

Using our geothermal capability abroad to strengthen our domestic GHG mitigation capabilities - Geothermal New Zealand

The New Zealand geothermal community has always played an important role in building the geothermal industry worldwide. Many in our community have spent time working internationally, often based for extended periods within project teams or in advisory roles to governments or international agencies.

In the 1960s New Zealand geothermal experts from (the then) DSIR in particular led early reconnaissance visits into fields in Latin America and East Africa. From the early 1970s GENZL and KRTA began to establish strong international operations, focused initially on Indonesia and Philippines. In the intervening years there are few geothermal projects that have not seen a New Zealand hand in part or all of their development:

- Kenya
- Mexico
- Azores
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Chile
- Comoros
- Ethiopia
- Japan
- Colombia
- Kamchatka
- Nicaragua
- Caribbean
- And the list continues to grow.....

These engagements are mutually beneficial; we have been able to build experience across all types of resources in a range of countries, sharing our knowledge with those with whom we work; learning through this process and, together with our international colleagues, applying fresh skills and innovation to a growing number of new developments.

An essential element of our New Zealand approach is to share information and experiences. We are proud to have built an alumni network of colleagues through our international collaborations, project experience and the post graduate programmes at the Geothermal Institute in Auckland.

The New Zealand Geothermal Association (NZGA) was formed in 1990 and is central to the interests of the New Zealand geothermal community. With a scientific and educational focus, the NZGA promotes coordination and collaboration with activities related to New Zealand and worldwide geothermal research, development and the application of geothermal resources.





Formed in 2012, Geothermal New Zealand Inc. (GEONZ) is an industry association that has an export focus, promoting and marketing New Zealand companies with particular geothermal capabilities and interests in international markets. The current focus is on engagement as part of major EPC operations, moving beyond our ongoing role as leading international geothermal consultants. Drawing from this wide industry base, GEONZ members have built teams that are now partnering with international contractors to bring major projects on line. This has been achieved in Indonesia and opportunities are being explored in East Africa.

The benefit for New Zealand, beyond the current activities and obvious export earnings is that this work is helping us maintain an experienced and engaged geothermal workforce. We all recognise the cyclic nature of the energy sector – the geothermal industry has invested some \$2.5 billion into new plant in New Zealand in the last 10 years; while development of additional generation facilities is unlikely in the next few years, given the flattening of demand growth, our attention is being directed at optimising the operations of existing installations. This domestic focus strengthens our skills and experience in these areas; in parallel the opportunity to export the skills developed during the heavy construction activities, in the last ten years, is allowing us to reinforce these competencies, continuing to share our experience with others through this exposure to international developments.

There is no question that geothermal will continue to be a key part of our national energy mix going forward; international engagement helps ensure that we maintain the skills and experience that saw such a significant growth in our domestic geothermal production in recent years.