

6th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER6)

Doha, Qatar – 8-10 November 2015

Thank you Mr. Chairman

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Your Royal Highness,

**Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, ladies and gentlemen, Good
Afternoon to you,**

**I am very pleased to be here today in the company of all the esteemed
Ministers and heads of delegations and oil organisations. I am
confident that this Ministerial Roundtable will provide a valuable
platform to exchange views, and aspirations, and through enlightened
discussions, we will ultimately develop renewed areas of cooperation
between our nations.**

**I would like to first extend my thanks and appreciation to His Excellency
Dr. Mohammed Bin Saleh Al-Sada, Minister of Energy and Industry, for
his warm hospitality. I would like to thank the State of Qatar for the**

warm welcome and for hosting the Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable and would like to thank the International Energy Forum IEF for their kind invitation and for organizing this event.

As we are all aware, the move towards energy efficiency and renewable energy is no longer an indulgence, but a rather a necessary step towards sustainable development and producing clean energy.

Thus, the investment in renewable energy is estimated to have grown by 17% to 270 billion dollars in 2014. At the same time, the cost of solar panels have dropped by 80% since 2008, whilst the cost of wind turbines has come down by one quarter since 2009.

According to the World Energy Council, global total energy demand is expected to increase by more than one third over the next two decades, thus it is becoming essential to diversify energy resource pool and create a more sustainable energy models for energy security.

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development consists of 17 goals. One of the SDGs is to offer universal access to affordable,

reliable and sustainable energy. Needless to mention that renewable energy sources play a vital role in successfully achieving this goal.

Many parts of the world, and in particular the Middle East region, have long enjoyed an abundant reserve of fossil fuels. Nonetheless, we recognize the growing importance of energy diversification. The GCC countries have made, and continues to make, efforts towards adopting renewables and efficiency enhancing technologies and have established fixed targets for the same.

Recent figures published by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) indicate that meeting all renewable energy targets set by the GCC States would result in saving 4 billion barrels of oil, as well as decrease CO₂ emissions by 1.2 gigatonne, by year 2030. The saved oil could be used for export rather than domestic consumption, which at today's crude price of about US\$50 per bbl would equal \$200billion in additional revenues for the Gulf countries, on top of the environmental benefits

These figures equate to a 25% annual reduction in fossil fuel consumption in the electricity and water sector by year 2030, and for an overall decrease of 8% in the carbon footprint per person in the next fifteen years.

Notably, aiming to achieve those targets would be in line with the upcoming United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP 21), to be held in Paris in December this year, and fitting with the global efforts towards sustainable clean energy efficiency.

In this context, please allow me to share with you few important milestones that the Kingdom of Bahrain has embarked on recently in relation to adopting clean energy technologies and implementation of energy efficiency policies.

- 1. In 2014, Bahrain signed an agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to establish the Sustainable Energy Unit (SEU). The key objectives of this Unit are:**

- a) Developing a cohesive and sustainable energy policy and promote renewable energy and energy efficiency and conservation in the country.**
- b) Working towards bridging the legal, institutional and capacity gaps to enable the country to progress on the National and Sectorial levels to meet future challenges.**
- c) Leading and promoting energy efficiency practices, transferring and diffusing renewable energy technologies and drafting related policies and regulatory frameworks in coordination with stakeholders and partners in the country.**
- d) Be responsible for coordinating and implementing regional and international obligations related to energy efficiency and renewable energy.**

The Unit will develop as part of its mandate the following for the years 2015 – 2016:

- a) The National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) and the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP).**
- b) The Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMAs).**
- c) Development of Feed – in – Tariffs, Energy Labelling and other related policies.**

Our ultimate vision is for the Sustainable Energy Unit to be the nucleus to a full fledge dedicated center for Sustainable Energy in the future.

2. I would also like to highlight three small steps that our Kingdom has undertaken recently to implement renewable energy projects:

The first project is a pilot carried by the National Oil & Gas Authority (NOGA) in cooperation with the Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco) and Petro Solar Industries of the USA titled “Let Bahrain Shine”. The project delivered a 5MWp Smart Grid Systems, which provides energy that is clean, reliable and resilient through generating in excess of 8,300 MWh of clean solar energy annually.

BAPCO PV installations utilize one of the industry's most advanced micro-inverter technologies in order to create a wireless smart-grid network, providing critical system-wide intelligent monitoring and control.

It is worth noting that Bahrain is the first country in the MENA region to integrate and monitor a highly distributed system into a single PV power plant.

The second project is a one MW solar energy project that is being implemented by Tatweer Petroleum, which has recently signed a contract to install a new PV solar power plant as part of its ongoing efforts to develop the Bahrain Oil Field. The project is expected to be operational by spring of 2016.

The third project is a 5 MW Pilot Solar/Wind energy project which is being progressed by the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA). The station will provide 3 MW of solar energy and 2 MW of wind.

The Kingdom is aiming to develop and encourage solar energy innovation to achieve our goals of meeting up approximately 10% of our energy demand by 2025 through clean, renewable energy.

The initiatives I have highlighted reflect the Kingdom of Bahrain's serious commitment towards clean energy. Our country would be keen to explore areas of cooperation with our Asian friends toward embracing clean energies, through renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency practices. We would be more than happy for us to share our modest experiences in this field with our counterparts to further advance sustainable developments endeavors.

Thank you.