ARAB PETROLEUM DISCOVERIES IN 2019
& THEIR SIGNIFICANCE TO SECURING GLOBAL ENERGY DEMAND
The Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) was founded on the basis of the agreement signed in Beirut, Lebanon on 9 January 1968 between the governments of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Kuwait and the (then) Kingdom of Libya. The agreement stipulates that the Organization shall be domiciled in the City of Kuwait.

The principal objective of the Organization is the cooperation of the members in various forms of economic activity in the petroleum industry, the determination of ways and means of safeguarding the legitimate interests of its member countries in this industry, individually and collectively, the unification of efforts to ensure the flow of petroleum to its markets on equitable and reasonable terms, and providing appropriate environment for investment in the petroleum industry in member countries.

In 1970 the United Arab Emirates, the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Republic of Algeria joined the Organization, followed by the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Iraq in 1972, Arab Republic of Egypt in 1973, then the Republic of Tunisia in 1982 (its membership was suspended in 1986). Any Arab country which derives a significant share of its national income from petroleum is eligible for membership in OAPEC upon the approval of three-quarters of the member countries, including all three founding members.
OAPEC has sponsored the creation of four companies: The Arab Maritime Petroleum Transport Company (AMPTC), established in 1972 with headquarters in Kuwait City, the Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard Company (ASRY) established in 1973 with headquarters in Bahrain, the Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (APICORP) established in 1974 with headquarters in Khobar, Saudi Arabia, the Arab Petroleum Services Company (APSC) established in 1975 with headquarters in Tripoli, Libya.

**OAPEC’S ORGANS**

The Organization carries out its activities through its four organs:

- **Ministerial Council**: The Ministerial Council is the supreme authority of the Organization, responsible for drawing up its general policy.
- **Executive Bureau**: The Executive Bureau is composed of one representative from each of the member countries, drawing recommendations and suggestions to the Council, reviewing the Organization’s draft annual budget and submitting it to the Council, it also adopts the regulations applicable to the staff of the General Secretariat. The resolutions of the Executive Bureau are issued by the majority of two-thirds of all members.
- **General Secretariat**: The General Secretariat of OAPEC plans, administers, and executes the Organization’s activities in accordance with the objectives stated in the agreement and directives of the Ministerial Council. The General Secretariat is headed by the Secretary General. The Secretary General is appointed by resolution of the Ministerial Council for a tenor of three years renewable for similar period(s). The Secretary General is the official spokesman and legal representative of the Organization and is accountable to the Council. The Secretary General directs the Secretariat and supervises all aspects of its activities, and is responsible for the tasks and duties as directed by the Ministerial Council. The Secretary General and all personnel of the Secretariat carry out their duties in full independence and in the common interests of the Organization member countries. The Secretary General and the Assistant Secretaries General possess in the territories of the Organization members all diplomatic immunities and privileges.
- **Judicial Tribunal**: The protocol of the Judicial Tribunal was signed in Kuwait on 9 May 1978 and came into effect on 20 April 1980. The Tribunal is competent to consider all disputes related to the interpretation and application of OAPEC’s establishment agreement, as well as disputes arising between two or more member countries concerning petroleum operations.
The world’s energy demand grows day after day driven mainly by growing world population, especially in China (1.38 billion) and India (1.34 billion). Oil is expected to remain dominating the world’s consumption with a potential of 27% of the energy mix in 2040, followed by gas 26%, and coal 21%. Non-fossil energy constitutes 26% of the mix.

Estimates indicate that the world has discovered over 12 billion BOE of oil in 2019, mostly offshore. OAPEC Secretariat General inspected 75 new discoveries worldwide in 2019 (41 oil and 34 gas discoveries). Arab countries combined made 12 oil discoveries and 13 gas discoveries.

The world’s oil reserves estimates have risen at a rate of about 1.6% to reach 1267.4 billion barrels in 2019 against 1248.1 billion barrels in 2018. This means the world has added 19.3 billion barrels to its reserves during that period. OAPEC member countries’ oil reserves estimates have risen by the end of 2019 to over 710 billion barrels (equal to 56.1% of the world’s total oil reserves). This is due to an increase in the UAE’s reserves estimates, as Abu Dhabi Supreme Petroleum Council announced the discovery and addition of about 7 billion barrels of crude oil as hydrocarbon reserves. Oman’s reserves estimates have also risen by about 51 million barrels.

Furthermore, in 2019, oil production has begun from Haliba field on Abu Dhabi’s southeast border. Field appraisal and exploration have contributed to raising estimated original oil in place at Haliba to 1.1 billion barrels from 180 million barrels. Potential resources in three fields designated Al Humrah, Bu Tasah, and Bu Nikhelah, have also been discovered following intensified exploration programmes.

Iraq has also made a new discovery in 2019 in Baashiqa concession through (Baashiqa-2) well drilled to a depth of 3204 metres.

Egypt made 10 new oil discoveries. Geological reserves in a new oil discovery in the area of Abordis Sidra, Sinai, (Sidra 23 well) were estimated at about 200 million barrels of oil. A heavy oil discovery has also been made through Rabul-7 development well in the West Gharib producing at a rate of 415 b/d when tested over 5 days.

In terms of gas, the world’s natural gas reserves estimates have risen by 2.1% in 2019 reaching 205.9 trillion cubic metres out of which about 56.3 trillion cubic metres are of Arab reserves (equal to about 27.3% of the world’s gas reserves against 27.1% in 2018). A major increase came from the UAE which announced the discovery and addition of new
hydrocarbons estimated at about 1.64 trillion cubic metres of natural gas in 2019.

Algeria also made a number of important gas discoveries including (ERTA-1) in Tandouf which produced at a rate of 6600 cubic metres per day when tested. Moreover, Saudi Arabia announced a new gas discovery in the Red Sea.

Egypt made 3 new gas discoveries with one (Merak-1 well in Northern Areesh) failing to become commercial. North East (Al Qara’ 1) discovery in Nile Delta produced 481 thousand cubic metres per day of gas when tested.

Mauritania has made a big discovery in Al Bayan plays through Orca-1 exploration well drilled at a depth of 5266 metres in waters of more than 2500 metres deep. The new discovery’s geological gas reserves are estimated at about 368 billion cubic metres.

The above data underscore the importance of the role played by Arab countries in meeting global energy demand, in which the new discoveries play a vital role. However, this does not mean new discoveries are the only source of reserves. Increasing the Recovery Factor of any reservoir can transform it into a new discovery. Moreover, continuous developments work on transforming a number of geological reserves into proven reserves. Arab countries spare no effort in this field. ADNOC awarded a $1.36 billion contract to build multiple artificial islands in the first phase of development of the Ghasha sour gas concession. The Ghasha Concession consists of the Hail, Ghasha, Dalma, Nasr and Mubarraz offshore fields.

Saudi Arabia has also put a comprehensive programme to increase crude oil, associated gas, free gas, and gas cap output from Al Marjan offshore field. It also works on developing Al Barri field to increase its output by 250 thousand b/d of Arab light crude.

In Libya, the pilot operating of the second phase of Al Farigh development project was announced in November 2019. It is located about 500km southern Benghazi. Gas has been pumped into (Intisar 103) field as part of the gas will be transferred to the coastline pipeline to improve the efficiency of oil production in the said field.

In the beginning of 2019, Egypt granted tenders of 7 blocks to a number of international and Egyptian companies at a minimum total investment of $760-800 million to explore oil and gas in new areas with obligations to drill a minimum of 60 wells.

While closely observing exploration and production activities in its member countries, OAPEC Secretariat General hails the good results achieved in this regard and underscores the important role of the member countries in securing steady and reliable oil and gas supplies to the world. OAPEC hopes to see even further success of the member countries’ current and future projects.
Algerian President HE Abdelmadjid Tabboun made a Cabinet reshuffle appointing HE Abdelmadjid Attar, as the new energy minister in succession to HE Mohamed Arkab.

OAPEC Secretary General HE Ali Sabt Bensabt sent a cable of congratulations, also on behalf of OAPEC staff, to HE Attar wishing him success in his new post while looking forward to the continuity of Algeria’s cooperation and support for the organisation’s activities. HE Attar replied with a thanking cable wishing the organisation further progress.

Furthermore, on 1 July, HE Attar witnessed the signing ceremony of various petroleum agreements between Sonatrach and Italy’s Eni where the minister indicated the importance of this cooperation in upstream and downstream industries, as well as, in marketing to ensure realising common interests.

It is worth-mentioning that HE Attar is an international advisor and economic expert holding a bachelor’s degree in petroleum exploration engineering, 1971, from Algeria’s Petroleum Institute. He assumed many posts in the past including chief executive of Sonatrach and minister of water resources.
HE IHSAN ABDUL JABBAR ISMAIL APPOINTED IRAQ’S OIL MINISTER

Iraqi Parliament endorsed the appointment of HE Ihsan Abdul Jabbar Ismaael as Minister of Oil in succession to HE Thamer Al Ghadhban. HE Ismail has a long petroleum experience. He held various posts including the Director General at Basra Oil Company.

In press statements, HE Ismail stressed the importance of the cooperation of all OPEC and non-OPEC oil-producing countries to realise goals of output cut for the purpose of rebalancing and stabilising the oil market.

On his part, OAPEC Secretary General HE Ali Sab Bensabt sent a cable of congratulations, also on behalf of OAPEC staff, to HE Ismail wishing him success while looking forward to the continuity of Iraq’s massive support for the organisation.

HE Ismaael holds a bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering. He worked in many oil and academic posts in Iraq from 1995 as Shift Engineer in oil and gas fields, to 2017-2020 as Director General of Basra Oil Company. In 2020 he assumed his position as Oil Minister.
OAPEC’s 104th Ministerial Meeting (at Representatives’ level) was held via ZOOM Technology on 11 June 2020 and chaired by Algeria’s Rep at OAPEC Executive Bureau HE Dr Medjelled Miloud, as Algeria chairs the 2020 term.

The Chair inaugurated the meeting welcoming Their Excellencies the representatives and OAPEC Secretary General. He extended thanks and appreciation to OAPEC Secretariat General for the good preparations for the meeting that was held for the first time using Zoom Technology.
OAPEC Secretary General HE Ali Sabt Bensabt followed with a speech welcoming Their Excellencies the conveners and expressing thanks and appreciation to the member countries for their continued support during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also lauded the member countries’ sincere efforts to continue with the petroleum industry’s activities in light of the current health conditions worldwide.

The meeting then tackled points on the agenda and issued resolution 1/104 approving OAPEC’s final financial statements (Secretariat General and Judicial Tribunal) for the year 2019.

The Council reviewed a report on the Secretariat General’s activities in the first half of 2020 and endorsed the Executive Bureau’s recommendations in this regard, including a report on the year 2019 by OAPEC Indemnity Fund Committee. It also discussed the first meeting of Executive Bureau members on developing and activating OAPEC’s role. Moreover, other recommendations were made on other issues.

The meeting discussed the 12th Arab Energy Conference recommending to add it to the next ministerial council meeting’s agenda.

The Council ended the meeting with renewing thanks and appreciation to the Secretariat General for its efforts in holding this meeting via ZOOM while wishing OAPEC all success.

The OAPEC Executive Bureau held its 156th Meeting via ZOOM Technology on 11 June 2020. It was chaired by Algeria’s Rep at OAPEC Executive Bureau HE Dr Medjelled Miloud. Algeria chairs the 2020 term.

His Excellency the Chairman opened the meeting welcoming Their Excellencies the members of the Executive Bureau and wishing them a pleasant stay in Kuwait. His Excellency the Chairman extended thanks to OAPEC Secretary General HE Ali Sabt Bensabt and the Secretariat General’s staff for the good preparations for the meeting.

On his part, OAPEC Secretary General HE Bensabt welcomed the conveners and reviewed the main points on the agenda pointing out that the meeting is allocated for discussing preparations for OAPEC’s 104th Ministerial Meeting (at representatives’ level).
OAPEC Secretariat General took part in the meeting discussing the Joint Arab Economic Report 2020 drafts held in via Cisco Webex technology on 21-23 June 2020. Representatives from the Arab League’s Secretariat General, the Arab Monetary Fund, and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development took part in the event. Mr. Abdul Fattah Dandy, Director of the Economic Affairs Department; Mr Al Taher Al Zytnouni, Energy Market Analyst; and Mr. Majed Amer, Economic Researcher from the same department, represented OAPEC Secretariat General at the meeting.

During the meeting, the drafts of the report’s 13 chapters have been discussed, including a chapter on “Digital Economy and its Role in Arab Development”. Some remarks have been made and it was agreed to take them into consideration upon preparing the final draft. OAPEC Secretariat General prepares Chapter 5 on oil and energy developments, in addition to the section on hydrocarbon industries in chapter 4 covering the industrial sector.

The conveners underscored the importance of continuing developing the statistical methods followed in calculating economic and social data chains. This would be done by benefitting from the Arabsat Initiative on boosting statistical skills in the Arab countries with the help of regional and international expertise. It has also been agreed to continue developing the report’s database to be shared among the institutions that prepare it. Moreover, it was advised to continue developing the methods of preparing the report both in content and form.
OAPEC Secretary General HE Ali Bensabt offered heartfelt condolences on the demise of HE Abdulrahman Al Ateeqi, Advisor at the Amiri Diwan and Kuwait’s former finance and oil minister. The deceased was also Kuwait’s representative at the signing of OAPEC’s founding agreement in Beirut, on 9 January 1968.

HE Bensabt recalled HE Al Ateeqi’s legacy and his contributions while representing Kuwait at Arab and international forums. He also appreciated the deceased endeavours on boosting Arab joint action for more than 6 decades, most prominently his contribution to the founding of OAPEC and Kuwait’s hosting the Organisation’s headquarters since its establishment.
The study aims primarily to identify the volume of energy consumption in the industrial sector in OAPEC members, given the importance of this sector in terms of its contribution to the national economies of member countries, or in terms of its share in the final energy consumption in OAPEC members. This study includes eight parts. The first part provides an overview of the gross domestic product at constant prices and current prices in OAPEC member countries, in addition to the added value of the industrial sector and its share in the GDP of OAPEC members. The second part highlights energy production in OAPEC members. The third part reviews developments of final consumption in OAPEC member countries according to various energy sources and according to economic sectors. The fourth part focuses on the final consumption of energy in the industrial sector, according to sources, and according to the main industries that make up this sector in OAPEC member countries. The fifth part completes the picture by providing a summary of the final energy consumption in the rest of the economic sectors. The sixth section reviews energy consumption in the intermediate sector, which consists mainly of power stations, gas liquefaction plants and refineries. As for the seventh part, it gives a picture of energy production and final consumption of energy, particularly in the industrial sector and major energy-consuming industries, for each individual member. The eighth part provides data on the energy intensity index in the industrial sector in member countries. Finally, the study summarizes its most important results, and provides some recommendations on energy consumption in the industrial sector in OAPEC member countries.
First: World Oil Markets

1. Oil Prices

OPEC primary estimations indicate that OPEC Reference Basket price increased in June 2020 by 47.2% compared to the previous month, to reach $37.1/bbl. While annual price of OPEC Basket is expected to decrease in 2020 by $24.84/bbl or 38.8% compared to 2019, to reach $39.20/bbl.

It’s worth mentioning that, OPEC Reference Basket increased by 42.5% or $7.5/bbl in May 2020, compared to the previous month, reaching $25.2/bbl. The historic production reduction agreement by OPEC+ countries participating in the Declaration of Cooperation, which aims to face the repercussions of Corona Virus (Covid-19) pandemic, was major stimulus for increase in oil prices during the month of May 2020, for the first time during this year.

2. Supply and Demand

- Latest estimations indicate that world oil demand in Q2 2020, decrease by a record of 11.1 million b/d or 12% comparing with Q1 2020 level to reach 81.3 million b/d. Demand in OECD countries decrease by 23% to reach 34.9 million b/d. And demand in Non-OECD countries decrease by 1.5% to reach 46.4 million b/d.
Whereas Projections indicate that world oil demand is expected to begin recovering in Q3 2020, by 13.5% to reach 92.3 million b/d. Demand in OECD countries is expected to increase by 27.2% to reach 44.4 million b/d. And demand in Non-OECD countries is expected to increase by 3.2% to reach 47.9 million b/d.

- Estimates indicate that world oil supplies in May 2020, decreased by 12.1 million b/d or 12% comparing with previous month level to reach 87.5 million b/d. Non-OPEC supplies decreased by 9.1% to reach 58 million b/d, and OPEC crude oil and NGLs/condensates total supplies decreased by 17.6% to reach 29.5 million b/d. as a result of the beginning of implementing production reduction agreement between OPEC+ and other oil producing countries since May 2020. Estimates also indicate a further decline in world oil supplies during June 2020, as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates announced an additional and voluntary reduction in their production by about 1 million b/d, 80 thousand b/d and 100 thousand b/d, respectively, during the month of June. In this context, it was agreed to stop oil production from the Khafji field shared by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait during the same month.

- US tight oil production in May 2020 sharply decreased by 811 thousand b/d compared to the previous month level, to reach 7.938 million b/d, the largest monthly decrease since data records began. And production is expected to decline during June 2020 to 7.725 million b/d, and during July 2020 to 7.634 million b/d, the lowest level since July 2018. Besides US oil rig count decreased in May 2020 by 199 rig, the largest monthly drop on record, to stand at 316 rig, the lowest level since data records began.

3. Oil Inventories

- OECD commercial inventories in May 2020 increased by 71 million barrels from the previous month level to reach 3208 million barrels, and strategic inventories in OECD-34, South Africa and China increased by 6 million barrels from the previous month level to reach 1855 million barrels.
4. Oil Trade

US Oil Imports and Exports

- **US crude oil imports** in May 2020, increased by 10% from the previous month level to reach 6 million b/d, and **US product imports increased** by 1.1% to reach about 1.8 million b/d.

- **US crude oil exports** in May 2020, increased by 2.2% from the previous month level to reach 3.2 million b/d, whereas **US product exports decreased** by 26.8% to reach about 4.1 million b/d.

Second: Natural Gas Market

1. Prices

- **The average spot price of natural gas** at the Henry Hub slightly increased in May 2020 to reach $1.75/million BTU.

- **The price of Japanese LNG imports** in April 2020 decreased by $0.18/m BTU to reach $9.35/m BTU, and **the price of Chinese LNG imports decreased** by $0.16/m BTU to reach $7.66/m BTU. Whereas **the price of Korean LNG imports increased** by $0.31/m BTU to reach $9.18/m BTU.

2. Exports

- **Arab LNG exports to Japan, China and South Korea** were about 2.189 million tons in April 2020 (a share of 16.3% of total imports).
Tables  Annex
Pursuant to its policy of encouraging scientific research by awarding two prizes on a biennial basis (First Prize KD 7000, Second Prize KD 5000, equivalent to USD $23000 and USD $16000), upon the resolution number 1151/ of OAPEC Executive Bureau at its meeting dated 12018/10/. The Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) is pleased to announce that the research field selected for the “OAPEC Award for Scientific Research for the Year 2020” is:

Environmental Research Related to Petroleum & Energy Industry

The research work eligible for this award may address one or more of the environmental perspectives of the petroleum and energy industry, including, but not limited to:

1. **Environmental Impacts and the Role of Modern Technologies in:**
   - Exploration and Production of Oil and Gas
   - Treatment of Liquid and Solid Waste Resulting from Downstream Industries

2. **Environmental Impact Assessment of the Petroleum and Energy Facilities and the Processing Methods.**

3. **Economic Implications of Environmental Legislations on the Petroleum and Energy Industry**

4. **New Environmental Regulations and their Impacts on the Operation Performance of Production Units, e.g. Cleaner Fuel Production.**

5. **New Energy and Renewables Technologies and their Potential Implications for the Status of Oil in the Global Energy Mix.**

6. **Energy Policies Trends in the Developed Countries and the Impacts of Carbon Tax and its markets following the Conclusion of Paris Climate Change Agreement During COP21 in Paris in 2015.**
Conditions for Submitting the Research

1. The research may be submitted by one or more author(s). Institutions and organizations are excluded.
2. The research submitted must be new and original, and has not been granted an award previously.
3. The author(s) shall agree in advance to give OAPEC the right to print and publish the research in case he/she/they win one of the prizes. A signed statement to this effect must be submitted with the research (sample provided below). The author(s) will maintain all other rights, including patent rights (if applicable). OAPEC shall not exercise its right to publish the winning research for a period of six months commencing with the date of advising the winning author(s) with the decision of the Award Committee, must be provided.
4. A statement by the author(s), attesting that the research is original, must be provided. Segments fully or partially taken from other sources should be properly cited. A detailed list of all references used must also be attached.
5. Four hard copies and a digital copy of the research (either in Arabic or English) should be submitted, along with the Curriculum Vitae of each researcher.
6. The deadline for submitting the research is 31st December, 2020. No submission will be accepted after that date.
7. Prizes are awarded to individuals of all nationalities advised of the Award Committee’s decision.
8. The award will not be presented twice consecutively to the same recipient.
9. Any research that does not fulfill the above conditions shall be disregarded.

Researchers will be notified by OAPEC Secretariat of the Award Committee’s decision. The winners will be officially announced at the end of the OAPEC’s Ministerial Council in 2021.

For further information you may contact the OAPEC General Secretariat at:
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Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC)
OAPEC AWARD FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FOR THE YEAR 2020

Field

Environmental Research Related to Petroleum & Energy Industry

Statement of relinquishment of printing and publication rights for the research

I, undersigned:

Hereby undertake to relinquish all printing and publication rights of the research submitted by me entitled:

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to the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), in the event of winning one of the two prizes of OAPEC Award for Scientific Research for the year 2020.

Name: ……………………………. …………………………….
Signature: ……………………………. …………………………….

Date: / /