

ACCOMPLISHING STRUCTURAL CHANGE

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What separates companies that survive a recession from those that fall victim to it?

Survivors don't passively await rescue. They remain focussed upon the end game, using the recession and global imperatives as an opportunity to plan, prepare and prime their organisations for post-recession prosperity.

Like the retired boxer running short of cash, we all need to lace up our gloves for one of the greatest come-back stories which will re-shape our industrial and domestic worlds and most importantly, re-shape our attitudes regarding the use of energy, how we use it and how we inform and influence the decisions of policy-makers.

Quite often – policy-makers don't have the full picture.

This is where the learned societal and professional bodies have a part to play.

We cannot rely upon policy makers or their researchers to be able to fully access the knowledge - sharing societies and associations; the educational forums and all of the relevant sources of cutting-edge research.

We must go to them and provide cogent information streams and balanced arguments.

There is an increasing involvement of the learned societies with biological solutions for the many challenges brought about through an ever-increasing demand for energy and resultant impact upon our environment.

Again, balanced information and opinion in a co-ordinated way can be accessed from this sector, saving time, energy and cost.

Societies and knowledge transfer networks must co-ordinate their extensive specialist knowledge and opinion platforms in order to provide a structured approach, strategic vision, but also the detailed provenience of opinion.

In the UK alone, the societies and associations focussing upon molecular and physical sciences will probably have a combined professional membership exceeding 200,000, with possibly 50% of these members around the globe.

Corporate membership of many will also enrich societal perspectives with regard to the applications of science and respective solutions.

My own organisation, the Society of Chemical Industry has a well-honed strapline – 'Where science meets business.' We've been linking business and industry since 1881.

And whilst 'big corporates' and government have well established mechanisms for dialogue, it is often on a smaller scale that strategic solutions are also being identified.

My conclusion therefore in response to the question posed for this session is this:

Let us ensure a better linkage between the Societal, institutional and association sector with government and policy makers.

Please use the vast repository of knowledge we collectively have relating to energy and the environment.

Engage with our collaborative agendas and together, let us set a macro agenda which is clear, respectively owned but shared.

Thank you.