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ENERGY SECTOR LEADERS CONVENE IN DOHA TO DISCUSS WORLD ENERGY CHALLENGES

International Petroleum Technology Conference acts as platform to address oil and gas industry issues

Doha, Qatar, XX November, 2009: Middle Eastern leaders and global senior industry figureheads from the oil and gas sector will convene in December to discuss the huge challenges they now face due to the significant shift in demand for oil, gas and energy products across the world.

The International Petroleum and Technology Conference (IPTC), held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, will act as a platform to address the major implications the global economic crisis has had on the world's energy sector and to find solutions.

The theme for the fourth edition of the IPTC, taking place from 7 to 9 December 2009, is 'World Energy Challenges: Endurance and Commitment'. His Highness Sheikh Hamad will be joined in opening the conference and exhibition by His Excellency Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Industry for Qatar.

The opening executive plenary session, on Monday 7 December, will focus on how the sector's leaders can mitigate the negative effects of global economic and political volatility, and how the financial crisis can be turned into an opportunity for the industry to devote resources to increase efficiency in the production and use of fossil fuels.

Delegates will be called upon to confirm their commitment to explore more efficient ways to produce energy and cleaner fuels to alleviate greenhouse gas emissions, as well as stimulate discussions on investing in new extraction and processing technologies in order to exploit unconventional hydrocarbon resources.

Furthermore, the discussions will address sustainable energy solutions and stable investment conditions, particularly from more difficult and unconventional resources, and the need to recruit and retain skilled and experienced people.

“In light of the global economic crisis, the energy sector is entering a new phase of its growth and we are all facing huge challenges,” said Khalid Al-Hitmi, Manager Gas Development at Qatar Petroleum and Co-Chairman for the IPTC Conference Programme.

“An industry event such as the IPTC, one of the few multi-disciplinary events of its kind in this region, helps our colleagues come together to discuss how we face these challenges and more importantly, devise strategies to overcome them.”

“We have seen a dramatic reduction in hydrocarbon prices which has led to the reconsideration of investment conditions,” said Olivier Dubrule, Director of Total Research Centre – Qatar (TRC-Q) and Co-Chairman for the IPTC Conference Programme. “Yet we know there is a long-term energy demand which will continue to surge as the global population grows beyond 7 billion and standards of living in China and India continue to rise.

“These factors all combine to make this one of the most exciting phases of the energy sector’s development and the outcomes from the IPTC will have global resonance.”

The IPTC, which returns to the Middle East from Kuala Lumpur in 2008 and has now been established as a biennial event is endorsed by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC). It is the only event in the region organised and supported by all of the oil and gas industry’s leading societies.

Four panel sessions will take place during the event to address important industry issues.

The themes are:

- Environmental solutions and sustainability (flaring reduction, CCS, drilling technology, efficiency improvement)
- Global workforce capability and capacity
- Global gas outlook: new gas chains
- Renewal of reserves: exploration, improved recovery and unconventional

The 2009 IPTC exhibition, which runs alongside the conference from 7-9 December, will offer industry professionals from around the world a platform to showcase the latest technology, services and products to a targeted oil and gas audience.

Industry professionals who are interested in booking delegate and exhibition spaces are being encouraged to act now to take advantage of discounted rates and accommodation in Qatar, arranged by the organisers of IPTC. More information can be found at www.iptcnet.org/2009.

In addition to OPEC and OAPEC, IPTC is endorsed by the International Association of Drilling Contractors, International Gas Union, Qatar Geological Society, Qatar Society of Engineers, and the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers.

IPTC is hosted by Qatar Petroleum, co-hosted by Total, and supported by its sponsors ExxonMobil, Wintershall, RasGas, Shell, PETRONAS, BP, Kuwait Oil Company, Saudi Aramco, OXY, Qatar Gas, Baker Hughes and Schlumberger.

Caption 1: Khalid Al-Hitmi, Manager Gas Development at Qatar Petroleum and Co-Chairman for the IPTC Conference Programme.

Caption 2: Olivier Dubrule, Director of Total Research Centre – Qatar (TRC-Q) and Co-Chairman for the IPTC Conference Programme. Middle Eastern leaders and senior figureheads from the world's energy sector will come together in Qatar later this year at the International Petroleum Technology Conference, to discuss how the industry is tackling the effects of the economic crisis.

Ends

Notes to Editors

The International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC) is an international oil & gas conference and exhibition. The event rotates various venues in the Eastern Hemisphere. The scope of the conference programme and associated industry activities will address technology and relevant industry issues that challenge industry specialists and management around the world, particularly in the gas business and certain overarching issues such as HSE, Security, HR and training.

The IPTC is a collaborative effort among the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG); the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers (EAGE); the Gas Processors Association (GPA); the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG); and the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE). The synergy of these five leading individual-member driven societies provides the most comprehensive opportunity to form multi-disciplinary committees and an outstanding technical programme.

Regional oil ministers, industry leaders and governmental representatives will have an opportunity to discuss and share their views on timely industry topics and trends, exchange expertise and experience, present state-of-the-art technology and innovation, and to stimulate further research of technical and business activities. In addition, awards and recognition will be given for individual and organisation efforts for technical and business contributions to the industry. There will also be a range of integrated social activities to encourage networking and off-line discussion.

The Conference Programme will be focused on dissemination of new and current technology, best practices and multi-disciplinary activities designed to emphasise the importance of the “value chain” and maximising asset value. The knowledge, capabilities and strengths of the participating countries and the sponsoring societies’ global membership, over the spectrum of multi-disciplinary technologies, will be central to the success of the conference and the corresponding exhibition.

More than 3,000 comprising delegates from around the world. In the inaugural event in 2005, the conference hosted 2,809 delegates and visitors representing 49 countries from Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and North America. This rose to 3,682 participants from 80 countries for the 2007 event held in Dubai, U.A.E. The third edition in 2008, the first to be held in Asia Pacific, attracted over 7,500 attendees from 57 countries. It is expected that delegate numbers will include a significant percentage of the sponsoring societies’ membership.