



IGU Strategic Statement 2009

“Natural Gas in a Sustainable Energy Future”

The outlook for the Global Energy Industry is balanced between the need to secure the supply of energy for a growing market – particularly in developing countries – and the commitment to mitigate the effects of climate change arising from the intensive use of fossil fuels.

With the goal of developing a sustainable energy system, governments have focused their energy policies towards the promotion of renewable energies with the long term objective of developing them as the supply base for the future. Currently, however, owing to a number of political, technical and market related reasons, the expected period over which a full transition to renewable energy will occur is long. There will therefore be a considerable period during which a combination of renewables with fossil energy supplies will be needed.

Natural gas is the cleanest, most efficient and versatile of the fossil fuels, making it a unique choice to complement renewable energies in the path towards a sustainable future. Other technology developments such as those enabling the capture and sequestration of CO₂ also support the choice of natural gas.

Given this outlook the world gas industry must be proactive in promoting energy developments particularly in:

- improving efficiency and best practices,
- the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and
- the development of systems that will optimise the use of renewables.

In line with its mission IGU will continue to promote the exchange of know-how within the industry catalysing the development of new technologies in these areas. IGU will also continue to act as an effective interface between industry and governments promoting the advantages of natural gas in the transitional energy mix. In addition, IGU will continue to monitor carefully the future development of government energy policy and public opinion enabling the global gas industry to anticipate and prepare for both threats and opportunities in the decades to come.