

Press Release

Issued by

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

IEF-IGU 1st Ministerial Gas Forum

Vienna, Austria 24 November 2008

Joint IEF-IGU Summary Statement

The first IEF-IGU Ministerial Gas Forum held in Vienna, 24 November 2008, with the participation of Ministers and delegates from gas producing and consuming countries, top executives from industry and senior officials from international organizations was held under the theme *“The world gas markets going from regional to global”*. This first IEF-IGU Ministerial Gas Forum was an important step forward in promoting and strengthening a global dialogue between natural gas producing and consuming countries, and delegates welcomed the offer by **Qatar to host the 2nd IEF-IGU Ministerial Gas Forum in 2010.**

In Vienna on 24 November, Ministers and industry leaders discussed the changing dynamics of the gas markets and the key challenges facing the natural gas industry.

Natural gas demand is expected to continue growing in the future, mainly driven by power generation. Demand is growing most rapidly in newly emerging countries like China and India as well as in the Middle East. While acknowledging that natural gas reserves are amply available to meet future demand, they noted that the most recent estimates put the global investment required in the gas industry up to 2030, at \$ 5.5 trillion or about \$ 230 billion annually. *‘A staggering amount, in particular against the backdrop of the global financial crisis’*, said Torstein Indrebo, Secretary General of IGU.

Ministers and industry leaders observed that inter-regional gas trade is likely to more than double in the coming decades with the Middle East emerging as a major exporting region alongside Russia and Central Asia. LNG trade is growing most rapidly and globalizing very fast, with new countries and companies entering the game.

Improving energy efficiency and energy conservation across the board in both gas consuming and producing countries was highlighted not only for its role in curbing CO₂ emissions but also for its promise to enhance the export potential of gas producing countries.

Ministers and industry leaders noted the growing interdependence between producing and consuming countries, encouraged more cross-investment and advocated that NOCs and IOCs should further enhance cooperation and partnership to develop human resources and encourage R & D efforts in pursuit of efficiency and cost improvements through technological advances.

Ministers and industry leaders also advocated that all parties should work towards improvements in the transparency of oil and gas markets and reduce uncertainties that hamper investment. *'Ministers and industry leaders had a fruitful exchange on the subject of whether and how a mechanism of gas data reporting similar to the Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI) would enhance gas market transparency'* said Noé van Hulst Secretary General of the IEF.

The shared understanding is that through an enhanced and sustained dialogue natural gas stakeholders can better address key challenges facing the gas industry such as market transparency, investment, interdependence, transit and contractual frameworks.

IEF

The International Energy Forum gathers Ministers of energy producing and consuming countries, of industrialized and developing countries in a global dialogue on energy. In the IEF Ministers address issues of energy security and the links between energy, environment and economic development. Their global dialogue transcends traditional political, economic and energy policy dividing lines of nations at a time of increasing interdependencies. Recognizing the crucial role of industry, IEF Ministers interact with CEOs of leading energy companies in the International Energy Business Forum. IEF is also coordinating the Joint Oil Data Initiative in cooperation with APEC, Eurostat, IEA, OLADE, OPEC and the UN. For more information visit the website www.iefs.org.sa

IGU

The International Gas Union is a worldwide non-profit organization aiming at promoting the technical and economical progress of the gas industry. The union has over 100 members worldwide in 71 countries on all continents. The members of IGU are national corporations of the gas industry. IGU's working organization covers all aspects of the gas value chain from exploration and production, transmission, storage, LNG, and distribution. IGU promotes continuous improvement of corporate performance towards a sustainable development. For more information visit the website www.igu.org

Contact:

Simon Stoddart
International Energy Forum
Industry & Media Affairs
+966 506 197 806
simon.stoddart@iefs.org.sa

Erik Gonder
International Gas Union
Advisor & Press Contact
+47 22 53 63 82
ergon@StatoilHydro.com