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OPEC ENDORSES DOHA'S INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

Major oil giants to promote upstream operations at 2009 IPTC exhibition

Doha, Qatar, XX August, 2009: The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has lent its endorsement to the forthcoming International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC), taking place in Doha, Qatar.

OPEC, a permanent inter-governmental organisation made up of 12 oil-exporting countries, helps to coordinate and unify petroleum policies, ensuring stabilisation of oil prices in international oil markets.

Its endorsement of IPTC is significant to the success of the multi-disciplinary conference and exhibition. IPTC will provide the most thorough conference programme available in the oil and gas sector, this year covering 58 technical sessions, four panels and high level plenary; the event is one of the few in the industry which offers an opportunity to participate in such comprehensive discussions.

The theme of the fourth edition of the IPTC, held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, is 'World Energy Challenges: Endurance and Commitment'. The event, which returns to the Middle East from Kuala Lumpur in 2008 and has now been established as a biennial event is also endorsed by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

The 2009 IPTC exhibition, which runs alongside the conference from 7-9 December, will offer industry professionals from around the world a platform to showcase the latest technology, services and products to a targeted oil and gas audience.

Major international oil giants ExxonMobil, Total and Shell, which are currently building some of the world's largest energy projects, are taking part in the IPTC exhibition to promote their Middle Eastern and global operations.

Exhibitors and delegates will be given a unique opportunity to learn about Pearl Gas to Liquids (GTL), the world's largest GTL plant, which will cement Qatar's position as the GTL capital of the world, as well as the Qatargas 4 Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project, which will contribute to achieving Qatar's vision in becoming the world's largest LNG supplier.

Organisations such as ADNOC, ARAMCO, Qatar Petroleum and Schlumberger are taking part in the 2009 IPTC exhibition to share their expertise with industry colleagues and highlight developments within their organisations.

"IPTC's exhibition space has grown by 40 per cent since the inaugural event in 2005. This year the conference presentations and networking events will take place on the exhibition show floor, maximising interaction among industry colleagues," said Waleed Refaay, Project Director for IPTC 2009.

"The 2009 IPTC exhibition represents a turning point in the dialogue between stakeholders in the oil and gas business, bringing together industry leaders and major companies with service providers and subcontractors.

"The event is a collaborative effort from the world's leading oil and gas societies AAPG, EAGE, GPA, SEG and SPE, who are working together to make this the most successful IPTC yet. We are attracting the highest calibre delegates, including members from these societies, leveraging the quality of the IPTC to new heights."

New features to the exhibition will ensure it provides exhibitors and conference delegates the most comprehensive programme yet. Country pavilions from China, Denmark, Italy, India, Malaysia and North America will provide insight to regional energy markets, upcoming projects, future trends and challenges.

Furthermore, IPTC will offer dedicated exhibition space to draw attention to specific oil and gas issues. Pavilions for Digital Energy, Gas Processing, Environmental and HSS, and University and Academia will accommodate special activities in line with the industry segments.

Industry professionals who are interested in booking delegate and exhibition spaces are being encouraged to act now to take advantage of discounted rates and accommodation in Qatar, arranged by the organisers of IPTC. More information can be found at www.iptcnet.org/2009.

In addition to OPEC and OAPEC, IPTC is endorsed by the International Association of Drilling Contractors, International Gas Union, Qatar Geological Society, Qatar Society of Engineers, and the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers.

IPTC is supported by its sponsors Qatar Petroleum, Total, ExxonMobil, Wintershall, RasGas, Shell, PETRONAS, BP, Kuwait Oil Company, Saudi Aramco, OXY, Baker Hughes and Schlumberger.

Caption: His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar (centre, left) and His Excellency Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Industry, Qatar (centre, right) at the VIP opening of the IPTC exhibition in Qatar in 2005. The 2009 edition of IPTC returns to Qatar, 7 to 9 December.

Ends

Notes to Editors

The International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC) is an international oil & gas conference and exhibition. The event rotates various venues in the Eastern Hemisphere. The scope of the conference programme and associated industry activities will address technology and relevant industry issues that challenge industry specialists and management around the world, particularly in the gas business and certain overarching issues such as HSE, Security, HR and training.

The IPTC is a collaborative effort among the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG); the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers (EAGE); the Gas Processors Association (GPA); the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG); and the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE). The synergy of these five leading individual-member driven societies provides the most comprehensive opportunity to form multi-disciplinary committees and an outstanding technical programme.

Regional oil ministers, industry leaders and governmental representatives will have an opportunity to discuss and share their views on timely industry topics and trends, exchange expertise and experience, present state-of-the-art technology and innovation, and to stimulate further research of technical and

business activities. In addition, awards and recognition will be given for individual and organisation efforts for technical and business contributions to the industry. There will also be a range of integrated social activities to encourage networking and off-line discussion.

The Conference Programme will be focused on dissemination of new and current technology, best practices and multi-disciplinary activities designed to emphasise the importance of the “value chain” and maximising asset value. The knowledge, capabilities and strengths of the participating countries and the sponsoring societies’ global membership, over the spectrum of multi-disciplinary technologies, will be central to the success of the conference and the corresponding exhibition.

More than 3,000 comprising delegates from around the world. In the inaugural event in 2005, the conference hosted 2,809 delegates and visitors representing 49 countries from Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and North America. This rose to 3,682 participants from 80 countries for the 2007 event held in Dubai, U.A.E. The third edition in 2008, the first to be held in Asia Pacific, attracted over 7,500 attendees from 57 countries. It is expected that delegate numbers will include a significant percentage of the sponsoring societies’ membership.