



Press Release

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The Secretariats of the **International Energy Forum (IEF)** & **International Gas Union (IGU)**

IEF-IGU 2nd Ministerial Gas Forum

Doha, Qatar, 30 November 2010

Bigger role for natural gas discussed

The 2nd IEF-IGU Ministerial Gas Forum held in Qatar, 30 November 2010, was held under the theme “The Role of Natural Gas in a Sustainable Energy Future”. This second IEF-IGU Ministerial Gas Forum was a further important step in strengthening the global dialogue between natural gas producing and consuming countries, and delegates welcomed the offer by **France to host the 3rd IEF-IGU Ministerial Gas Forum in 2012**.

In Doha on 30 November, government and industry leaders discussed the changing dynamics of the gas markets and the key challenges facing the natural gas industry.

Datuk Rahim Hashim, the President of the IGU underlined *the necessity of enhanced dialogue between policy-makers and industry*. He pointed to *the importance of “improved alignment of business strategies and energy policies to meet the global energy challenge of bringing clean and reliable supplies to a growing population, and at the same time ensure a sustainable economic growth”*

Torstein Indrebo, IGU Secretary General asserted that *“given its availability, environmental qualities and advances in technology, natural gas is an essential part of the global solution to climate change in particular as a substitute fuel in the power sector”*. Indrebo said that *“natural gas is more than a bridge, it’s a destination fuel.”* The role of natural gas in a sustainable energy future is also to be an “enabling” or “dual” fuel to renewables and facilitating increased deployment of energy supply from intermittent renewable technologies.

IEF Secretary General, Noé van Hulst called upon the industry to take the long-term view and continue to invest in the gas value chain despite uncertainties surrounding the global economic downturn and current market conditions characterized by a gas glut and relatively low prices.

Reflecting on recommendations from the 1st IEF – IGU Ministerial Gas Forum, calls from IEF Ministers, the G8 and G20 IEF Secretary General, Noé van Hulst noted that the IEF, in cooperation with its JODI (Joint Oil Data Initiative) partner organizations is working on

the extension of JODI to cover natural gas. The intention is to launch a Gas-JODI Database in 2011 with the aim of helping to improve gas market data transparency to the mutual benefit of producers and consumers.

IEF and IGU noted that projected expansion and lengthening of gas supply chains gives impetus to a growing need for focus on global energy dialogue and that “multilateral agreements and intergovernmental solutions will be increasingly needed to support or bring forward new infrastructure, to jointly explore and exploit new gas reserves, and to help establish robust and secure markets to the benefit of all parties”. The important role to be played by the evolving co-operative relationship between NOCs and IOCs was also emphasised.

The International Energy Forum (IEF) is the world’s largest gathering of Energy Ministers. IEF Countries account for more than 90% of global oil and gas supply and demand. In addition to IEA and OPEC countries, transit states and key energy players, including Brazil, China, India, Mexico, Russia and South Africa, participate in the Forum. The magnitude and diversity of this engagement is a testament to the IEF’s position as a neutral facilitator. Through the Forum and its associated events, IEF Ministers, their officials, energy industry executives, and other experts engage in a dialogue of increasing importance to **global energy security**. The IEF and the **global energy dialogue** are promoted by a permanent Secretariat of international staff based in the Diplomatic Quarter of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The IEF also co-ordinates the **Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI)** in co-operation with APEC. Eurostat, OLADE, OPEC and the UN. For more information please visit the web sites www.ief.org and www.jodidata.org

The International Gas Union (IGU) was founded in 1931 and is a worldwide non-profit organisation aimed at promoting the technical and economic progress of the gas industry. The Union has more than 100 members worldwide in 74 countries on all continents, representing approximately 95% of the world gas market. The members of the IGU are national associations and corporations of the gas industry worldwide. The IGU will be the most influential, effective and independent non-profit organisation, while serving as the spokesman for the gas industry worldwide. IGU organises the World Gas Conference (WGC) every third year, with the forthcoming WGC taking place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in June 2012. IGU has increased its focus on geopolitics and energy strategy recognising that natural gas has an important part to play in satisfying the global need for an environment-friendly energy source. The IGU’s working organisation covers all aspects of the gas industry from exploration and production, storage, LNG, distribution and natural gas utilisation in all market segments. For more information, please visit www.igu.org

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