Major Global Trends

1. Oil prices are on the rise

Oil prices rose as high as $80/barrel for the first time since 2014; up almost 100% since January 2016. Global oil consumption is expected to hit 100 million barrels per day by the end of 2018. Rising fuel prices could slow down the global economy.

2. Renewables, carbon-free generation, and storage are expanding

In early December 2017, the largest floating solar power station in the world – 40 MW, 800,000 m² was launched in China. Triggered by electric vehicle development, battery technologies are progressing quickly.

3. Climate change objectives are in question as a result of economic growth

Global energy-related CO2 emissions spiked in 2017, reaching a historic high of 32.5 gigatons. The Paris 2015 Climate Accord objective to keep the global temperature rise below 2°C in 2050 is becoming difficult to achieve.

4. China’s growing importance in energy

China is a large consumer with growing needs and the biggest emitter of GHG, well above the US. China is building new coal plants domestically and worldwide, making it a significant global energy equipment provider. Controlling most of the world’s rare earth metals, China is a formidable player in critical resources.

5. The digital revolution is accelerating

Digital adoption has huge potential to decrease costs in the industry and service sectors. IoT and blockchain have witnessed progressive adoption. Grid operators will strongly benefit from digitization. Cybersecurity remains a big concern but this will not prevent utilities from deploying their digital transformation plans.

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