermal and hydroelectric, thereby attaining one of

the highest standards of living in the world. At the conference the Prime Minister gave various interviews to the international press on this achievement.

Meeting on Icelandic energy

Ambassador Gunnlaugsson hosted a meeting and working dinner on energy at his residence on 16th September, in the presence of Prime Minister Haarde. The meeting was a collaborative effort between the Embassy and the Windsor Energy Group with 30 guests in attendance. Presentations on geothermal and hydroelectric and Icelandic technical know-how were given by Ásgeir Margeirsson, CEO of Geysir Green Energy, Árni Magnússon, Managing Director at Glitnir Bank, Bjarni Bjarnason, CEO of Landsvirkjun Power, and Runólfur Maack, CEO of Overseas Operations, Mannvit Engineering, after which discussions continued over dinner on the Icelandic experience and the huge potential for increasing the present Icelandic expertise globally.

Iceland Airwaves reception

Ambassador Gunnlaugsson hosted on 8th September a reception as a promotion for the Iceland Airwaves music festival in Reykjavik on 15-19th October. In attendance were 55 influential and prominent people from the UK music industry and press. Iceland Airwaves celebrates its tenth anniversary this year. A new feature will be a conference "You Are In Control" which will guide musicians in the practicalities of establishing themselves globally in the competitive music environment of today. Anna Hildur Hildibrandsdóttir, Managing Director of IMX, Iceland Music Export, is the driving force in bringing Icelandic music and musicians to the UK audience.
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Representation of Greece moved to Oslo

As of 15th September Iceland's representation regarding Greece was transferred from the Embassy in London to the Icelandic Embassy in Oslo. An agreement has been sought for Ambassador Sigríður Dúna Kristmundsdóttir in Oslo, to become Iceland's next Ambassador to Greece. The Embassy extends to Consul General, Mr Lyberopoulos, in Athens our best wishes for the future and thank him for the many years of excellent cooperation.

Presentation of Credentials in Skopje

Earlier this month Ambassador Gunnlaugsson presented his credentials to the President of Macedonia, Branko Crvenkovski, as Iceland's Ambassador to Macedonia. During his stay in Skopje the Ambassador had talks with Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Zoran Petrov and various officials of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He also paid a visit to the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, Trajko Veljanoski. Icelandic companies have already invested over 40 million euros in Macedonia in banking, pharmacies and wine production. The investment is expected to double in the next two years.

Publication of Halldór Laxness biography

The acclaimed biography of the Icelandic Nobel Prize winner, Halldór Laxness, *The Islander*, by Halldór Guðmundsson, translated into English by Phil Roughton, has been published by MacLehose Press in London in co-operation with Quercus Publishing House. The biography was first published by JPV Publishing House in Iceland in 2004 and Mr Guðmundsson was awarded the Icelandic Literary Prize that year for his work.



Emiliana Torrini releases her new album



Following on from her critically acclaimed albums 'Love In The Time Of Science' and her 'Fisherman's Woman', the album 'Me And Armini' was released in the UK on 8th September. 'Me And Armini' is an ambitious and aspirational pop record with Emiliana's soaring voice centre stage, bolstered by a rich gamut of musical styles.

www.emilianatorrini.com



The last project in Greece by the Icelandic Embassy in London, before handing over the Icelandic representation to Oslo, was to prepare and implement a conference on 29th August on the utilisation of geothermal energy in association with Icelandic energy companies and the Greek *Institute of Geology & Mineral Exploration*, IGME. Over 160 people were in attendance, including the Icelandic Prime Minister, Mr Haarde, who was the keynote speaker.