The availability of an adequate primary energy for the future is one of the essential needs of mankind. After a short summary of the past history of the planet Earth, the lecture will present a description of the present primary energy supply and of the main realistic options for the future. As it is well known, the industrial revolution worldwide has been made possible by the availability of fossil fuels; no doubt they will remain essential also for several decades to come. Today an acceptable continuation of the supply of fossil energies will however demand lower emissions and an appropriate management and control of $\text{CO}_2$. In conclusion, some innovative research & development energy projects will be described.

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