

Looking forward to GASTECH 2009

This year's Gastech, the 24th International Conference and Exhibition for the LNG, LPG and Natural Gas Industries, hosted by ADNOC & Group of Companies, is being held 25-28 May at the new Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC). A truly milestone event, it is held under the Patronage of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates – clearly a great honour for the show.

This will be the one of the largest Gastechs ever staged. It features a conference with a highly topical and relevant theme '*Gas: a time of change. A time for challenges, solutions and alternatives*'. Ours is a conference of its time, taking a realistic view of the current market and moving things on with dynamic sessions in the commercial, technical and focus tracks. Other key component parts of Gastech are the major exhibition with some 300 exhibitors from 34 countries; a host of special features; post-show technical tours to Das Island and the Ruwais Fractionation Plant; and networking events every day and every evening.

Networking is a key component to Gastech. There are events on

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, as well as delegate lunches and long coffee breaks ensuring that much business is done and many contacts made throughout the four days of the event.

Gas industry business leaders from across the globe will meet in Abu Dhabi. Gastech 2008 (held in Bangkok, Thailand) attracted 1,777 conference delegates of which 33% were Chairmen, Presidents, CEOs, COOs, Vice Presidents, Directors, or Managing Directors of organisations active in the international gas industry. Many thousands more register to attend the Gastech exhibition which enables visitors to keep up to date with new products and trends and now incorporates new feature areas designed to attract international buyers and decision-makers of the highest level.

Many of our international delegates are telling us how important they feel it is to use Gastech to meet colleagues and suppliers face-to-face. We already have delegates registered from well over 40 countries looking forward to getting down to discussing those challenges and coming up with innovative solutions in this time of change (a regularly updated list is on the Gastech website).

A relevant and independent conference

In addition to our host organisation, another essential group of people are those who on the Gastech Programme Advisory Committee (PAC), which is co-chaired by Chris Clucas, Group Fleet Director (Gas), Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement and Paul Young, Chief Marketing Officer, Exmar NV.

Our PAC comprises 22 senior independent representatives from a range of companies all over the world and includes some of the industry's leading gas experts. They steer the Gastech conference ensuring its relevance – ours really is a programme chosen by the industry for the industry.

The four-day programme, with over 100 speakers from 25 countries, encompasses highly relevant and topical presentations. Following the opening ceremony, the commercial plenary session looks at 'World Recession, World Gas – Where in the world are we going?' while the technical stream will consider the vital issue of 'Safety and Training for Ship and Shore Operations'. The first day closes with the official Gastech Welcome Reception hosted by

ADNOC & Group of Companies at the Emirates Palace.

Day Two's commercial stream will look at 'Natural Gas and LNG Projects'; and 'Middle East – Exporter or Importer'; while its technical counterpart considers 'LNG, LPG and Chemical Gas Shipping'; and 'Gas Processing and Utilization' and the focus stream has sessions on 'New Commercial Frontiers and Challenges' and 'Environmentally Friendly Technologies'. A lunchtime Poster Session is a feature of both Days Two and Three; and Day Two ends with the official Gastech Delegate and Exhibitor Party sponsored by Chevron Global Gas.

'Trading Models in the Gas Business' and 'Finance and Legal Matters' are the topics being addressed in the commercial stream on Day Three, while 'Floating Production Facilities: Hype or Reality?' and 'Advances in Key Enabling Technologies – Onshore and Offshore' come under the conference spotlight in the technical stream in a day that culminates in the launch party for the next Gastech.

A high level 'Regional Perspectives' session is a focal point of the final day of Gastech 2009, when senior industry players from Europe, Asia, South America, UK, Middle East and North America update delegates on activities in

their region. The Gastech Perspective session follows, when a panel of industry experts looks back over the highlights of the previous three days; and the Awards Ceremony closes Gastech 2009.

Gastech's growth, both in size and stature over the years, mirrors what is going on in the LNG, LPG and natural gas industries around the world. It is those developments that will be discussed both in formal sessions and at the myriad of Gastech networking events at this year's show. We look forward to welcoming you to Abu Dhabi in late May. www.gastech.co.uk

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