

Despite the importance of the binary R&D and technology innovation, and its dynamics in the Brazilian energy scenario, I take this opportunity (and therefore write in first person) to dedicate this editorial to someone who was extremely important for the creation of this scientific vehicle. I am talking about the Corporate Management Officer of Copel at that time, the company which sponsors Espaço Energia in an unbiased way, a requirement for a publication of this nature, at the time of its creation back in the beginning of 2004, and who came to occupy the post of CEO of the company in the middle of 2010: Mr. Ronald Thadeu Ravedutti.

Upon his recent decease in a car accident, I remembered when the idea of creating the magazine had been quite well received and how he, with his bold and visionary profile, enabled the business, breaking all the barriers that naturally occur on these occasions. Not only that, after launching the periodic in 2004, I recall him commenting, in casual encounters, details of recently published papers. On several opportunities he questioned professionals about matters he had read in the periodic, encouraging an attitude that values modernization, recycling and evolution, both technological and professional. Not only was he the motivator and enabler: he was also experiencing entrepreneurship, knowledge generation and its dissemination.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I quote here, as a tribute to Ronald, the statement of his successor in the highest post of the company, Engineer Raul Munhoz Neto: "He was one of the most motivated and dynamic professionals who bestow to the company their talent and knowledge. That was his style, to actively participate in everything related to Copel".

This issue of Espaço Energia presents only three papers, even with the usual number of submissions made. As usual, the work of the scientific committee has shown a rigorous evaluation, with the aim of contributing to the quality of the papers and consequently of the periodic itself.

The first paper deals, as far as technical and economic aspects are concerned, with the feasibility of using biogas as a source of hydrogen, aiming at energy generation in fuel cells. The work presents two possibilities: the adjustment of the energy plant and the treatment of biogas as a way to allow for the use of biogas in this context. Both options embrace scientific challenges.

The second paper analyses the potential of the use of solar collectors for residential water heating in a specific municipality. The paper is based on the method of calculating the global solar radiation inciding on the inclined plane and it comes to the conclusion that energy savings with the use of solar collectors can be significant and can also contribute to the environment, specially when the demand requires energy generation mechanisms that cause the emission of greenhouse gases.

The third and last paper addresses a topic of great interest to the energy area, namely, the impact of distributed generators on the power distribution system due to reclosing inrush current. The work presents an analytical expression which can be used to determine the maximum size of distributed generators that could be connected to the system without risk of damage to its equipments.

We hope this issue is of great value to our regular readers and all enthusiasts. Let the entrepreneurial and daring style of our honoured person on this issue be of inspiration to all.