



Talking Energy in Corcaigh (or "Cork" as you probably know it)

Posted by [Heading Out](#) on September 16, 2007 - 8:00pm

Topic: [Supply/Production](#)

Tags: [alternative energy](#), [aspo ireland](#), [geothermal](#), [solar power](#) [[list all tags](#)]

Well it was raining in Cork this morning, site of this week's ASPO conference, but by this afternoon it turned out to be somewhat nicer, and so I meandered over to the [The Lifetime Lab](#) where the evening welcome reception was to take place. (Irish descriptions tend to be "at the top of the road", "meet in the City Center", "within walking distance", and so I wanted to be sure I got there). What those who showed up at the reception missed was that this is a recent addition to the Cork Landscape (open just over a year) and is a teaching tool for the community with several thousand school kids a year coming to learn about energy, the alternatives and the issues that will dominate their lives. The staff at the Lab were very kind, as well as informative about what they were doing with geothermal, as well as solar energy (20 sq m of panels on the roof) and, more to the point, took pity on a relatively geriatric case who took nearly an hour to make the "easy 20-minute" stroll out, and drove me back to the hotel.

I will leave each of you to write your own caption to the photo I thought most memorable from the reception. You should know, however, that the "victim" is Dr Campbell who was welcoming us to the reception, and yes the hawk was alive.



The reception itself was actually a whole lot more fun than I had expected. After Nate dragged me over to meet Luis, and we then bumped into Chris, and Euan and . . . (well you get the idea). For those of you who have not lived this site, you may not be aware that the band of dedicated folk who write here have, in many cases, not ever met. We send e-mails, read each other's posts, and it was therefore, I hope, too great a let down when they all got to discover who I am (grin). The food and wine were a great lubricant to get conversations started (Secretary Schlesinger was there and easily accessible). And for those who wonder about the initial photo Dr Campbell was not only on hand to greet us all, but had arranged that a couple of Falconers bring their birds to join in the welcome. Customs are different in Ireland (where the birds are domestically raised) than they are in the United States (where the birds are taken from the wild, trained and ultimately released back) but many of the regulations and restrictions are common – it is not a hobby for the faint-at-heart.

And so, after a fine start (there were somewhat more than a hundred at this reception) we headed back for a “family dinner” of the TOD contributors (and if we missed dragging you along it was my fault – except I wasn't sure who all was here). (And Prof G - we drank a toast to absent friends, with you very much in mind). I won't share those photos with you (grin – just remember that I have them), but there is a synergetic boost that comes from meeting others as informed and committed as yourself to an idea that has to be experienced – it was a great start. Now if I could just survive the wine, tomorrow should be even better.



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