

# The 'Petroleum Olympics' return to Moscow

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With over 55,000m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space, 5000 attendees and more than 500 CEOs, presidents and government ministers attending, the 21st World Petroleum Congress will be the largest oil and gas event in 2014. The Congress provides unparalleled opportunities for networking and building international cooperation, and a unique chance to learn about the latest scientific and technological advances in the global oil and gas industry.

This huge event is being organised by the Russian National Committee of the World Petroleum Council under the leadership of the Russian Federation and the heads of relevant Russian Ministries. The Government of the Russian Federation has issued two decrees on this matter and formed a high-level Organising Committee. The Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, A.V. Dvorkovich is the Chairman of the 21st WPC Organising Committee. This committee includes the heads of the largest Russian oil companies and banks, representatives of the federal government as well as the leading scientists of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

With industry leaders and decision makers addressing the Congress, the comprehensive technical programme will cover the whole spectrum of the oil and gas sector, including upstream, downstream, gas, sustainable management of the industry and the Arctic. High-level plenary sessions, special sessions, forums, round tables and best practice keynotes will provide expert views and knowledge about the latest developments in the industry.

Ministers from countries such as Angola, Colombia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Nigeria, Qatar, and Norway will be addressing the Congress, as well as the heads of companies and organisations such as Rex Tillerson, Chairman of the Board of Directors at Exxon Mobil Corporation, Maria das Graças Silva Foster, CEO of Brazil's Petrobras, HE Abdalla Salem El-Badri, the OPEC Secretary General, Bob Dudley, Group Chief Executive of BP, Maria van der Hoeven, Executive Director of the IEA, Dr Daniel Yergin, Vice Chairman of IHS and Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Prize*, and over 500 other industry leaders and decision makers.

The theme for the 21st World Petroleum Congress in Moscow is "Responsibly Energising a Growing World."

The Congress will address this ambitious goal by debating all aspects of energy supply and energy use. Access to energy is fundamental to development and improving peoples lives. The Congress will focus the

debate on solutions and innovation in producing energy, and on its reliable, sustainable and wise use in both a near- and long-term perspective.

To meet the global energy demand, the producers, consumers, society and governments need to work in close cooperation to develop energy resources in a responsible way.

The Social Responsibility Programme at the 21st World Petroleum Congress has adopted the theme of "Earning a Social License to Operate". This theme was selected in recognition of the important role that the petroleum industry can, and does, play in promoting the economic and social progress of communities in which they operate. Understanding and managing societal expectations in resource extraction is key to establishing positive working relations with communities and the bodies that govern them. It has often been said that while governments grant permits, it is the community that gives permission, and ultimately a social license to operate.

Social responsibility has evolved to be much more than just "doing good deeds". Today it must seek to inform, involve and inspire stakeholders and those impacted, in order to make them advocates and partners in the development and ongoing operations of our industry.

The Congress will explore how best to fully integrate social responsibility as part of an overall business strategy, opening new doors to exciting opportunities when used effectively. High-level sessions will bring together industry leaders and stakeholders to explore these issues. Ministers and heads of companies including IndianOil, Repsol, Ecopetrol, and the OPEC Fund for International Development will be addressing how the need for energy, vital for economic development and progress, can be met while addressing environmental and social impacts associated with increasing demand for energy resources. ■

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