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IGU press release following the IGU Gas Event at COP 15 in Copenhagen

Message from IGU: Natural gas is imperative for solving the climate challenge

The International Gas Union (IGU) Gas Event at the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen took place on 13 December. More than 110 participants from COP15 delegations, NGOs and other invited guests were present. The event included keynote speakers as Mr Nobuo Tanaka, Executive Director of IEA; Mr Jos Delbeke, Deputy Director of DG Environment, European Commission; Mr Anders Eldrup, CEO of DONG Energy; Mr Helge Lund, CEO of Statoil, and several gas industry representatives from USA, India, Germany, Great Britain and Norway.

“Presence in Copenhagen is regarded important by IGU. Increased use of natural gas, the most environmental friendly of the fossil fuels, should be more generally accepted as a way to fulfil the emission targets discussed by the COP15 delegates”, said the President of IGU, **Datuk Rahim Hashim**, Malaysia. *“IGU regards natural gas being part of the long term solution in a low-carbon energy future”,* he added.

Mr Nobuo Tanaka, Executive Director of IEA referred to shale gas developments in USA as the “the silent revolution” which has more than doubled the gas reserves in the country. Referring to the IEA World Gas Outlook 2009, he also warned that falling energy investments will have far-reaching consequences with potentially serious consequences for energy security, climate change and energy poverty.

Major reductions in carbon emissions cannot be achieved in the short and medium term without a much stronger commitment to gas. Natural gas has become abundant, flexible and competitive. With its environmental benefits, this clean fuel should be considered part of the climate change solution, the speakers told the meeting. Increased use of gas in electricity generation reduces greenhouse gas emissions significantly compared to coal and other more polluting fuels. Fuel switching to gas can provide significant reductions of global CO₂ emissions. Use of gas in the transportation sector will not only reduce CO₂ emissions, but also improve the air quality dramatically as gas has virtually no particles compared to diesel fuel.

At present around 1.6 billion people worldwide has no access to electricity and have to rely on biomass and cutting down forest which. Technology transfer to these regions is important and IGU will seek a more active role in this field.

The Secretary General of IGU, **Mr Torstein Indrebø**, Norway, stated *“Increased use of natural gas can take place without the huge subsidies required for renewables since we have the technology, the availability and the infrastructure. Technological development will continue in ar-*



eas of CCS and renewables, but it will take many years before such technologies can be deployed in large scale, and we cannot sit and wait till that is available”.

Other speakers in Copenhagen during the IGU Gas Event were:

- Mr Paul Wilkinson, Vice President of Policy Analysis, American Gas Association
- Ms Manoelle Lepoutre, Senior Vice President, Sustainable Development, TOTAL
- Mr Nigel Shaw, General Manager, Strategy and Portfolio, BG Group
- Mr Rajesh Vedvyas, Managing Director, Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL), India
- Mr Stephan Ramesohl, Head of Research & Development, E.ON Ruhrgas
- Kjell Pedersen, President and CEO of Petoro, Norway

The international Gas Union (IGU)

The International Gas Union (IGU) was established in 1931. The members of IGU are associations and entities representing the gas industry in 74 countries. IGU is a worldwide, non-profit organisation; its secretariat is currently located in Oslo. Torstein Indrebø from Statoil, who is heading the secretariat, was elected secretary general in October 2007.

The objective of IGU is to promote technological and economic progress in the gas industry. IGU cooperates with a number of global energy organisations. IGU's working organisation covers all aspects of the gas industry, from exploration and production of natural gas on- or offshore, via pipelines and distribution systems to the consumers and the combustion of gas at the point of use.

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