

## Press Release

January 12 2010

Qatar University's 2nd Annual Gas Processing Symposium 2010 opened yesterday, attended by government and diplomatic dignitaries, industry officials, experts, researchers and students. The opening ceremony was held in Al Wosail Hall at the Ritz Carlton Hotel.

The 4-day symposium, organized by the Gas Processing Center (GPC), follows the success of the first one in January 2009. It is being held under the patronage of H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad the Heir Apparent.

This year's theme is sustainable development.

H E Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy & Industry, in his keynote address at the Plenary Session, noted that Qatar has a leading role in the field of gas industry development, specifically LNG, which he said, plays a crucial part in expanding business partners and fostering strategic cooperation ties between the State and other countries in the world through meeting and responding to the needs of importing countries for clean energy at the regional and international level.

H E Al-Attiyah expressed his confidence that participants in the Symposium will present invaluable visions on the latest trends and developments in gas industry through the topics that will be addressed in the sessions.

Also presenting were QU President Prof Sheikha Abdulla Al-Misnad, General Manager – Qatar Dolphin Energy Ltd Mr Adel Ahmed Albuainain, Executive Vice President Qatar Shell Mr Andy Brown, and President and General Manager ExxonMobil Qatar Mr Alex Dodds.

Prof Al-Misnad said: "We are grateful and proud of all the distinguished companies that have joined hands with the Gas Processing Center, believing in its mission and supporting its vision to lead knowledge management and application research in gas processing. Symposia such as this one highlight the critical importance of partnerships between academia and industry.

"The main theme of this year's Symposium, sustainability, is both timely and appropriate", Prof Al-Misnad said, adding, "It is my sincere hope that academics will "walk away from this symposium with a better understanding of the industry's practical challenges, and that representatives of the gas industry listen to the analyses and conclusions of academic research."

Adel Ahmed Albuainain's presentation "Dolphin Energy: Positive Energy" highlighted the company's projects, its agreements with Qatar-based and external energy industries, and its commitment to health and safety and

protection of the natural and social environment. Albuainain highlighted the company's social responsibility program which was launched with Qatar Ministry of Environment, adding that Dolphin employs business processes that focus on efficiency, investment in people, ethical conduct, social responsibility, and profit and growth.

Andy Brown presented on "Gas Processing – Technology that Brings Molecules to Markets and helps tackle the world's energy challenge" in which he noted the extraordinary energy challenges the world is currently facing.

"There is no doubt that technology will play a crucial role in unlocking the solutions to this challenge - but it is also true that gas - as a clean energy source - will play an increasingly important role in meeting the world's energy needs. That is why this symposium is so important", he stated.

Alex Dodds said: "This is a great opportunity for industry leaders like Qatar Petroleum, ExxonMobil and my other distinguished colleagues on the panel to get together and discuss the key challenges and opportunities in the field of sustainability in gas processing including operation, design, environmental impacts and energy efficiency".

He noted that some of the symposium themes such as environment, safety, energy efficiency have been focus areas of ExxonMobil in Qatar for many years. He further highlighted the company's development objectives, its commitment to Qatar Vision 2030, research programs on environmental management and LNG safety technologies; joint ventures with other energy companies on safety and cost-efficiency; and its practice of hiring, training and developing Qataris for key engineering and managerial roles.

The Plenary Session also included the presentation of awards by Prof Al Misnad to Mr Francois Lallemand for Excellence in Gas Processing Practice; Prof Kenneth Hall for Excellence in Gas Processing Research; and Mr Mohamed Y Al-Mulla for Advancement in Qatari Processing Industry.

Awards were also presented to Gasna (OurGas) school competition winners Joaan Independent School (Category 1); Sri Lankan School (Category 2) and Abdullah Al-Ali Al-Misnad Independent Secondary School for Boys (Category 3).

The symposium will continue over the next three days with technical sessions covering such topics as natural gas processing technologies, environmental sustainability, energy efficiency in operations, design & safety, and operational excellence. An exhibition by industry companies and a poster session will be on display throughout the duration of the Symposium.