



Press Release

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International Gas Union (IGU)

United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP16)

Natural Gas Symposium
Cancún, Mexico, 5 December 2010

Natural Gas takes a key role in climate change mitigation

The Natural Gas Symposium, organised by the international Gas Union (IGU) together with its partner, Worldwatch Institute (Worldwatch)), has been concluded in Cancún, Mexico.

The industry underlined toward COP16 delegates, NGOs, IGOs and other stakeholders that natural gas is environmentally acceptable, affordably priced and with abundant supply. It was also stated that increasing the use of natural gas in power generation can play an important role in meeting increasing demand for electricity globally, and at the same time reduce the carbon footprint,

Datuk Rahim Hashim, President of the IGU underlined *“the necessity of enhanced dialogue between policy-makers and industry to help natural gas regain its rightful place as the fuel of choice for a clean, sustainable energy future. “* He also added *“In recent years, natural gas has not been featured in many policy debates around the world. Instead we see a growing interest in renewable energy sources, although they cannot be made commercially available without huge subsidies from governments. There is a growing global concern about public budgets, and natural gas presents a ready solution that will address the twin challenges of climate change and energy security. IGU is pleased to continue this gas event from COP15 in Copenhagen, this time together with Worldwatch Institute. “*

In addition to industry speakers, the Natural Gas Symposium featured high ranking invited speakers such as, Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella, Director General, UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), Mr Nobuo Tanaka , Executive Director, International Energy Agency (IEA), Senator Timothy Wirth, President of UN Foundation and member of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change (AGECC). The EU Commission was represented through Mr Jos Delbeke, Director-General, Directorate-General for Climate Action.

Torstein Indrebø, Secretary General of IGU, asserted that *“natural gas offers environmental qualities, advances in technology, and that there is no need for subsidies to have it produced. Natural gas is an essential part of the global solution to climate change, in particular as a preferred fuel in the power sector. Gas fired power plants are also an ideal partner to complement the intermittency of wind and solar power “*.

The industry's response to the CO2 challenge focuses on technological cost-effective solutions which are available now , and use of natural gas in the power sector is the major contribution. The industry, through IGU as spokesman, hopes that negotiators at the COP will underline commitment to a carbon market based approach to tackle the climate change challenge. This would provide the most effective way of responding, ensuring that those options that offer the lowest cost and fastest to implement are used first. The industry representatives said that natural gas should be regarded as a vital ally in the search for a sustainable energy future.

The Presidents of IGU and Worldwatch underlined that *“both organisations intend to continue to address the climate challenges facing the world, and at the same time also to present the essentials facts about natural gas to the public, including during the UNFCCC COP negotiations “*

In 2012, IGU will from 4-8 June host the world's biggest gas event, the 25th World Gas Conference, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

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