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Special Issue on

12th ARAB ENERGY CONFERENCE



The Cover



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OF VIEW

ORGANIZATION OF ARAB PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES (OAPEC)



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.



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BILATERAL MEETINGS BETWEEN OAPEC AND SOME ARAB COUNTRIES THAT ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION

• OAPEC-Joint Ventures:

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.



SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY ENGINEER JAMAL ESSA AL LOUGHANI SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ARAB PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES (OAPEC) AT THE 12TH ARAB ENERGY CONFERENCE OPENING CEREMONY



By: Jamal Essa Al Loughani
OAPEC Secretary General

On behalf of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), I am pleased to extend to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, the highest expressions of gratitude and appreciation for His Highness's patronage of the conference held in the Arab's Doha. It is a pleasure to meet in this place to emphasize the depth of cultural and historical ties between the peoples of our Arab region.

I am also pleased to congratulate His Excellency Engineer Saad bin Sherida Al Kaabi, Minister of State for Energy Affairs, for his presidency of the conference, and to the brothers and sisters in the State of Qatar for their wonderful efforts in organizing the conference and for their warm reception and hospitality.

Our conference aims to create an institutional framework for Arab ideas and perceptions on oil and energy issues in order to formulate harmonious visions in this regard, and to learn about the international dimensions of energy and their impacts on Arab countries. The conference also discusses a number of important issues closely related to the situation of energy and its sources in our Arab region; reviews the possibilities of developing, benefiting from, and preserving these sources; and explores the multiple prospects for energy cooperation.

The conference also addresses international developments taking place in energy markets and their repercussions at the Arab and international levels. Given the energy industry's connection to the issue of the environment and its implications for sustainable development in the Arab region, and what is being raised in international forums, the conference program gives space for discussing environmental issues from various angles.

All of these issues require us to handle them with awareness within the framework of reality, and I believe that the conference provides a good opportunity to achieve this, as it brings together energy policy planners and implementers, and a distinguished elite who has the knowledge, specialization, and experience, whether in our Arab institutions or global institutions.

Our Arab oil and gas producing and exporting countries are facing many challenges for the

future, represented in how to build sustainable and reliable energy systems, which requires a careful balance between different goals, such as reducing emissions, energy availability and affordability, as well as energy security. In this regard, many of our Arab countries observe international standards to maintain pollutants-free environment and use technologies to obtain quality fuel and low-emission energy. Therefore, it is in no way possible to link an emission-free environment to the consumption of fossil fuels, especially oil and gas. Exploiting hydrocarbon sources while controlling their emissions through clean technologies will undoubtedly enhance the possibility of the world reaching the desired net-zero in 2050. Thus, these sources will be part of the solution towards a balanced, gradual and responsible transition towards more permanent energy sources in a way that takes into account the national circumstances and priorities of each country.

It goes without saying that the transition towards a circular carbon economy provides opportunities that enable the development of new energy systems based on innovation and technologies that use all energy sources, while achieving sustainable development goals and addressing climate change. In this context, Arab countries are making great efforts in the field of the circular carbon economy by spreading carbon capture, use and storage technology.

Our Arab countries have also sought to exploit renewable energies to generate electrical power. There is an Arab strategy for sustainable energy 2030, and another strategy for the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Arab electrical interconnection projects have also received great attention at the highest executive levels.

In conclusion, we would like to emphasize that our Arab oil and gas producing and exporting countries are part of the solution in the approach to transition towards clean energy, and will not be the cause of the problem of climate change, and will remain in a leading position in efforts aimed at protecting the environment while maintaining the supply of energy markets with clean petroleum products in a way that ensures stability and balance of these markets.



الطاقة العربي الثاني عشر 12th Arab Energy Conference

دوحة - دولة قطر - 11 - 12 ديسمبر 2023
Doha, State of Qatar, 11th - 12th December



SPECIAL COVERAGE

THE TWELFTH ARAB ENERGY



FIRST: INTRODUCTION

The idea of organising the conference emerged in May 1977 with a decision of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC). After consultation, it was agreed that OAPEC and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development would supervise and organise the conference in order to ensure comprehensive representation of Arab countries and to link energy to development.

The conference aims at creating an institutional framework for Arab ideas and perceptions on oil and energy issues to formulate harmonious visions in this respect; coordinating relations between Arab institutions working in activities related to energy and development; linking energy policies to development issues; studying Arab energy needs, at present and in the future, and means of meeting them; identifying available Arab capabilities and the efforts made to develop energy resources, and coordinating between these efforts.

The conference also looks into international dimensions of energy and their impact on Arab countries; Arab countries efforts on tackling energy security and energy transitions challenges; environment; climate change; and sustainable development issues. The AEC also discusses issues associated with Arab and international energy sources, downstream industries, energy management in the Arab countries, in addition to technological developments and their implications for the energy sector.



PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THE CONFERENCE



The First Arab Energy Conference was held in March 1979 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, under the slogan “Arabs and Energy Issues.” Following holding the conference, contacts were made between the League of Arab States and OAPEC to coordinate the work of the Energy Conference and the Arab Petroleum Conference, which had been held under the supervision of the League of Arab States since 1959. It was agreed to merge them under the name of the Arab Energy Conference. Thus, the League of Arab States became one of the institutions supervising the organisation of the conference. Given the interest of the Arab Industrial Development Organization in the petrochemical industries, it was decided that it would also participate in supervising the conference.

The Second Arab Energy Conference was held in March 1982 in Doha, Qatar, under the supervision of the four aforementioned institutions, and its slogan was “Energy in the Service of Arab Economic Development and Integration.” The conference recommended adding the Arab Mineral Resources Organisation to the supervising institutions, thus becoming the fifth organisation sponsoring the conference.

The Third Arab Energy Conference was held in May 1985 in the city of Algiers, Republic of Algeria, under the slogan “Energy and Arab Cooperation,” which became the slogan for subsequent editions of the conference.

The Fourth Arab Energy Conference was held in March 1988 in Baghdad, Republic of Iraq. It was decided at that time to hold the conference every four years instead of every three years. The year 1992 was set as the date for holding the fifth conference. However, the difficult circumstances that swept the Arab world in 1990 necessitated its postponement to 1994.

The Fifth Arab Energy Conference was held in May 1994 in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, under the supervision of the four institutions after the merger of the Arab Organisation for Mineral Resources with the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development, to whose name the words “and Mining” were added.

The Sixth Arab Energy Conference was held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic in May 1998. The Seventh Arab Energy Conference was held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, in May 2002. The Eighth Arab Energy Conference was held in Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in May 2006. The Ninth Arab Energy Conference was held in Doha, State of Qatar in May 2010.

The Tenth Arab Energy Conference was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates in December 2014. The 11th Arab Energy Conference was held in October 2018 in Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, its current 12th edition has been postponed and moved from 2022 to 2023.



THE TWELFTH ARAB ENERGY CONFERENCE

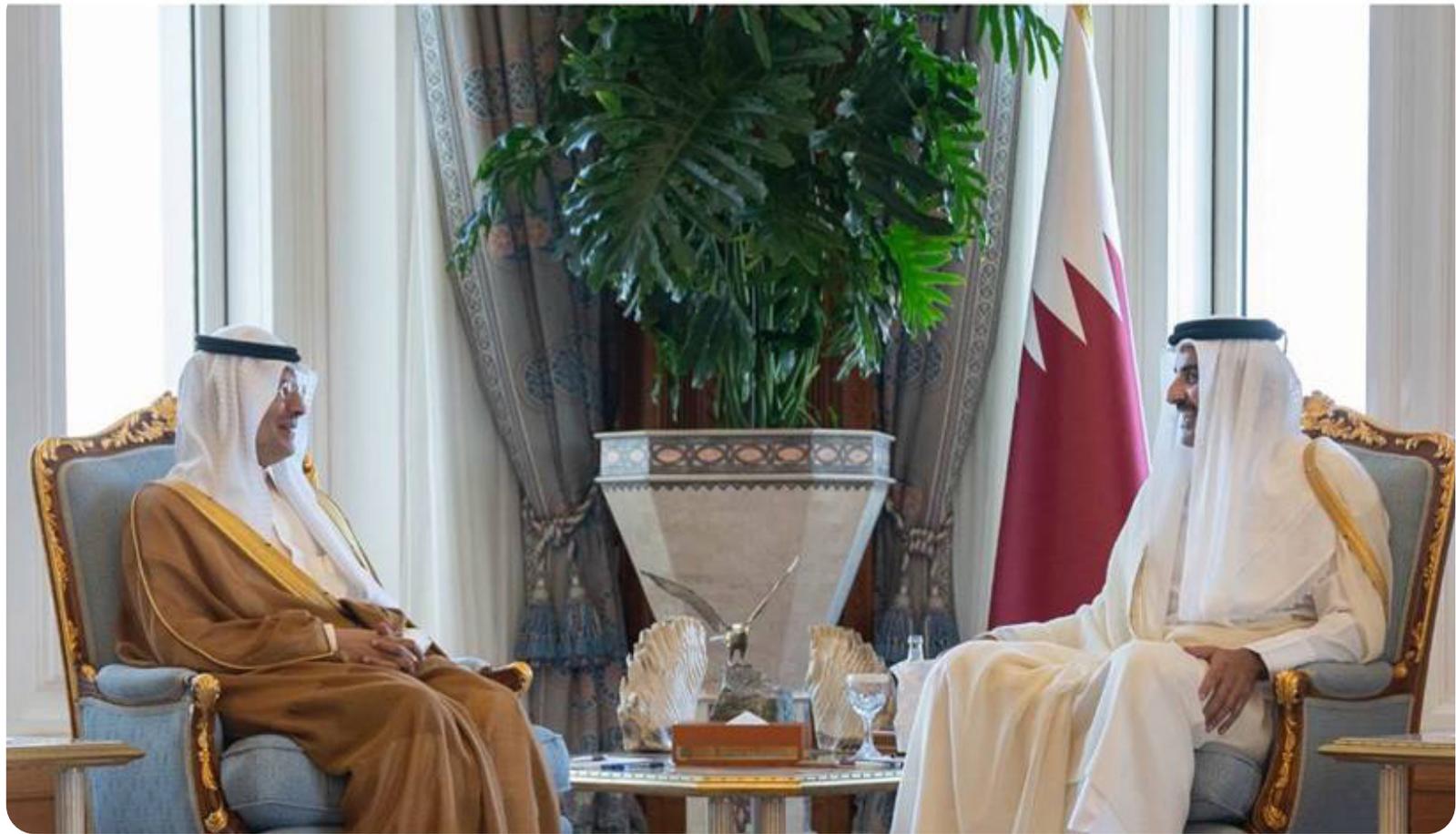
The 12th Arab Energy Conference was held in Doha, State of Qatar, during the period 17-18 Jumada al-Awwal 1445 AH, corresponding to 11-12 December 2023 AD, under the slogan “Energy and Arab Cooperation”. The Secretariat General of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), organized the conference in full cooperation of and coordination with the host country, the State of Qatar, represented by Qatar Energy.

The AEC12 was held under the high patronage of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar. The conference has become one of the important milestones in the process of joint Arab action and cooperation in the energy sector.

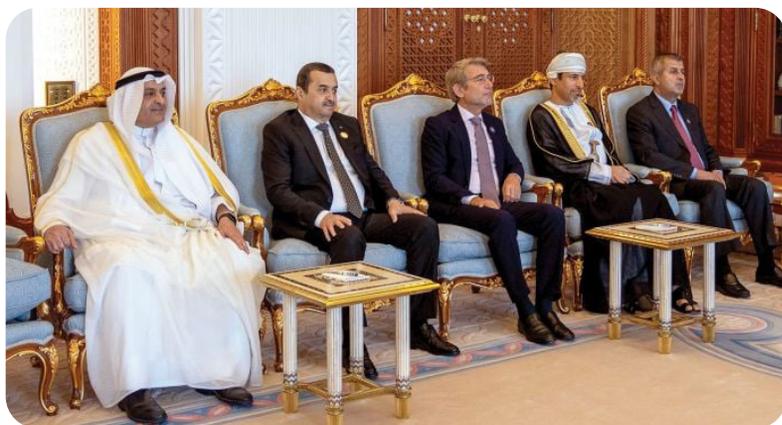
The conference was attended by Their Highnesses and Excellencies the ministers responsible for oil and

energy, and heads of delegations representing (17) Arab countries. It was also attended by a number of senior officials in Arab organizations and institutions, and regional and international bodies. An elite group of specialized experts and representatives of Arab and foreign companies and research centres also participated in its activities, which were covered by a group of Arab and international media outlets.

The conference discussed many topics related to energy situation developments from its many aspects related to international developments in energy markets and their implications for the Arab energy sector, and the efforts of Arab countries to confront the challenges of energy transitions, and issues of energy, environment, climate change and sustainable development. This is in addition to topics related to Arab and global energy sources, downstream industries, energy demand management in Arab countries, and technological developments and their implications for the energy sector.



HH THE EMIR OF QATAR MEETS MINISTERS PARTICIPATING IN 12TH ARAB ENERGY CONFERENCE



HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, met with Their Highnesses and Excellencies, Ministers of Energy of the sisterly Arab countries, who are taking part in the 12th Arab Energy Conference, on the morning of the first day of the conference, at his Amiri Diwan office.

At the beginning of the meeting, HH the Amir welcomed Their Highnesses and Excellencies the Arab ministers, wishing them success in their conference,

which will contribute to the strengthening the joint Arab cooperation in the energy fields.

For their part, the ministers expressed their thanks and gratitude to HH the Amir for the warm welcome and hospitality, and the State of Qatar's hosting of the 12th edition of the conference.

During the meeting, a number of topics related to developments in global energy markets were discussed.

SECOND: THE ARAB ENERGY CONFERENCE OPENING SESSION



1. OPENING CEREMONY

The Minister of State for Energy Affairs of the State of Qatar and President of the current edition of the Conference, **HE Eng. Saad bin Sherida Al Kaabi** inaugurated the opening session of the 12th Arab Energy Conference, under the slogan “Energy and Arab Cooperation”. In his keynote speech, HE Minister Al Kaabi indicated that the world is going through a period of conflict in which the pivotal importance of energy in achieving sustainable economic growth and global prosperity is increasing. His Excellency stressed the importance of formulating a realistic vision based on scientific foundations for a fair, balanced and sustainable transition to low-carbon energy, especially in the face of emotional and unrealistic discourses that call for the abolition of oil and gas. Al Kaabi also stressed the importance of boosting investments in conventional energy



resources, in which investments declined by about 25% over the past decade compared to the normal investment cycle, indicating that by 2050 the world's population is expected to increase by approximately two billion people, which will increase the demand for energy, especially in developing countries.



His Excellency added that despite the importance of turning to renewable energy sources, it is necessary to recognize that they alone are not the only solution due to their intermittent nature and the constant need for downstream products that depend on oil and gas products. HE Minister Al Kaabi added that Qatar has taken strategic decisions, investing in the LNG industry. The decision at the time was based on a realistic understanding of market fundamentals and efforts to reduce global carbon emissions. “As a result, we embarked on implementing our plans to raise our LNG production from the current 77 million tons per annum to 126 million tons by 2026,” His Excellency added.

HE Minister Al Kaabi concluded his remarks by noting that Qatar stresses the importance of strengthening ways of cooperation between Arab countries to secure a promising future, praising the role of OAPEC and the series of Arab Energy Conferences in monitoring developments in global energy markets and their impact on the member countries, and working to support efforts to develop the energy industry and adopt modern technologies that support partnership between various components of energy sources.

For his part, **OAPEC Secretary General, HE Eng. Jamal Essa Al Loughani** noted in his speech that “the conference aims to create an institutional framework for Arab ideas and perceptions on oil and energy issues in order to formulate harmonious visions and identify international dimensions of energy and their impacts on Arab countries.” His Excellency added that

the conference will also address cooperation aspects in the energy industry; international developments in energy markets and their repercussions at the Arab and international levels; and the connection of the energy industry to the environment and its repercussions on sustainable development in the Arab region. Al Loughani explained that all these issues require dealing with awareness and understanding in the context of reality as the Arab oil and gas producing and exporting countries will be facing many challenges in the future, represented in how to build sustainable and reliable energy systems, which requires striking a careful balance between different goals including cutting emissions, energy availability and affordability, and energy security.

His Excellency also noted that many of the Arab countries are implementing international standards to maintain a pollution-free environment and are using technologies that produce quality fuel and low-emissions energy, so there is no way to link an emissions-free environment with the consumption of fossil fuels, especially oil and gas.

Al Loughani concluded his speech by stating that the exploitation of hydrocarbon resources while controlling their emissions through clean technologies will enhance the world’s potential to reach the desired net-zero by 2050. Thus, these sources will be part of the solution towards a balanced, gradual and responsible transition towards more sustainable energy sources in a way that takes into account the national circumstances and priorities of each country.



2. SPEECHES BY THEIR EXCELLENCIES THE ARAB MINISTERS OF ENERGY AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE 12TH ARAB ENERGY CONFERENCE

A number of Their Excellencies the Ministers of Energy in the Arab countries took turns delivering speeches at the opening session to explain the efforts of their countries in confronting the challenges of energy security and its transitions. Here is an overview of the topics touched upon in those speeches:

HE Dr Saleh Hamid Ali Al Kharabsheh, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, pointed out in his speech that fossil fuels played a major role in achieving successive industrial revolutions, and will remain the mainstay of energy markets during the coming decades. He pointed out to the need to focus on technologies that work to remove carbon from the entire chains of production and consumption of fossil fuels, within the framework combating climate change, whose impacts have started to emerge in our Arab region, which requires moving towards the energy transition during the next stage, and finding new sources environmentally friendly energy, and improving the efficiency of its use, while moving toward the use of smart grids, boosting electrical interconnection projects, and relying on renewable energy sources to cover these needs.



For his part, **HE Mohamed Arkab**, Minister of Energy and Mines of the Algerian Republic, praised Qatar's efforts in making the twelfth edition of the Arab Energy Conference a success. He explained that the conference is a significant occasion to discuss many important topics, most notably those related to energy security and environmental challenges, with the keenness of everyone, especially the major industrial countries to ensure a proper distribution of energy supplies, while diversifying their sources. Whereas energy producers believe that security in this sector will only come through reaching appropriate prices and developing the infrastructure of oil and gas facilities, which can support the energy transition process.



In turn, **Dr Firas Hassan Qaddour**, Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources of the Syrian Arab Republic, stated that energy is considered the backbone of economic and social development in any country, which explains the decline in the ability to meet the needs of society and the economic and service sectors in Syria, due to the acute shortage of oil and gas products, as well as, electricity, resulting from the crisis that the country is going through in recent years. This situation requires supporting this sector and raising the efficiency of its use, keeping pace with the energy transition that the world is currently witnessing, and expanding renewable energy projects. This is the best type of humanitarian response to the needs of the Syrian people, and the first step for the reconstruction of Syria.





For his part, **HE Engineer Hayyan Abdul-Ghani Al Sawad**, Deputy Prime Minister for Energy Affairs and Minister of Oil of the Republic of Iraq, stressed the importance of this gathering for the future of the energy sector in the Arab countries, indicating that one of the most important challenges facing oil-producing countries is the transition to alternative energy, and how to manage the important points to make oil and gas available, which Iraq has gone far and beyond, by adopting developmental methods for clean energy, through many investment projects in gas.



HE Dr Saad Hamad Nasser Al Barrak, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment in the State of Kuwait, stressed the importance of cooperation between Arab countries in various energy sectors, and confronting the burdens and responsibilities imposed on producing and exporting countries. This is in addition to demanding to contribute to achieving the security of energy supplies and supporting global growth and prosperity, at a time when oil, as a main source of energy, faces many challenges that affect the growth of global demand and prices, as a result of some policies followed by the main consuming countries. He called for the activation of joint Arab cooperation in various energy fields, encouraging investment and establishing new projects.



For his part, **HE Engineer Mohamed Aoun**, Minister of Oil and Gas in the State of Libya, highlighted role of this conference in unifying opinions on OAPEC's goals and advancing its Arab oil projects. He stressed the support of the State of Libya for all OAPEC plans, within the framework of preserving the higher Arab interests. He also underscored the global challenges facing oil and gas activities, resulting from environmental and climate protection, and others based on political motivations whose backgrounds are difficult to understand, calling for easing the use of politics in this particular sector.



In the same context, **HE Tarek El Molla**, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of the Arab Republic of Egypt, stressed the importance of the energy sector in building strong countries in all fields, saying: "Participation in this conference stems from complete confidence in its positive impact on the Arab world, and confronting climate change, which is a new challenge that requires us to meet energy needs, while diversify energy sources, to include clean, renewable energy and green hydrogen."

THIRD: MINISTERIAL SESSIONS

Two ministerial sessions were held during the 12th Arab Energy Conference, the first on the first day of the conference and was entitled “International Developments in Energy Markets and their Implications for the Arab Energy Sector,” and the second session was held on the second day of the conference and was entitled “Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development.” The following is a summary of what was discussed in the two sessions:

THE FIRST MINISTERIAL SESSION ON “INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN ENERGY MARKETS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ARAB ENERGY SECTOR”



Speakers of the first ministerial session on “International Developments in Energy Markets and their Implications for the Arab Energy Sector,” which was moderated by **HE Engineer Jamal Essa Al Loughani**, OAPEC Secretary General, were: His Excellency Engineer Saad bin Sherida Al Kaabi, Minister of State for Energy Affairs of the State of Qatar - Chairman of the Conference; His Excellency Engineer Tarek El Molla, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of the Arab Republic of Egypt; His Excellency Engineer Mohamed Emhamed Aoun, Minister of Oil and Gas - State of Libya; His Excellency Mr Haitham Al-Ghais, Secretary-General of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC); and His Excellency Mr Mohamed Hammal, Secretary-General of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF).

The session discussed mechanisms for developing fossil resources and providing them in ways that are low in emissions and safe for the environment to meet people’s needs, achieve economic development, and use these resources in energy transition.

The session began with **Dr Bassam Fattouh**, Director of the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, presenting a technical paper entitled “Evolution of the Strategies of Arab Oil and Gas Exporting Countries and Energy Transitions,” focusing on two main axes, the first of which is the dual strategy for diversification and improving the flexibility of the oil and gas sector, and the second is the main role of oil and gas in achieving the three main goals of the energy trilemma: energy security, affordability, and sustainability.



One of the important issues that Dr Bassam referred to is the issue of economic diversification in the Arab countries as an effective strategy to deal with the potential risks associated with the energy transition. He stated that diversification has been the main development goal of Arab oil and gas exporters since the 1970s, and that many of our Arab countries have achieved remarkable progress in diversifying their economic base and carrying out profound economic reforms.

After completing the review of the discussion paper, Their Excellencies commented on the topic, as follows:



His Excellency Engineer Saad bin Sherida Al Kaabi, Minister of State for Energy Affairs of the State of Qatar, Chairman of the Conference, said that some renewable energy sources for generating electricity; like the sun and wind are not available in many countries, and are not sustainable compared to fossil energy. He added that there is a fundamental point that is not addressed in energy transition, which is how to replace the products that come out of oil and gas, like many petrochemicals, leather, and clothing industries, which will be difficult to replace.

His Excellency said that the role of oil and gas producers is to carry out production in a way that preserves the environment and limits carbon emissions. He gave the example of the State of Qatar, which captures carbon dioxide during production and injects it underground at a rate of 2.5 million tons annually, in addition to the fact that more than 75 tankers use liquefied gas as fuel. Moreover, Qatar uses solar energy for 10% of the energy used in the country.



For his part, **His Excellency Engineer Tarek El Molla**, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of the Arab Republic of Egypt, emphasized what Engineer Al Kaabi mentioned regarding the importance of striking a balance between achieving development and energy transition. He also touched upon putting pressure on oil as a source of energy, and not considering coal, the most carbon-emitter, which some developed countries are still using today, and represents about 30% or 40% of their energy mix.

His Excellency believed that the transition to renewable energy is necessary, but abandoning natural resources is unreasonable, so he called for working to extract and use them properly, and for each country to have an appropriate mix of energy that achieves diversity and sustainability, provided that it includes solar, wind, hydroelectric, nuclear, and other sources. El Molla stressed the need for Arab countries to cooperate and unify their position in the COP28 talks, and to deal with global transformations in the field of energy and the pressures exerted on investments in fossil energy.

The Libyan Minister of Oil and Gas, **His Excellency Engineer Mohamed Imhamed Aoun**, said that the completion of alternative energy projects must be carried out on the conditions of developing countries, given that they have not prepared for part of these transitions, at a time when developed countries seek to impose these transitions on them. His Excellency warned that studies on renewable energies are not yet fully guaranteed, at a time when the world is stably dependent on oil and gas, which can be regulated and continued to rely on. He added that the ideal method for energy transition is to extract oil and gas and try to remove their harmful emissions.



For his part, **HE Haitham Al Ghais**, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), believes that energy transitions are just, fair and comprehensive, especially since the world needs large investments in all energy sources, including hydrocarbons, in light of the rise in the world's population and the doubling of the GDP. Al Ghais stressed that each country has its own appropriate mix to achieve energy transition, and this is determined according to its resources and policies. He also highlighted the size of the great challenge of the so-called "energy transition," pointing out that the organization's annual report showed that the size of the global economy will double by 2045, and population growth will reach 9.5 billion people by 2030, and that this increase comes from developing countries, which means the movement of 500 million people from remote areas to new cities.



His Excellency Mohamed Hammal, Secretary-General of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), underscored the important role assigned to the natural gas industry and increasing reliance on gas as a clean fuel within the global energy mix.



The Secretary-General of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), **Engineer Jamal Essa Al Loughani**, concluded by emphasizing that the Arab oil and gas producing and exporting countries are facing many future challenges, namely, how to build sustainable and reliable energy systems, which requires a careful balance between the various goals, like cutting emissions, energy availability and affordability, as well as energy security.



The session stressed that the Arab oil and gas producing and exporting countries are part of the solution in the approach to transitioning towards clean energy and will not be a cause of the problem of climate change.



THE SECOND MINISTERIAL SESSION ON “ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”



The second ministerial session on “Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development,” was chaired by **His Excellency Engineer Hayyan Abdul-Ghani Al Sawad**, Deputy Prime Minister for Energy Affairs and Minister of Oil of the Republic of Iraq. The speakers at this session included: His Excellency Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak bin Dainah, Minister of Oil and Environment and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain; His Excellency Dr Saad Hamad Nasser Al Barrak, Minister of Oil and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment of the State of Kuwait; His Excellency Dr Omar Farouk Ibrahim, Secretary General of the African Petroleum Producers Organization (APPO); His Excellency Professor Tsuyoshi Nakai, CEO, Japan Cooperation Center for Petroleum and Sustainable Energy (JCCP); His Excellency Dr Abdullah Fahd Al Shami, Director General, Arab Planning Institute; and Her Excellency Amina Ibn Khadra, Director General of the National Office of Hydrocarbons and Minerals, the Kingdom of Morocco.

The session began with **Engineer Jamila Matar**, Director of the Energy Department, League of Arab States, presenting a technical paper entitled “The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Repercussions on the Energy Sector in the Arab Region,” in which she reviewed international



climate action and presented a historical overview and the most important milestones of the Conference of the Parties. She also touched upon the Arab movement during climate change negotiations, the opportunities available to Arab countries within the framework of climate action, and energy transitions in the Arab countries.

During the deliberations in the session, the steps taken by several Arab countries in the field of energy transition were discussed, stressing the importance of preserving fossil energy as a strategic and main commodity for many Arab countries’ income.

His Excellency Dr Saad Hamad Nasser Al Barrak, Minister of Oil and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment of the State of Kuwait, expressed his astonishment at the extraordinary insistence on depriving many peoples and countries, most of them from the developing world, of a basic source of energy, which is considered a major source for their economy that can take these countries to prosperity and stability over the next 30 years. Al Barrak expressed his rejection of Western demands to stop investing in oil and gas, noting that they contradict the 17 goals launched by the United Nations.

The Kuwaiti Minister referred to the steps taken by the countries of the region in terms of energy transition. While these countries do possess oil, they have not ignored clean energy, as there are 4 Arab countries that have distinguished experience in energy transition. He pointed out that the countries of the region increased their capabilities in the field of renewable energy by 57 percent between 2022 and 2023, saying: “We are serious about transitioning to alternative and renewable energy, while continuing to invest in oil and gas.”

He said: “Abandoning fossil fuels will have a negative impact on the global economy, and will create problems in the energy sector, development stability, and the provision of what is needed for developing countries.” He explained that getting rid of fossil fuels will in turn affect sustainable development, pointing to Kuwait’s firm belief in working to reduce emissions and preserve the environment, and the necessity of addressing the issue of emissions through developing technical solutions and international oversight.

In this context, **His Excellency Engineer Hayyan Abdul-Ghani Al Sawad**, Deputy Prime Minister for Energy Affairs and Minister of Oil of the Republic of Iraq, pointed out to the importance of supporting renewable and clean energy sources and projects, stressing the necessity of preserving fossil energy as a strategic commodity for producing countries because their economies depend on this source as a major source of their income. HE Al Sawad also referred to the importance of the conventional energy sector and energy transitions in the Arab countries and their various paths, including the shift to renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency, and the common Arab market for electricity and green hydrogen.

The Iraqi Oil Minister underscored the status of fossil fuel production in Arab economies. He said that Arab countries produce oil, but greenhouse emissions come from developed countries that use this oil, and they must increase the efficiency of their equipment to benefit from this energy to reduce harmful emissions.





In turn, **His Excellency Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak bin Dainah**, Minister of Oil and Environment and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs in the Kingdom of Bahrain, called for separating oil production from the issue of climate change, indicating that countries are required to think about the future and achieve development and prosperity for their people.

He stressed the need to think about the common Arab market for electricity and the energy transition not to serve the Framework Convention on Climate Change, but rather to serve the peoples of the region. The Minister underscored that oil and its production are an essential part of the income of some countries. He also pointed out to the Kingdom of Bahrain's intention to reduce carbon emission levels by 35 percent in the coming period.



For his part, **His Excellency Dr Omar Farouk Ibrahim**, Secretary General of the African Petroleum Producers Organization (APPO), touched upon the issue of energy transition saying, "We in Africa are moving in a direction in which we accept all the challenges involved in the energy transition process." He added that if the goal is to reduce emissions, we must provide all the capabilities and technologies to the countries that need them, but we do not see this happening today. What is happening today is targeting fossil fuels. He indicated that the African continent lives with the largest number of people who lack electricity and clean cooking methods, despite the availability of resources capable of "pulling our countries out of the cycle of poverty if they receive the necessary support."



His Excellency Tsuyoshi Nakai, CEO, Japan Cooperation Center for Petroleum and Sustainable Energy (JCCP), highlighted the importance of energy security, the importance of economic growth, and the importance of focusing at the same time on climate change issues. He said, "Today we are looking into finding solutions to these issues in accordance with the special conditions of each country. There is no one-size-fits-all solution."



For his part, **His Excellency Dr Abdullah Fahd Al Shami**, Director General, Arab Planning Institute, said that climate change issues are the focus of the world's attention today, and what is important for us to focus on is that there are gaps and they are accumulating, which will represent challenges for the next fifty years. These challenges are based on the steady growth in the urban population, which will lead to a significant increase in energy demand.



Her Excellency Mrs Amina Ibn Khadra, Director General of the National Office of Hydrocarbons and Minerals, Kingdom of Morocco, said that we all know that the energy sector is a strategic sector and lies at the heart of the development of any country, and fossil fuels have always been at the heart of geopolitical issues.

She said, despite the transitions we are witnessing today, we all know that fossil fuels will continue to play an increasing and important role in the energy mix consumed globally for decades to come. This highlights the importance of its role in meeting global energy demand and ensuring energy security. She added, “At the same time, we are concerned about climate change, but we stress that there is no



single solution to the issue of energy transition, as there are many solutions available that suit every country.”





FOURTH: TECHNICAL SESSIONS

During the second day of the 12th Arab Energy Conference, four technical sessions were held as follows:

FIRST TECHNICAL SESSION: ENERGY SOURCES IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND THE WORLD



This session was chaired by **HE Dr Miloud Medjlled**, Director General of Foresight Studies, Ministry of Energy and Mines, Representative of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria at OAPEC Executive Bureau. Five technical papers were presented during this session. The first paper on oil and natural gas in the Arab countries and the world, was prepared and presented by **Engineer Turki Hemish**, Senior Petroleum Expert, Technical Affairs Department, OAPEC. The second paper was about the role of nuclear energy in energy transitions, prepared and presented by **Dr Adnan Shihab El Din**, Visiting Research Fellow, Oxford Institute for Energy Studies. The third paper on the Arab strategy for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy was prepared and presented by **Dr Salem Hamedi**, Director General, Arab Atomic Energy Authority. The fourth paper on renewable energies: prospects and challenges, was prepared and presented by **Engineer Khaled Al Salmi**, Expert at the Sustainable Energy Department, Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. The fifth and final paper was about



Dr Miloud Medjlled,

biofuels and their role in energy transition, prepared and presented by **Dr Ali Hisham Abdel-Rahim**, Associate Scientific Researcher, Energy and Building Research Centre at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research.



Engineer Turki Hemish



Dr Ali Hisham Abdel-Rahim



Engineer Khaled Al Salmi



Dr Salem Hamedi



Dr Adnan Shihab El Din,

For more details about what was covered in these five technical papers presented at this session, please scan the QR code below:



SECOND TECHNICAL SESSION: DOWNSTREAM PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES AT ARAB AND GLOBAL LEVELS



The session was chaired by **HE Engineer Sherif Ali Hasaballah Shadid**, Undersecretary for Production, Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, and Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt at OAPEC Executive Bureau. Five technical papers were presented during this session. The first paper on the oil refining industry: challenges and future prospects, was prepared and presented by **Engineer Emad Makki**, Director of the Technical Affairs Department, OAPEC. The second paper tackled the petrochemicals industry at Arab and global levels, prepared and presented by **Engineer Ibrahim Abdel Qader Makki Mahjoub**, Chairman of the Egyptian Petrochemicals Holding Company. The third paper was about developments in the natural gas industry in the Arab world and globally, prepared and presented by **Dr Naji Abi Aad**, General Manager of Operations, Petroleb Company. The fourth paper on hydrogen in the Arab countries: reality and prospects, was prepared and presented by **Engineer Wael Abdel Moati**, Gas Industries Expert, Technical Affairs Department, OAPEC. The fifth and final paper



HE Engineer Sherif Ali Hasaballah Shadid,

on hydrogen in the energy trilemma, was prepared and presented by **Mr Mustafa Adel Amer**, Energy Technology Analyst, Gas Exporting Countries Forum.



Engineer Emad Makki



Mr Mustafa Adel Amer



Engineer Wael Abdel Moati



Dr Naji Abi Aad



Engineer Ibrahim Abdel Qader Makki Mahjoub

For more details about what was covered in these five technical papers presented at this session, please scan the QR code below:





THIRD TECHNICAL SESSION: ENERGY DEMAND MANAGEMENT IN ARAB COUNTRIES

الدوحة - دولة قطر - 11 - 12 ديسمبر 2023 11th - 12th December 2023



The proceedings of this session were chaired by **His Excellency Dr Walid Fayyadh**, Minister of Energy and Water of the Republic of Lebanon. Four technical papers were presented at this session. The first paper on energy demand forecasts in Arab countries until the year 2045, was prepared and presented by **Mr Al Taher Al Zaytouni**, Planning Consultant, Mellitah Oil and Gas Company B.V., Libya Branch. The second paper on the necessary investments to develop the energy sector in the Arab countries, was prepared and presented by **Engineer Rami Al Ashmawy**, Senior Energy Specialist, Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (APICORP). The third paper, on the transition towards a circular carbon economy: opportunities and challenges, was prepared and presented by **Engineer Majid Al Suwailem**, Fellow Researcher, King Abdullah Centre for Petroleum Studies and Research. The fourth and final paper was about the role of the electric power generation sector in achieving sustainability and energy security, prepared and presented by **Dr Mohamed Farahat**, Senior Engineer Advisor, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.



His Excellency Dr Walid Fayyadh



Mr Al Taher Al Zaytouni



Dr Mohamed Farahat



Engineer Majid Al Suwailem



Engineer Rami Al Ashmawy

For more details about what was covered in these five technical papers presented at this session, please scan the QR code below:



FOURTH TECHNICAL SESSION: TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ENERGY SECTOR



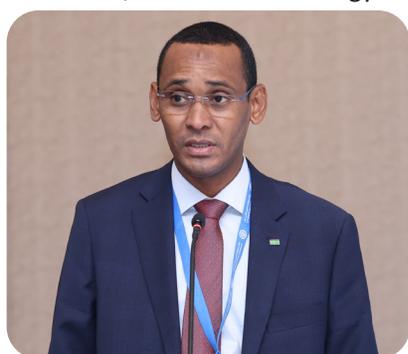
It was chaired by **Engineer Farahat Jamil Abdullah**, Deputy Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources, Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic at OAPEC Executive Bureau, during which four technical papers were presented. The first paper on Blue Hydrogen: Hydrogen with Ultra-Low Carbon Density, was prepared and presented by **Mr Nitesh Bansal**, Director of the Hydrogen and Syngas Technology Sector TOPSE. The second paper was about the technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and their applications in the oil and gas sector, prepared and presented by **Dr Sarah Hassan Al Benyan**, Senior Information Security Analyst, Information Technology Department, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation. The third paper was about the impacts of the application of technological developments in boosting and integrating sustainable energy sources into the current energy system, prepared and presented by **Dr Hebat Allah Khaled**, Senior Electrical Engineer, Engineering for the Petroleum & Process Industries (Enppi). The fourth and final paper on Mauritania's low-carbon energy capabilities and investment opportunities was prepared and presented by **Mr Mustafa Bashir**, Director General of Fuels, Mauritanian Ministry of Petroleum, Minerals and Energy.



Engineer Farahat Jamil Abdullah



Mr Nitesh Bansal



Mr Mustafa Bashir



Dr Hebat Allah Khaled



Dr Sarah Hassan Al Benyan

For more details about what was covered in these five technical papers presented at this session, please scan the QR code below:





FIFTH: THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE



His Excellency Engineer Jamal Essa Al Loughani, Secretary General of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) gave a speech at the Closing Ceremony of the Twelfth Arab Energy Conference. Here is the full text:

As the twelfth edition of the Arab Energy Conference comes to a close, it gives me great pleasure to extend, in my name and in the name of all of you, the most sincere thanks, appreciation and gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, for his high patronage of this conference, which had such a profound impact on the success of its proceedings, and its progress towards what we all aspire to and the results and recommendations we envision. We hope that the conference's outcomes will be a reference and a beacon for all our Arab countries in dealing with issues related to the energy industry in

general, and the oil and gas industry in particular.

I am also pleased to extend my sincere thanks and deep appreciation to His Excellency Engineer Saad bin Sherida Al Kaabi, Minister of State for Energy Affairs, President of the Conference, for inaugurating this conference on behalf of the conference patron and for his continuous follow-up of its activities despite his many preoccupations. I also extend my special thanks, appreciation and gratitude to Their Highnesses and Excellencies the Ministers of Energy, Oil and Gas for attending and being with us during the conference sessions despite their responsibilities, and for their sober words in the opening session of the conference about the efforts made to tackle energy transitions, and for their valuable contributions to the ministerial sessions, which added great knowledge and media momentum to this important Arab event.



We hope that their participation in the conference and the bilateral meetings will be a good opportunity to communicate and strengthen the bonds of cooperation in various fields of the energy industry, which would open broad and new horizons for constructive fraternal cooperation, the fruits of which will be reaped through the joint development of the Arab energy sectors.

On this occasion, I also extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the heads of Arab and international organizations, bodies and institutions who responded to our invitation to participate in the activities of this conference, in confirmation of the spirit of solidarity and support that distinguishes them. Their valuable contributions, with their bright ideas and profound experiences in this field, have played an important role in enriching the atmosphere of constructive dialogue and discussions

that prevailed throughout the conference sessions.

It would also be my pleasure to extend all my thanks and appreciation to all the brothers, sisters, and experts who accepted our invitation to attend the conference in their personal capacity or as representatives of their institutions. Our invitation to them stemmed from our awareness of their scientific standing, and their long and rich experience in the field of energy. There is no doubt that their presence here at the twelfth edition of the Arab Energy Conference enriched its proceedings, contributed to its success, and elevated the deliberations. The technical papers that they presented represented a rich and condensed summary of their experiences and long scientific background, and will be a reference for specialists in various energy activities.

I also take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to all the delegations that participated in this conference, and all the media representatives who provided comprehensive media coverage of the conference and broadcasted its activities to the wider audience. All thanks and appreciation also go to everyone who contributed to the success of this conference, from the very beginning of its initial preparations until its conclusion with these results, which I hope will live up to what we all hoped for.

Before concluding my speech, I am pleased to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud for his kind invitation to host the upcoming Thirteenth Arab Energy Conference in 2027 in the city of Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, wishing the brothers in the Kingdom all the best in organizing the conference, in a way that ensures its success and the achievement of its desired goals.



FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE TWELFTH ARAB ENERGY CONFERENCE

A set of recommendations were reached by the end of the conference that lasted for 2 days that can be summarized as follows:

- **First: International Developments in Energy Markets and their Implications for the Arab Energy Sector**

After addressing the energy trilemma (energy security, sustainability, and affordability), energy transitions' features and trends, and the strategies of Arab oil and gas exporting countries with regard to those transitions, the AEC12 recommended that exploiting hydrocarbon sources while controlling their emissions through clean technologies will undoubtedly enhance the possibility of the world reaching the desired net-zero in 2050. Thus, these sources will be part of the solution towards a balanced, gradual and responsible transition towards more sustainable energy sources in a way that takes into account the circumstances and national priorities of each country.

- **Second: Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development**

- The conference discussed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) developments related to global climate change negotiations, current efforts of the Arab countries within the framework of those negotiations, as well as the opportunities available to Arab countries within the framework of the Climate Action Agreement. In this regard, the conference recommended the following:
 - It is necessary that all Arab countries adopt balanced development policies, including integrating the environmental dimension into development plans, balanced use of resources, diversifying the economy, and setting appropriate environmental standards to fully achieve sustainable development
 - Working to consolidate the basic concepts of sustainable development in the petroleum industry, through the acquisition of state-of-the-art technologies, energy conservation and consumption rationalization, production of cleaner fuels, reduction of emissions, and performance improvement in all stages of this industry

- **Third: Energy Sources in the Arab Countries and the World**

- The conference reviewed oil and gas conventional energy sources developments at Arab and international levels. The role of nuclear energy as a reliable energy source in transition efforts towards a sustainable energy future was also addressed, as well as the future prospects for renewable energies and their role in reducing carbon emissions in the Arab countries. In this regard, the conference recommended the following:
 - Fossil fuels will remain the main source of energy



for decades to come, which requires developing the role of national energy companies and finding a mechanism for cooperation and coordination among them in the technological, technical and economic fields. This is in addition to benefiting from state-of-the-art technologies and exchanging expertise with the aim of maintaining production levels and working to provide additional production capacities.

- Following up on technical and economic developments in the field of renewable energy sources, working to increase their share in the energy mix consumed, and boosting energy efficiency.
- Increasing investment in the oil and gas industry to avoid potential energy crises, as they are expected to remain the main pillars of global energy for many decades to come. This is in addition to supporting investments in various energy paths to ensure sustainable energy security, as demand increases, the world needs all sources of energy, both fossil and renewable.
- Increasing the role of nuclear energy in many national energy transition strategies, as it is an effective clean energy technology for mitigating greenhouse gases and should therefore be treated similarly to many other clean energy technologies.

- **Fourth: Arab and International Downstream Industries**

The conference reviewed oil refining industry developments, and necessary measures to enable refineries to face challenges and reduce their current and future negative repercussions. Natural gas industry developments, and opportunities and challenges facing Arab gas exporting countries in global markets, were also discussed. This is in addition to reviewing

the hydrogen industry developments as a fuel for the future and its expected role in the future energy mix.

- **The conference expresses its satisfaction with the efforts being made in this industry, and recommends the following:**

- The importance of modernizing existing refineries and/or building new ones, and increasing the capacity of conversion operations, with the aim of gradually moving towards producing clean petroleum products, with more environment-friendly specifications, while covering the domestic market needs and marketing the surplus to the global market.
- Creating appropriate conditions for expanding hydrogen production and use, especially since Arab countries possess many of the ingredients to build a competitive hydrogen economy and play an influential role in international hydrogen trade in the future. This comes within the framework that hydrogen will play an effective role in energy transitions and support international efforts aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating a low-carbon energy future.
- The importance of boosting cooperation and integration between petrochemicals companies in Arab countries, working to transfer state-of-the-art technology, and supporting scientific research efforts to confront the challenges facing the industry and enhance its competitiveness in global markets.

- **Fifth: Managing Energy Demand in Arab Countries**

The development of energy consumption in Arab countries, its main features, and consumption forecasts until 2045 were reviewed according to various future scenarios. This is in addition to expectations for planned and committed energy investments across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, including investment in renewable energy and decarbonization technologies as part of a long-term strategic vision aimed at building a low-carbon future. The AEC12 also addressed opportunities and challenges of shifting towards a circular carbon economy, the extent of Arab countries ability to achieve electrical power security and sustainability, electrical connectivity, and plans and efforts made towards increasing reliance on power generation using renewable energy sources.

In this regard, the conference recommended the following:

- The necessity of developing strategies and executive programs to rationalize and improve the efficiency of energy use at all levels and in all sectors, through developing plans and implementing the necessary programs to improve the efficiency of energy use in various industries.
- Drawing up policies to rationalize consumption in a way that maintains moderate growth in energy consumption, provided that this does not conflict with development programs. Also, developing detailed plans and forecasts to diversify the base of energy sources as long as they are technically and economically feasible.

- Supporting strategic partnerships between governments and the private sector as a major catalyst for development, which can form part of the circular carbon economy framework, while benefiting from technological solutions to address gas flaring.

- Supporting efforts to overcome obstacles to the development of the electricity sector to achieve the goals of economic and social development in Arab countries, represented in lifting subsidies and increasing efficiency.

- Maximising benefit from existing electrical interconnection projects, as this does not require additional investments, while supporting existing interconnection lines with new interconnection lines.

- **Sixth: Technological Developments and their Implications for the Energy Sector**

- Technological developments and their implications for oil and gas supplies, technologies that support the transition to a low-carbon future and how to face and address technical limitations and gaps were reviewed. The conference noted the importance of these developments and made the following recommendations:

- The importance of employing Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies and their applications in the oil and gas sector, with a focus on how to harness artificial intelligence (AI) to increase operational efficiency and gain a competitive advantage

- Exploiting technological developments to enhance and integrate sustainable energy sources into the current energy system, with an emphasis on continuing giving enough attention to scientific research in the field of energy

- Following up on international developments in the field of technology and benefitting from these technologies if they prove useful in the various aspects of the oil and energy industry

- **Seventh: Venue and Time of the Next Conference**

- At the end of the conference, His Excellency Engineer Jamal Essa Al Loughani, Secretary-General of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), delivered a speech in which he expressed his thanks and appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of the conference.

- The invitation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the Thirteenth Arab Energy Conference in the city of Riyadh in 2027 was welcomed, wishing the brothers and sisters in the Kingdom all the best in organizing the next edition in a way that ensures its success and the achievement of its desired goals.

- In conclusion, the AEC12 participants expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the government and people of the State of Qatar, for their authentic hospitality and established traditions, the warm welcome and care that the participants felt, which had the greatest impact on facilitating the proceedings of the conference.



SIXTH: BILATERAL MEETINGS ON THE SIDELINES OF THE TWELFTH ARAB ENERGY CONFERENCE BETWEEN OAPEC AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

On the sidelines of the Twelfth Arab Energy Conference, the OAPEC Secretariat General held several bilateral meetings with a number of international organizations and some other Arab countries that are not members of the organization. The aim of these meetings was to boost cooperation in areas of common interest and unify visions on issues related to energy, environment, and climate change.

BILATERAL MEETINGS: OAPEC AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

His Excellency Engineer Jamal Essa Al Loughani, OAPEC Secretary General, began these meetings by welcoming the heads of these organizations and thanking them for their response to the invitation to attend and participate in the activities of the Twelfth Arab Energy Conference. The following is a summary of what took place in those meetings:

1- BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN OAPEC AND OPEC



The meeting took place between the OAPEC Secretary-General, HE Engineer Jamal Essa Al Loughani, and OPEC Secretary-General, HE Haitham Al Ghais. The proposed aspects of cooperation between OAPEC and OPEC at the present time include cooperation in the field of data services, energy studies, and unifying visions regarding issues of climate change and the environment. It was also suggested that in the future there would be an energy dialogue between OPEC and OAPEC, similar to the current energy dialogues between OAPEC and the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), the African Petroleum Producers Organization (APPO), the European Union countries, India and China.



2- BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN OAPEC AND JCCP



The meeting took place between OAPEC Secretary-General, HE Engineer Jamal Essa Al Loughani, and HE Tsuyoshi Nakai, CEO, Japan Cooperation Center Petroleum and Sustainable Development (JCCP).

The proposed aspects of cooperation between the organization and the Japanese Center were to work on holding joint seminars and conferences that address topics of common interest.





3- THE TRIPARTITE MEETING BETWEEN OAPEC, THE GAS EXPORTING COUNTRIES FORUM (GECF) AND THE AFRICAN PETROLEUM PRODUCERS ORGANIZATION (APPO)



The meeting took place between OAPEC Secretary-General, HE Engineer Jamal Essa Al Loughani, HE Mohamed Hammal, Secretary-General of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), and HE Dr Omar Farouk Ibrahim, Secretary-General of the African

Petroleum Producers Organization (APPO). The proposed aspects of cooperation between the three parties at the present time cover the fields of data services, energy studies, and unifying visions regarding issues of climate change and the environment.



4- BILATERAL MEETINGS BETWEEN OAPEC AND SOME ARAB COUNTRIES THAT ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION

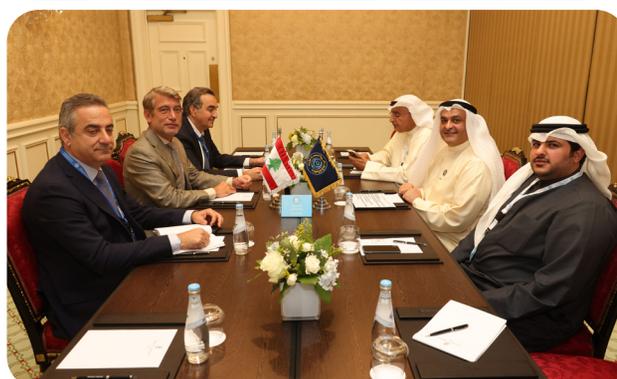


On the sidelines of the Twelfth Arab Energy Conference, bilateral meetings were held between OAPEC and the delegation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the delegation of the Lebanese Republic, and the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania participating in the conference activities. The dialogue focused on two main axes, the first of which was to identify the currently proposed areas of cooperation, which were summed up as follows:

1. Cooperation in exchanging energy-related data and statistics, especially considering the presence of OAPEC's Databank

2. Exchanging studies and technical reports related to the energy industry
3. Exchanging invitations to attend seminars, conferences, and events of common interest

The second point that was discussed was the fact that the organization has a future plan to develop its activity to include monitoring all energy sources and aims to expand and open the way for other countries to join it. The possibility of these Arab countries joining the organization could be considered in the future, and this matter requires holding more meetings for detailed discussion.

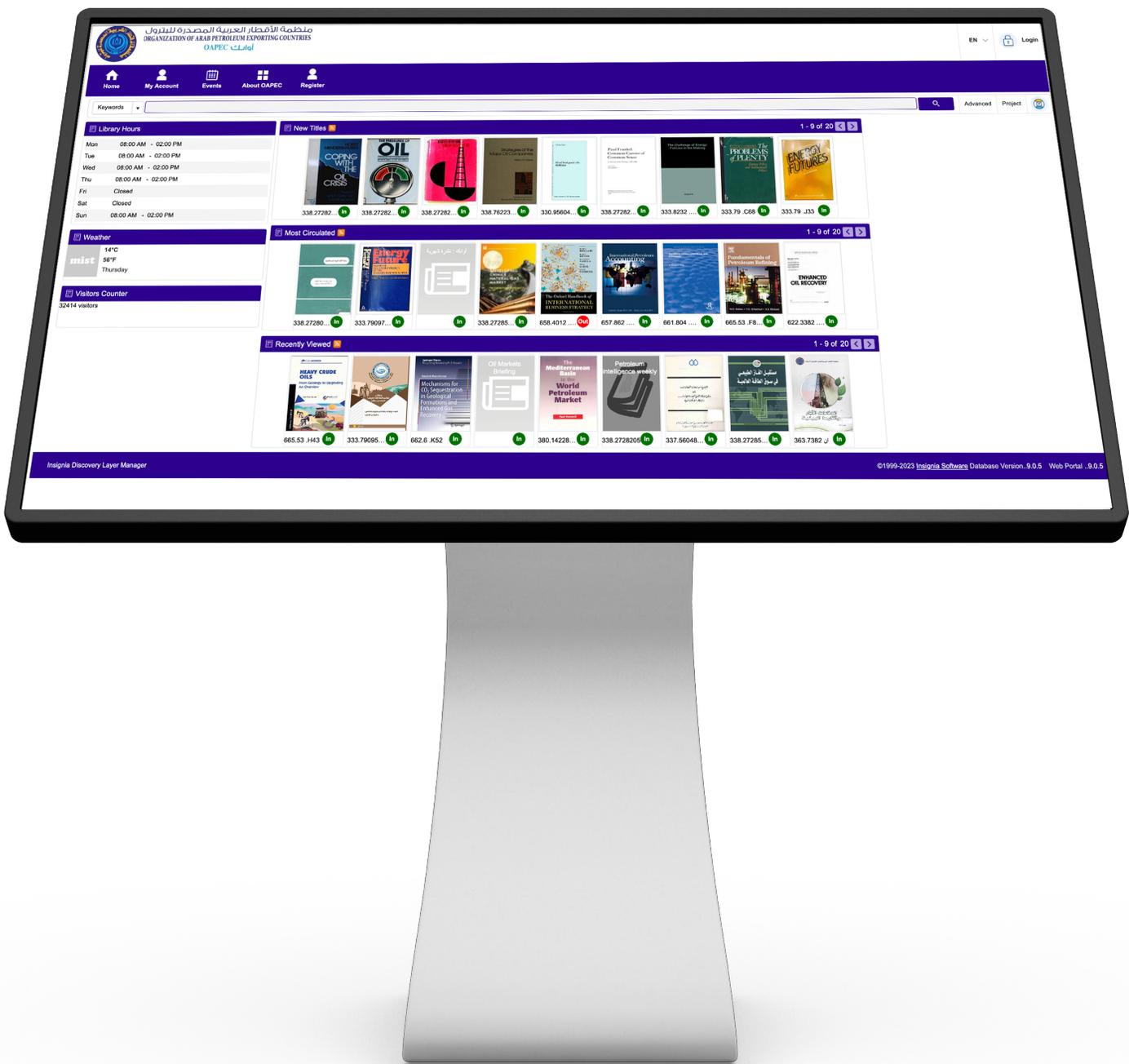




SEVENTH: OAPEC LIBRARY PAVILION AT THE TWELFTH ARAB ENERGY CONFERENCE

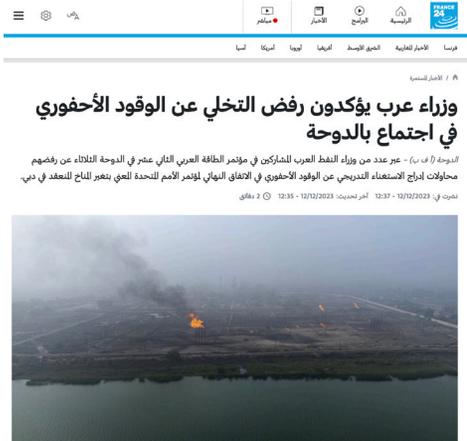
The library of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) also had a prominent presence on the sidelines of the 12th Arab Energy Conference. The pavilion showcased OAPEC’s statistical and technical reports, quarterly and annual periodicals, the monthly bulletin, and economic and technical studies that it prepares and sends to its member countries. These publications are uploaded on the Secretariat’s website for the benefit of the public. They are also available via quick response links (“QRcodes”) to facilitate the acquisition of these publications.

Since OAPEC implemented the automated program Insignia in mid-2022, the number of book titles that have been indexed has reached (1,174), of which about (1,000) are in electronic form, which can be accessed by those registered with the library by logging in with their accounts. The number of those who registered with the e-library’s website reached (227). Conference participants were given the opportunity to register in the organization’s library through a special link provided at the library pavilion for this purpose.



EIGHTH: PRESS COVERAGE OF THE CONFERENCE

This important Arab event witnessed enjoyed great momentum through extensive press coverage of its activities by various local and international media outlets, including visual, audio and print. Its activities were broadcast to a wide audience live via YouTube channels and other various social media platforms.





THE 12TH ARAB ENERGY CONFERENCE: THE TEN CRYSTAL-CLEAR ENDORSEMENTS



Abdul Fattah Dandi

*Director of the Economic
Department and Supervisor
of Media and Library
Department*

The Twelfth Arab Energy Conference was held in the city of Doha, State of Qatar, during the period 11 - 12 December 2023, under the slogan “Energy and Arab Cooperation”. The conference has become an important milestone in the process of joint Arab action and cooperation in the energy sector. Its importance has been enhanced by the remarkable and unprecedented presence of their Highnesses and Excellencies the ministers responsible for oil and energy, representing seventeen Arab countries.

Among the topics discussed extensively by Their Highnesses and Excellencies the Ministers of Energy was the issue of “Energy Transitions” and the efforts made to confront their challenges. By analysing their speeches and contributions, the following ten assertions are clearly evident to us:

Firstly, emphasizing that exploiting fossil fuel sources while controlling their emissions through clean technologies will boost the chances of the world reaching the desired net-zero in the

year 2050. Thus, these sources will be part of the solution towards a balanced, gradual and responsible transition towards more permanent energy sources in a way that takes into account the national circumstances and priorities of each country.

Secondly, emphasizing the importance of cooperation between oil and gas producing and exporting countries to tackle the burdens and responsibilities imposed on them, at a time when oil as a major source of energy faces many challenges, affecting the growth of its global demand and prices.

Thirdly, emphasizing that economic diversification in Arab countries represents an effective strategy for dealing with potential risks associated with energy transition, and the importance of striking a balance between achieving development and energy transition.

Fourthly, emphasizing the importance of formulating a realistic vision based on scientific foundations for a fair, balanced and sustainable transition to low-carbon energy, especially in the face of unrealistic discourses that call for dispensing with oil and gas, with the importance of creating appropriate conditions for expanding hydrogen production, as it will have an effective role in energy transitions.

Fifthly, emphasizing that the transition to renewable energy is necessary, but abandoning natural resources is unreasonable, which calls for working to extract and use them in optimal and clean ways, and for each country to have an appropriate mix of energy that achieves both diversity and sustainability.

Sixthly, emphasizing that energy transitions must be just, fair and comprehensive, especially since the world needs large investments in all energy sources, including hydrocarbons, in light of the doubling of the value of the global domestic product by 2045 on the one hand, and the growing world population that will rise to 9.5 billion people by 2030 on the other hand. This increase will come from developing countries, which means the movement of 500 million people from remote areas to new cities.

Seventhly, emphasizing that Arab oil and gas producing and exporting countries are facing many future challenges, represented in how to

build sustainable and reliable energy systems, which requires a careful balance between different goals; such as: emissions reduction, energy availability, sustainability and affordability.

Eighthly, emphasizing the importance of maintaining fossil energy as a strategic and key commodity for the income of many Arab countries. This is while underscoring the rejection of Western demands to stop investing in oil and gas, as they contradict the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and that renewable energy sources alone are not the only solution to energy transitions due to their intermittent nature and the constant need for oil and gas products.

Ninthly, emphasizing the importance of providing support for renewable and clean energy sources and projects; the necessity of preserving fossil energy as a strategic commodity for producing countries because their economies depend on it as a major source of their income; the importance of working to reduce emissions and protect the environment; and the necessity of addressing the issue of emissions through developing technical solutions and international monitoring.

Tenthly, laying emphasis on providing all state-of-the-art technologies and potentials to developing countries that need them if the goal is to reduce emissions and not target fossil fuels. In addition to, emphasizing the importance of finding solutions to the issue of energy transitions in accordance with the circumstances of each country. There is no single solution to the issue of energy transition that suits everyone, as there are many different solutions available that suit each country.

Ten crystal-clear and impeccable endorsements, all of which serve the interests of our Arab countries, which were endowed by God with diverse energy resources and sources. Our countries must work to exploit these sources optimally in order to form an important part of the solution to a balanced, gradual and responsible transition towards clean and sustainable energy sources.

* *Views expressed in the article belong solely to the author, and not necessarily to the organization.*