

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We would like to pay tribute to PTPiREE (Polish Association for the Transmission and Distribution of Electrical Energy) as well as to ENERGA from Gdańsk for their initiative shown during the last ICOLIM conference in Prague and concerning organization of the next conference – ICOLIM 2008 – in Poland. We undoubtedly owe it to the many years' activity of Toruń group of electricians with Mr Ryszard Michniewski and Roman Kuczkowski in the lead who for many years took care of systematic training of squads using live working technology. Exploitation works with the use of this technology carried on MV and HV lines are not only the common practice now in Pomerania (in the northern part of Poland) but they were also presented for many times during international meetings of electric power engineers. They were met with approbation as well as they were arousing a great interest among specialists.

The evidence of appreciation of these works and also of technologies elaborated in the PTPiREE Bureau are cups and prizes awarded to Toruń and Grudziądz teams of power engineers during annual competitions organized in the frames of the biggest power industry fair and exhibition event ENERGETAB organized by ZIAD Bielsko-Biała in cooperation with Ministry of Economy, PSE (Polish Power Grid Company), PTPiREE and SEP (Association of Polish Electrical Engineers).

Also a group of enthusiasts gathered in PKBwE SEP (Polish Committee for Security in Electrical Engineering) under the supervision of Mr Bogumił Dudek, greatly contributed to the live working technology successes. Mr Bogumił Dudek was the initiator and main realizer of the idea to publish in the years 2006-2007 in our Energetyka monthly a series of articles named Power Engineering Academy concerning training of squads using live working technology. The articles were published as a result of an agreement between Energetyka and ZIAD Bielsko-Biała sp. z o.o. and thanks to the UE subsidy. The series consisted of 20 articles referring not only to the live working technology but also giving informations about many years' work of international ICOLIM conferences.

In our monthly we pay much attention to problems of exploitation works in power industry and not only the network ones. We also publish materials prepared by experts in diagnosing technical installations. Presented are articles concerning revitalisation of thermal and mechanical units in thermal power stations, describing problems from scientific and technical point of view as many of them refer to definite technical cases realized on definite power industry installations. The present issue of our monthly will not be delivered to our subscribers only – we are going to present it to every participant of 2008 ICOLIM conference and that is why you can find so many bi-lingual articles init. We do hope that members of delegations taking part in debates will be interested in the English version. Taking this opportunity we would like to assure our Worthy Readers that we are ready to publish descriptions of everybody's experience in the field of power industry and present their personal or team achievements to all Colleagues in Europe and in the world. Please feel free to make use of our website [www.energetyka.eu](http://www.energetyka.eu), or the e-mail address: [redakcja@elektroenergetyka.pl](mailto:redakcja@elektroenergetyka.pl)

Referring to the review of modern methods and technologies concerning exploitation of electric installations it might be worth while to call your attention to some limitations and difficulties which accompany the introduction of these methods and technologies into everyday's practice. From my own experience I know very well how difficult it was to apply live working technology on Polish transmission lines. In many cases when there is a need to carry on works on overhead lines intersecting electric traction of important railway routes it would be possible not only to reduce the shut-off time of the line but also not to shut it off at all. One of the arguments used in discussions about traditional and modern methods is that the new technology is supposed to be expensive. But adherents forget about the fundamental duty of power industry which is an uninterrupted supply of energy to end users because in market economy discontinuity of supplies can cost a lot.

Similar difficulties we had in the 90s with a new method to control transmission lines which we tried to introduce to the exploitation practice – emergency and periodical helicopter flights. The same problem concerned introducing digital maps (or generally GIS system) as well as making advantage of the GPS system for positioning routes of 220 and 400 kV lines and localizing transmission towers. All this happened in the times when the USA allowed to use some of their military satellites for civilian purposes and positions of transmission towers on maps according to the so called „passports” issued after erection of a line sometimes differed from their real positions for almost several hundred meters. You can imagine how important it was for power industry representatives dealing with compensation claims laid by landowners.

Fortunately things are running better now and at present we do hope that the 2008 ICOLIM conference review of modern exploitation methods will result in their further popularization in Poland.

Tomasz E. Kołakowski