

Opening Remarks of the Chairman

**H.E. Dr. Mohammed Bin Saleh Al-Sada,
Minister of Energy & Industry, State of Qatar**

Plenary Session 2

Titled:

**“Gas and Coal in Asia’s Energy Mix:
Interactions and Uncertainties”**

Within the

Sixth Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable

Monday 9th of November, 2015

11:30 hrs. – 13:00 hrs.

Sheraton, Doha, Qatar

**Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I, very cordially welcome you all to this Plenary Session, which has been titled the ‘Gas and Coal in Asia’s Energy Mix: Interactions and Uncertainties’.

It is indeed a complex and vast subject to cover in the allotted time. But I am happy that very eminent and qualified personalities in Asian Energy industry have been invited to this plenary session, to enrich us with their valuable views.

These eminent personalities who are present here today include, His Excellency Mr. Sudirman Said, Minister of Energy & Mineral Resources of Indonesia; His Excellency Mr. Tsuneo Kitamura, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and H.E. Mr. Kirill Molodtsov, Deputy Minister of Energy, Russian Federation.

In addition to Their Excellencies we have with us here two eminent personalities associated with energy industry who have very kindly consented to set the scene for this plenary session namely, His Excellency Dr. S.M. Hossein Adeli, Secretary General, GECF and Dr. Ivan Martin, Managing Director, Boston Consulting Group.

Before we get to business, let me, on behalf of all of you, welcome my fellow panelists and the scene setters, and thank them for their kind consent to share their views and valuable time with us here today. May I request you, Ladies and Gentlemen, to give them all, a big hand.

(pause for clapping)

Thank you, thank you very much.

Going forward, let me briefly state the objectives of this Panel Discussion which will be three folds namely:

- ***‘To exchange perspective on projected gas and coal supply and demand with a Focus on the Asian markets;***
- ***To explore implication of the evolution of the Asian energy mix, especially with regard to coal and gas; and finally ...***
- ***To discuss possible shifts in domestic policies and international cooperation initiatives that might be required in the current environment.***

IMF has recently forecast that Asia would remain the growth engine of the world with approximately 5.6% GDP growth.

The emerging countries such as India and ASEAN nations have come to the forefront with regard to energy demand. Their outlook appears robust; while their GDP is expected to increase linearly, their appetite for energy is expected to grow exponentially.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

While considering the prospects of the Asian economy vis a vis the supply demand of energy, it is important to incorporate in the equation, the technological development taking place in the energy domain and sustainability of the global environment.

While these developments will undoubtedly influence the Asian energy outlook in the long term, it is amply clear that clean fossil fuels such as natural gas will continue to be the centerpiece of the energy equation for several decades to come.

In this plenary session we will be restricting our discussion to Coal and Gas. With the help of the eminent panelist present here we will attempt to jointly understand the interactions and challenges that they present in the Asian energy-mix.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I give the floor to my fellow panelists for elaborate discussion on the subject, I must state that coal and gas will continue to be central in the pursuit of economic development and eradication of poverty in Asia. The success of utilization of these natural resources will depend on how well the nations balance the inclusion of these resources in their energy mix and amicably resolve the complexities and uncertainties that are inherent in their energy equation.

This is surely possible with inter and intra-regional energy cooperation, backed by promulgation of policies that promotes transparent dialogues for developing long term agreements and building of necessary infrastructure between supplying and consuming nation.

I would like to end here and look forward to hear the views of expert panelist on this subject.