

IGU Strategic Statement 2010





NATURAL GAS FOR A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE

Natural gas is the cleanest, most efficient and versatile of the fossil fuels, making it a unique choice in the path towards a lower carbon energy mix and sustainable future. More importantly, the abundance of natural gas, its competitive cost of supply, its immediate availability and the flexibility to enable renewable energy clearly favours it as the best source to address emission reductions at the lowest cost.

The Global Energy Industry needs to balance

- Security of supply for energy in a growing market, particularly in developing countries, and
- Mitigating the effects of climate change arising from the intensive use of fossil fuels.

Governments are increasingly focusing their energy policies towards the promotion of renewable energy with the objective of developing them as a major future supply base. However, due to a number of political, technical, economic and market related factors, the expected period leading to a substantial renewable energy base will be lengthy and will require significant subsidies. Therefore, in the foreseeable future, fossil fuels will continue to account for a major share of the world's future energy mix.

Given this outlook, and taking into account the advantages of natural gas over the other fossil fuels, the International Gas Union is working proactively with Governments, Regulators and the Gas Industry with focus on the following:

- Promote switching to natural gas in the power and industry sectors replacing more carbon intensive fuels
- Encourage the use of natural gas in transportation sector replacing liquid petroleum products
- Improve efficiency and best practices across the value chain
- Implement policies and regulations enabling the development of gas infrastructure

This can be achieved through the use of proven technologies that will give significant reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases in the short and medium term.

In line with its mission, IGU will continue to

- Promote the exchange of know-how within the industry catalysing the development of new technologies.
- Act as an effective interface between industry and government promoting the advantages of natural gas as a preferred energy source that is part of a low carbon future.
- Monitor the development of energy policies and public opinion to enable the gas industry to anticipate and prepare for both threats and opportunities.

Throughout the world natural gas should be an integral part of our sustainable energy future.