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QATAR-MSIA

QATAR INVITES M'SIANS TO EXPLORE OIL & GAS INDUSTRY

By: Tengku Nor Shamsiah Tengku Abdullah

KUALA LUMPUR, June 16 (Bernama) -- Malaysian businessmen should tap the vast opportunities in the oil and gas industry in Qatar, vice-chairman of Qatar Liquefied Gas Company Ltd, Faisal M. Al-Suwaidi said.

He said that so far, there were no Malaysian companies doing business in a major way in Qatar.

"We would like to see major companies like Petroliam Nasional Bhd (Petronas), investing in Qatar," Faisal told Bernama after presenting an overview of Qatar LNG Expansion plans -- Adding Value to Qatar gas reserves -- at the Eighth Annual Asia Oil & Gas Conference.

He said that there were already major companies worldwide doing business in Qatar.

Faisal said that Malaysian companies, especially those involved in engineering and liquefied natural gas (LNG) industry, could take advantage of the opportunities available in Qatar, which practises an open door policy.

The three-day conference themed "Political and Economic Uncertainties: The Emerging Challenges" was officiated by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, on behalf of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, today.

Earlier, in presenting the overview of Qatar LNG Expansion plans, Faisal said that Qatar's Northfield is the world's largest non-associated gas field.

He said that Qatar's vision was to reach 45 million tonnes by 2010 and this would make the country the biggest LNG supplier in the world.

Faisal said that production for 2003 would be at 14 million tonnes and by 2006, LNG production would stand at 25 million tonnes.

He said that Europe and the US were the current focused export markets.

Faisal also said that Qatar Gas was committed to long-term buyers. --

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