

Sixth Asia Gas Partnership Summit in New Delhi from March 22-23, 2010

- 47 Speakers from 11 Countries along with the Senior Officers from Petroleum, Fertilizer and Power Ministries to participate
- Conference will address the issues related to Sourcing, Transmission and Distribution of Natural Gas in Asian Gas Market

New Delhi, March 12, 2010.

The Sixth Asia Gas Partnership Summit (AGPS) - 2010 will be held in New Delhi from March 22-23, 2010 at the Taj Palace Hotel. This was announced today by Mr. B C Tripathi, Chairman & Managing Director (GAIL) and Dr. Amit Mitra, Secretary General, FICCI, at a press conference at Federation House, New Delhi. The Asia Gas Meet is organized by FICCI and GAIL (India) Ltd. And supported by International Gas Union (IGU). Industry leaders from all across the globe will be participating in the two-day conference. The summit will be addressed by 47 speakers from 11 countries including senior Government officials from Ministries of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Fertilizers and Power. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy & Industry, State of Qatar is Chief Guest of the event.

The theme for the Sixth Asia Gas Partnership Summit is “Sourcing, Transmission and Distribution of Natural Gas: Challenges for Emerging Markets”. The Conference, through its various Sessions, will attempt to understand major characteristics and address key issues related to Asian Gas Markets. Some of the sessions include Gas Sourcing, Gas Transportation, Gas Distribution, Increasing Range of Applications of Natural Gas- Opportunities, Regulatory and Legal Issues, Alternate Gas Sources and Gas Financing.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. B C Tripathi, CMD GAIL, said that “there is a discernible shift in the pattern of supply of natural gas in terms of changing domestic and international scenario of gas availability.” India is witnessing an interesting transition in its gas market. The major gas discoveries reported over past couple of years and availability of gas from these new domestic fields has changed the dynamics of natural gas industry.

Further, Mr. Tripathi added that the competition in the global gas sector has two distinct dimensions like competition among the buyers to secure the largest share of a limited supply and competition among the sellers to secure the largest share of the market. The dynamic scenario in India is leading to fierce competition among the Asian gas consuming countries across the world.

Dr. Amit Mitra, Secretary General, FICCI, said that “the high level of participation is an indication of the stature this event has acquired. It also indicates the boom in the growth of the Asian Gas Industry not only in upstream, midstream and downstream segments of gas industry but also in the ancillaries, the level of public and private participation of enterprises associated with all the three segments.”

“While this augurs well from the industry perspective, it is far more satisfying for Indian economy in general and Indian gas industry in particular. Indian Gas Hydrocarbon sector is undergoing with an unprecedented level of public and private participation. This industry is getting matured in every sense of the term be it operation and handling of gas, laying infrastructure network, fractionation of gas for the value added products or increase in the usage of natural gas across various verticals,” Dr. Mitra observed.

Dr. Mitra said that the 6th AGPS would raise the issues of India’s strategy for gas sourcing under a volatile world and Indian gas/LNG production scene; does India have enough gas transportation capacity to provide connectivity?; should there be control on gas utilization to the extent currently practised by India, particularly when gas supply situation is easing within India as well as globally; and should the Indian gas pricing structure be rationalised?

This is the sixth in the series of Asian gas summits which were initiated by GAIL and FICCI in 2003. Till 2006 this was held as an annual event but it was decided to conduct this every two years from 2008 onwards to make it more meaningful. The past five Summits have helped to develop a meaningful platform to discuss the opportunities and concerns associated with developments in natural gas markets, regulatory frameworks and cross border trade.

The Summit has attempted to bring together leaders from the global natural gas industry on one platform and has attracted active participation from global energy majors and institutions. This year also there is a line-up of eminent speakers from across the globe.

Some of the important international speakers on the occasion include Mr. Murli Deora, Hon’ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), H.E Mr. Abdullah Bin Hamad al-Attiyah, Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Industry, Qatar, Mr. Jitin Prasada, Hon’ble Union Minister for State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Mr. S. Sundareshan, Secretary, MoPNG, Ambassador Andre Mernier, Secretary General, Energy Charter Secretariat, Dr. Abdul Rahim Hashim, President, International Gas Union, Norway, Mr. Nobuo Tanaka, Executive Director, International Energy Agency, France, Mr. Vipul Tuli, Director, Mckinsey & Company India and a host of prominent speakers.

Over 400 delegates are expected to participate in this two-day Summit and Exhibition with over 100 national and international companies in the hydrocarbon and related sectors.