



Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have a pleasure to cordially welcome all participants of the Workshop, who managed to climb Eagle's net. Subject of this workshop is very important for Poland and especially for Polish hard coal industry. It must be mentioned, that this event is organized under International Mining Forum and that it is part of the "School of Underground Exploitation", which is the largest meeting of the society of people connected with the mineral resources mining industry in our country.

Motto of the workshop „New Trends in Coal Methane Recovery and Utilization” fully confirms, that we want to discuss issues, which are important for the safety in mining Industry – important for the natural environment protection – and finally that we want to discuss economical utilization of the methane gas.

I would like to draw your attention on its international character and that it was organized thanks to closed cooperation with such world organizations like UN Economic Commission for Europe and US Environmental Protection Agency and under auspices of Methane to Markets Partnership. We are honored to host specialists from such countries like



- ❑ Ladies and gentlemen – at this point I would like to welcome all participants of our workshop. Let me however direct my special greetings to our foreigner guests.
- ❑ I would like to welcome consuls of the USA: Mr. **Duncan Walker** and Mr. **Michael Sestak** from Kraków, who joined our opening session today. I would like warmly welcome Mrs. **Jayne Somers**, who is representing US Environmental Protection Agency. We are glad to have here Mr. **Clark Talkington** from UN Economic Commission for Europe, who contributed significantly his personal engagement into organization of this event.
- ❑ I would like to welcome representatives of other countries
- ❑ We have pleasure to host representatives of Polish central institutions – I would like to welcome Polish Ministry of Environment – Head Geologist of Poland, who is represented here by Mrs. Zakrzewska. She will pass the message from Minister Jacek Jezierski. Tomorrow afternoon we will host Deputy Minister of Economy in charge of mining and energy sectors – Mr. Eugeniusz Postolski.
- ❑ We have participants of Polish companies, universities and institutions connected with mining – who are engaged into methane issues – who are very much interested in the subjects, which will be discussed here during the workshop. I would like cordially welcome all Polish participants !



Ladies and Gentlemen !



- ❑ I do not have to convince anybody here, that people connected with the mining – especially with underground coal mining – had to face methane hazard for many ages. Methane is dangerous for miners' life, hidden gas. As probably some of you know; already in the middle ages – in Polish salt mines there was profession called „methane burner” they were also called “penitents”. Their job was to burn off by open fire methane, which was accumulated under the roof of excavated salt chambers. Those of you who will participate in the excursion to the Wieliczka salt mine on March 1st; will probably learn about it during underground sightseeing.
- ❑ Despite of enormous technological progress in its identification and implementation of hi-tech technologies for its monitoring systems it is still dangerous and causes catastrophic accidents. They are especially tragic if they cause coal dust explosion, which unfortunately is usually the case.
- ❑ In Poland, Coal Mine Methane first of all occurs in Upper Silesian Coal Basin. It must be emphasized, that it is relatively well recognized from the geological point of view. Its prospective geological resources in Upper Silesian Coal Basin are estimated for 254 billion m³. However balance resources of methane to be exploited are estimated for about 95 billion m³, including almost 30 billion m³ in the mining areas of hard coal mines. It is assumed, that in the under-balanced coal beds and in the deep coal beds (i.e. below 1000m depth) methane resources are estimated for about 65 billion m³. I think that above figures clearly show significant economical value of above methane resources, which can be important factor of Polish gas balance.





- ❑ Problem of economical utilization so significant methane resources requires coordinated actions to be undertaken on the national level, which will allow to use it in the effective way. These are not only coal mines in which methane is being released during the coal exploitation. In the coal mines part of these emissions is being captured during so called drainage ahead of mining and then it is economically utilized. The key problem however to be solved is the significant amount of methane emissions vented to the atmosphere with the ventilation air.
- ❑ Ladies and gentlemen,
- ❑ I also do not have to convince you I believe, that methane plays significant role in the greenhouse gases emissions balance. That is the reason why all actions aiming at its reduction are essential. They can constitute additional source of revenue for the coal mines when utilized, by converting it into carbon credits.
- ❑ As we can clearly see scope of the issues and problems connected with methane is really very wide and that all of them are very important for the realization of the strategy of sustainable development of hard coal mining industry. That is why I believe, the workshop we are starting now was really needed.



- ❑ Having concluded my introduction let me share with you some of my personal reflections. 16 years ago, in the year 1992 – almost exactly at the same time of the year – we have organized in Katowice – symposium focused practically on the same problems – it was organized by Central Mining Institute and UNECE from z Geneva. It was big international symposium – only from USA we had almost 100 participants. At this time I was in charge of its organization and I was also opening it. One year later similar meeting was organized in Ukraine in Donieck. Considering above I can easily evaluate what was changed in CMM domain – what new in its recovery and utilization appeared. I think that we will talk about it and discuss it during this workshop.
- ❑ Dear guests, participants of the workshop, Ladies and gentlemen !
- ❑ I would like to wish all of you satisfaction from the fact that you devoted your very valuable time and that you traveled in many cases very long way to be here – that you devoted to the case, which brings about positive professional emotions – research, business and others. Having analyzed program of the workshop – program of the meetings and the names of the speakers – I am convinced that you will not regret it.



- ❑ I wish all of you pleasant stay in Szczyrk – and in Poland – in the circle of sympathetic people connected with mining. Usually at this time of the year we have beautiful winter here in the Beskidy mountains but unfortunately this year weather is bad and actually is warning us against greenhouse gases effect and in other words it is warning us against methane gas !
- ❑ Thank you for your attention !

