Qatar is pleased to host the 6th edition of the IEF’s Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER6) under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar. The conference will be inaugurated by His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Prime Minister, Minister of Interior of the State of Qatar. I take this opportunity to welcome all the participants and attendees of this very important Asian Energy conference.

This gathering of Asian energy ministers and industry experts is of great significance to the global energy dialogue. The focus of the conference will be on important energy related issues, namely “Oil Markets: a new normal or just another cycle, and what does it mean for Asia?”; “Gas and coal in Asia’s energy mix: interactions and uncertainties”; and “Delivering on the clean energy with special reference to the prospects and the role for policy”.

The number of ministers and government officials participating at this roundtable is a tribute to the value that governments and international organisations place on the importance of this conference where key energy issues are going to be discussed.

The significance of this conference is heightened by virtue of the fact that Asia is the biggest energy producing as well as consuming region. This conference provides an ideal platform for both the energy producers and consumers to share their views and concerns about energy security and engage in meaningful discussions to arrive at a consensus and way forward.

This conference is an apt occasion to review and reflect on the consequences and prospects of the energy market in the aftermath of the last one and a half years of extreme challenges and turbulence, duly taking into consideration the economic and political ground realities and their current and future impact on the energy market. This will ensure development of sustainable supplies to match the growth in demand.

In addition, the momentum for climate action too has accelerated over the past few months in the run-up to the COP 21 Conference to be held later this month in Paris. It is important that the industry adopts a unified position, advocating a larger role for natural gas in the global energy mix with emphasis on global and fair policy. We therefore need a collaborative and more visible effort to communicate to the world at large a coherent message about the environmental and economic benefits of clean fuel.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my best wishes to all the guests and participants for fruitful discussions in this prestigious conference.

The skyline of Doha, capital of the State of Qatar, host of 6th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER6)