



COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO PROMOTE GAS AS A FUEL FOR A CLEANER FUTURE

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The Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) is a recognised international, governmental organisation established in Tehran in 2001. It provides the framework for the exchange of experience, views, information and coordination around the whole spectrum of the gas value chain among its member countries, with a view to meeting the Forum's objectives, namely: to support member countries' sovereign rights over their natural gas resources and their ability to independently plan and manage the sustainable, efficient and environmentally conscious development, use and conservation of natural gas resources for the benefit of their peoples.

Natural gas is the cleanest fossil fuel and is branded "AAA" source of energy, as it is Abundant, Accessible, and Affordable. It is increasingly getting more attention from energy companies as well as policy makers for investment, development, and its use in different sectors – especially in power generation. Growing environmental consciousness, as well as the crisis arising from pollution, have forced all societies to help increase the penetration and use of gas.

According to the forecast made by the GECF Global Gas Model, gas will be the fastest-growing fuel over the next 25 years, along with renewables, with its share in the global primary energy mix reaching 25 per cent in 2040 from 21 per cent in 2015.

It is on this basis that the GECF is keen to promote the use of natural gas and to develop a good understanding about its advantages in the context of striving towards a cleaner environment and meeting global climate change targets.

Gas will play a fundamental role in the transition to a low-carbon economy. The Paris COP21 climate agreement gave a certain boost to gas demand. As countries firm-up their commitments and move from Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), gas will be the solution to avoid more pollution and to meet the climate change targets. In fact, mitigation of climate change is too complicated to be addressed by a single policy solution based on the use of renewables alone. The intermittent nature of renewables, as well as the difficulty of accessibility and affordability, poses a real challenge to their use. Therefore, natural gas is urgently needed in combination with renewables in order to ensure a 'safe landing' in the transition to a green economy.

To achieve these noble objectives, the GECF believes in not only working with each other as members and observers, but also in developing dialogue with all industry stakeholders.



Ship unloading at liquefied natural gas terminal

In this vein, the GECF Summit Declarations have shown a common determination to promote open and constructive dialogue with natural gas importers through international and regional energy organisations and fora on issues of importance to them in the natural gas sector, with the aim of sharing risks equitably between suppliers and consumers of natural gas.

The same message is also echoed in the GECF Long Term Strategy that recognised the role of cooperation as a core value to deal with the GECF challenges via the use of initiatives such as communication with relevant stakeholders to promote dialogue and foster interaction.

In fact the changing dynamics of the gas market, the pressing need to comply with the climate change and environmental targets, require all exporters and importers as well as all other stakeholders especially energy companies to develop more frequent and efficient communications and dialogue to address the prevailing challenges facing the world economy and energy markets.

It is in this context that the GECF joined IEF and other peer organisations to create JODI-Gas and is keen to play an important and an effective role in ensuring the gas data transparency initiative.

Acknowledging the importance of dialogue in the energy sector, as well as the importance of promoting natural gas as the fuel of choice, the GECF reiterates its determination to play a central role in promoting natural gas, facilitating transparency, and sharing views and information with the energy world. ■

1 Algeria, Bolivia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Iran, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.

Observer Countries: Iraq, the Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Peru, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan