

## *Interview with Elbert Dijkgraaf and Emiel Maasland, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Energy Journal's Campbell Watkins 2018 Best Paper Award Winners*

**Prize awarded since 1989 for the paper designated as the most outstanding of those published in The Energy Journal during the year.**

Award Winning Paper: On the Effectiveness of Feed-in Tariffs in the Development of Solar Photovoltaics. Elbert Dijkgraaf, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Tom P. van Dorp, Solarplaza International BV and Emiel Maasland, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Elbert Dijkgraaf is professor at the Erasmus School of Economics where he holds the chair "Empirical economics of the public sector". He is also fellow of the Tinbergen Institute. Emiel Maasland is affiliated researcher at the Department of Applied Economics of the Erasmus School of Economics and is the founder and managing director of Auctiometrix, an incubatee specialized in auctions. The award-winning article published in The Energy Journal is an adaptation of a master's thesis by one of Prof. Dijkgraaf's students (Tom van Dorp). Dr. Maasland was part of the thesis' evaluation committee.

The paper addresses the question whether or not feed-in tariffs are effective in encouraging the development of solar power. The main finding of the paper is that feed-in tariffs are effective provided that they are well designed. Not only the height of the tariff is important, but also the duration of the contract and the absence/presence of a cap have an impact. Policy consistency is also very important, especially when the tariff is low. "Our study shows that the literature underestimates the potential impact of feed-in tariffs,

as the effect of a well-designed feed-in tariff is much larger than the average effect of the currently applied feed-in tariffs. The total effect of a feed-in tariff can be seven times as large if it is well designed."

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authors started this research because the majority of the existing literature is limited to a descriptive approach to analyzing the effectiveness of feed-in tariffs on the development of solar photovoltaics. The few empirical papers that did estimate the effectiveness of feed-in tariffs did not take design features of feed-in tariffs and policy consistency explicitly into account. In contrast to the award-winning article, these empirical papers were therefore not able to determine what drives the effectiveness of the feed-in tariffs. The award-winning article gives policy makers – via the estimated effects of the different design features – tools to optimize the feed-in tariffs.

In view of the high quality of the papers being published in The Energy Journal, it is a great honor for the authors to receive this award. Receiving this prize encourages the authors to do more energy related studies. The authors are inspired by the many policy discussions during this IAEE conference. Moreover, the diversity of the delegates' backgrounds is valuable for learning about different perspectives and broadening the knowledge of challenges and issues within the field of energy economics.

Engineering, of the Montreal Refinery.

Ms. Labelle explained about the Suncor Company, Oil Sands recovery, the process of the refinery in the Suncor Company and she also mentioned the final products. At the end of the presentation, the Q&A session was opened for all the participants, and then we have a group picture taken.

The next activity is the plant visit, and we were guided by the Senior Engineer, Production and Energy the of Montreal Refinery, Ms. Gisele Tong. We entered the refinery plants by bus, and Ms. Gisele was giving us explanation for each of the plant. We first started with

the water treatment plant, then moving into the crude oil distillation unit. She explained the process of the refinery process, the catalytic and cracking process. The next plant was the butane refinery plant which has very interesting shape, like a massive ball. The last one is the storage units. Many questions were raised during the plant visit.

After spending 2.5 hours in Suncor and finishing all the activities, we went back to Delta Hotel, and we all were very pleased for participating in this field visit. Thank you IAEE!