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Insight into developments in global oil and gas industry

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WHAT is happening in the oil and gas industry, what are its prospects and

what are the setbacks, especially in Asia after the September 11 2001 terrorist attacks on the US and the recent US-led invasion of Iraq?

Do you know how Russia's Far East and East Siberia is emerging as new major sources of gas supplies?

Or how the on-going deregulation of the gas and power sector in Japan and soon South Korea has and will, to a certain extent, change the landscape of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) business?

What is next for Iraq, whose oil industry does not commensurate with its

vast oil reserves of 112 billion barrels because of the invasion?

All these questions, and more, will be answered at the Asian Oil & Gas Conference 2003 (AOGC 2003) which begins today at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

The two-day conference, which is in its eighth year, features a host of

guest speakers who represent a virtual Who's Who in the oil and gas industry from the Asia-Pacific, Europe, West Asia and North America.

Themed "Political and Economic Uncertainties: The Emerging Challenges",

the event will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad

who will also deliver a keynote address.

The conference is designed for decision-makers, consultants, planners, researchers, analysts and other experts in the oil and gas and related industries.

Speakers include French oil group Total chairman/chief executive officer

Thierry Desmarest who will discuss the expansion and opening of national oil corporations' capital to private sector and how the majors built up a

very competitive position.

Lambert Energy Advisory Ltd senior partner James Menzies and independent

consultant Dr Sadalla Al-Fathi will raise issues on the Iraqi oil industry

reconstruction.

Other speakers include national oil company Petroliam Nasional Bhd vice-

president of gas business Abdul Rahim Hashim who will delve into the revolution of the LNG business model and emerging market structure.

Qatar Liquefied Gas Co Ltd vice-chairman and managing director Faisal M

Al-Suwaidi will give an overview on emerging markets and meeting market challenges.

BP Singapore Pte Ltd president Dr Wu Shen Kong will deal with oil trading issues.

US giant ConocoPhillips vice-president for worldwide exploration Dodd Decamp will give an insight into the supply and demand of clean energy.

There will also be a session on the prospects and challenges of the downstream operations. Panelists include BP Malaysia chief executive officer Peter Wentworth, Shell Oil Products East (Asia-Pacific and West Asia) president Datuk Seri Lim Haw Kuang and Indonesian national oil corporation Pertamina's senior vice-president and director of downstream operations Ari Sumano.