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PETRONAS-LNG

PETRONAS JOINS RANKS OF INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS IN LNG BUSINESS

By: Newmond Tibin

BINTULU, May 8 (Bernama) -- Petronas has joined the ranks of international players in the LNG business following the recent acquisition of a substantial stake in the LNG project in Egypt, chairman of Petronas, Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin said.

He said the encouraging growth of LNG business in the country had propelled Petronas to enter into a global industry.

For example, the integrated Petronas LNG complex, here is now heading towards achieving a special status as the world's biggest facility on a single location, he said at the official opening of the Malaysia LNG complex, here today.

The RM16.6 billion ringgit complex was opened by Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The complex, comprising three gas liquefaction plants and other related facilities, has been conceptualised and developed over the past 20 years by Petronas -- with the support from its joint venture partners -- as an integrated world-class LNG production complex.

"However, in all these developments we have the support of the government, both at federal and state level. For this, we thank the Prime Minister for encouraging and supporting us in our expansion efforts.

"To Petronas, this has been the Prime Minister's greatest contribution. It spurred the corporation to strive to be among the main players in the country," Azizan said.

He also thanked Sarawak government and its various agencies for facilitating the development of the infrastructure required by the LNG project.

On the development of LNG in Malaysia, Azizan said it had progressed tremendously since the setting up of the Malaysia LNG Sdn Bhd in June 1978.

He said the construction of the first LNG plant began in June 1980 and was completed in 1983.

In the same year 1983, the first LNG cargo was delivered to Japanese customers. This first LNG plant had a name plate capacity of six million tonnes per annum.

The project was the largest single investment in manufacturing undertaken in Malaysia at that time and he said: "It was a quantum leap in manufacturing for the nation."

Azizan said this pioneering effort laid the foundation for Malaysia's entry into the LNG business, thus setting the scene for the growth of a robust LNG production facility in Bintulu.

With the coming on stream of LNG Tiga, it marked a major milestone in the LNG industry in Malaysia, he added. -- BERNAMA

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