

PM to give keynote address at oil, gas meet

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is scheduled to deliver a keynote address at the three-day Ninth Asia Oil and Gas Conference 2004 (AOGC) next Monday.

The conference, which will be attended by more than 800 delegates, begins on Sunday, and will see a gathering of almost 50 international oil and gas industry experts who will share views with the delegates.

The annual conference, first held in 1996, is Asia's premier oil and gas gathering which has attracted more than 6,000 participants in its eight-year history.

In a statement, AOGC said Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) president Dr Purnomo Yusgiantoro is among the speakers who have confirmed their participation in the conference.

He is expected to deliberate on the world oil demand and its long-term implications on reserves, investments and market stability as well as cooperation among producers, both Opec and non-Opec members and consumers.

Former UK Special Representative to Iraq, Sir Jeremy Greenstock, meanwhile, will deliver a special address on "Iraq and the Polarisation of World Politics", touching on several pertinent geo-political and economic issues and questions on Iraq, post-Saddam Hussein and beyond.

AOGC said this year's state-of-the-industry address will be presented by ChevronTexaco Corp chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) David J. O'Reilly.

In his presentation, O'Reilly will discuss energy as a new bridge to opportunity between Asia and the West, as the economies of Asia-Pacific are once again leading the world economic growth.

Other notable speakers at the conference include US' FACTS Inc president Dr Fereidun Fesharaki, Saudi Aramco senior vice-president Abdulaziz F. Al-Khayyal, and Indonesia's Pertamina president and CEO Ariffi Nawawi.

Also scheduled to speak at the conference are Thailand's PTT pcl president Prasari Bunsumpun, Korea Gas Corp chairman/president and CEO Oh Kang-Hyun, and Morgan Stanley managing director Thomas R. Langford.

Themed, "Asia Oil and Gas. Rising to the New Challenges", the conference will address the developments in the global geo-political and economic scenarios, with much emphasis on Asia and how these developments would have an implication on the region's oil and gas industry.

It will also touch on strategies for new ventures and development, key challenges facing the upstream and downstream sectors, innovations in trading and risk management and financing and new technology options.

Delegates will come from the mainstream oil industry such as oil and energy executives, economists, bankers, investment analysts, brokers, traders, service providers as well as government officials and representatives.

The event enjoys strong support from industry players like ChevronTexaco, Shell, ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips, Mitsubishi Corp, Murphy Oil Corp and Talisman.