

## OPENING ADDRESS

Dear participants to the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Thermal Equipment, Renewable Energy and Rural Development (TE-RE-RD 2020),

Dear researchers, ladies and gentleman

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, allow me to welcome you to this event, organized each year by a consortia of Universities, Research Institute and NGO.

This year, the host of the event should have been Constanța Maritime University, that generously offered its support in order to contribute to the event success.

But, in full effort to organize the Conference, to complete the research works, to evaluate it, the pandemic of COVID-19 suddenly appeared, temporarily closing many activities, among which the academic and research ones. In this unfavorable climate to classical scientific events, the organizers decided to move the presentations of the works online, based on the experience gained in the few months of remote teaching activities.

We are using today four parallel channels of Microsoft Teams app, corresponding to the four Conference Tracks, and I hope that the connections will keep stable and will allow the voice and image streaming during all the works period.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We will keep in this edition of our Conference the agreement signed with the prestigious Publishing House - E3S Web of Conferences stipulating that accepted and presented papers will be published and indexed in Web of Sciences, Scopus and other important international scientific databases.

Finally, I wish to thank to all participants to the Conference for their presence here, and especially to the members of the Scientific and Organizing Committees, who worked hard to make it possible.

I also hope that we will be able to organize the 2021 edition in the “face-to-face” format, and I hope that happens in Constanța, as planned for this year.

Prof. Lucian Mihăescu  
Chairman of TE-RE-RD 2020