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## Key themes unveiled for Russian oil event



(Moscow) – The Russian oil industry as it stands today and the role of technology and new techniques in the global energy market will be amongst the central issues in the spotlight at a major event later this year in Moscow.

The topics have been identified and approved by one of the most influential and powerful line-ups ever assembled to oversee and endorse any Russian oil and gas event held thus far. The SPE Russian Oil & Gas Technical Conference & Exhibition has a growing reputation for delivering participants of the highest quality, further enhanced by the presence of Robert Dudley, TNK-BP's Management President and CEO, as Chairman of the Executive Committee.

The Chairman and the committee members recently approved the main topics to be discussed in the daily Plenary Sessions at Russian Oil & Gas 2008, which is being held under the overall theme of 'Technology For Today And Tomorrow'. The sessions will focus on: - The Russian Oil and Gas Industry Today and the Role of Technology and New Techniques in the Global Energy Market; - The Role of Technology Today and Tomorrow in the Russian Oil and Gas Industry; - Young Professionals and their Training. Realising the Talent We have Today and Tomorrow.

The invited speakers for these keynote sessions will be unveiled by the end of March, while further details about the papers accepted for up to 20 technical sessions, covering the full spectrum of E&P issues and technologies, will also be revealed.

### Conference to highlight 'Technology For Today And Tomorrow'

The Chairman has been joined by an equally distinguished group of industry VIPs on the Executive Committee. His colleagues include Professor Valery Graifer of RITEK (who was General Chairman of the 2006 event), Alexander Korsik of NK Rusneft, Albert Vladimirov of the Gubkin Russian State Oil & Gas University, Adil Mukhitov of Schlumberger (also Chairman of the RO&G08 Programme Committee), Maurice Dijols of Schlumberger, and Iskander Diyashev of IRDC. Also on the Committee are Anatoly Brekhuntsov from Sibnac (Siberian Scientific Analytical Centre), Anatoly Dmitrievsky of the Oil and Gas Research Institute, Chris Finlayson of Shell Russia, Sergei Kudryashov from Rosneft, Ken Eisenmenger from Chevron Neftegaz, Yuri Konstantinovich Shafranik of Souseftegas, Nikolay Tokarev of Transneft, Simon Turton of Halliburton, Victor Martinov of Gubkin Russian State Oil & Gas University, and Giovanni Paccaloni of SPE. Vasyl Zhygalo, Event Manager at Reed Exhibitions, commented: "We are very pleased to see that so many of the companies that participated in 2006 are coming back for 2008 with bigger stands, with exhibitors including RITEK, Tatneft, TNK-BP, Halliburton, Schlumberger, Paradigm and Welltec. We are also delighted to welcome country pavilions from Norway and China to the show."

The inaugural SPE Russian Oil and Gas event held two years ago created a huge grounds well of interest both in Russia and internationally, thanks to the outstanding international content and technical quality of the conference programme and speakers, as well as the major companies that participated in the exhibition.

More than 2,500 delegates, trade visitors and exhibitors attended, with that figure expected to grow significantly this year. The exhibition space available has also been increased by 50%. The much-anticipated second event will be held from 28-30th October 2008 at the All-Russia Exhibition Center, close to the centre of Moscow. Visitors to the exhibition will be able to experience the latest state-of-the-art technology and solutions in use and available both for projects in Russia as well as internationally, while several Topical Luncheons are also planned to be held.

The 2008 conference will be conducted using simultaneous translation, with CD Roms of all papers to be produced for the delegates in both Russian and English. The event is organised by Reed Exhibitions and its partner the Society of Petroleum

The event is organised by Reed Exhibitions and its partner the Society of Petroleum Engineers – who jointly organise other major upstream shows including Offshore Europe in Aberdeen, Intelligent Energy in Amsterdam, and Indian Oil & Gas in Mumbai.

**Al Osaimi Investments & Real Estate launches AED 1.5 billion 'Dusit Emirates Saray - The Palm Jumeirah Hotel Resorts & Residence'**

## AI Basel Consultancy launched to serve GCC's elite real estate investors

### Company to capitalise on strong influx of foreign direct investments into UAE and other regional markets

AI Basel Consultancy, a leading real estate consultancy firm and a member of AI Basel Group, has recently announced that it has commenced operations in the GCC, catering to the growing number of elite business players seeking investment opportunities in the region. The company has initially established a base in Dubai to leverage the exceptional performance of the emirate's construction sector, which has been one of the highest contributors to the double-digit growth of foreign direct investments (FDI) in the UAE.

Official statistics from the UAE Ministry of Economy have revealed that in 2006 the construction sector contributed about AED 1.97 billion or 29 per cent of a total AED 6.8 billion worth of FDIs in the UAE. Of this figure, nearly AED 1.5 billion was single-handedly generated by Dubai.

"Dubai has emerged as one of the world's most dynamic and attractive business destinations, which has subsequently helped create a wide array of property choices designed for international clients, particularly the high-end segment. In the next two years, a fresh supply of up to 150,000 property units are expected to be delivered in Dubai, with about 77,000 targeted for high-income occupants, presenting a significant business opportunity in this lucrative market," said Basel Al Kasem, CEO, AI Basel Group.

AI Basel Consultancy offers a portfolio of premium services such as real estate investment consultations, partnership opportunities, market consultancy, consultations for shareholders to buy and sell shares, and agency choice consultancy to its high-profile clients, which include Belhasa International,

Zainal Mohebi Group, Al Habtour Hospitality and recently H.H. Prince Saud bin Abdullah Al Saud. H.H. Prince Saud bin Abdullah Al Saud, a widely known poet, songwriter and published author who holds a doctor's degree in management, represents a growing number of Arab royalty channelling their investments into Dubai's booming real estate sector.



AI Basel Consultancy also provides advice and due diligence in all aspects of the investment process, including segmenting the right partners for businesses from abroad.

"The ongoing trend has opened new and exciting investment opportunities that are poised to help further strengthen the multi-billion dirham industry within the next few years. AI Basel Consultancy's goal is to help maintain the heavy influx of foreign capital into the market and ensure this robust growth is sustained. What we offer is basically a comprehensive global network that brings business entities from abroad to the UAE and the rest of the region," said Al Kasem.

"Additionally, AI Basel Consultancy also facilitates outward-bound foreign investments from the GCC to high-growth markets all over the world, giving our clients a much broader range of choices to satisfy their investment preferences," added Al Kasem.

AI Basel Consultancy has also revealed plans to expand its presence in the region by setting up new offices in Bahrain and Kuwait. Moreover, to improve access to its wide range of services, the company has announced that it will launch a new online portal within a week.

AI Basel Consultancy is the newest member of AI Basel Group, which has a number of business interests in various sectors in the UAE and in the greater GCC region. AI Basel Consultancy boasts a highly competent team of professionals led by the company's CEO Basel Al Kasem, who has emerged as one of the region's leading figures in real estate consultancy with his comprehensive knowledge of the regional market and hands-on experience with elite projects such as the iconic Burj Al Arab.

Al Kasem completed his MBA from Australia's University of England and attended Harvard's courses on Networked World Leadership in 2005 and 2007, key attributes that have been instrumental in guiding AI Basel Consultancy along a remarkable growth path.



## ADNEC adds personal touch

### Over 80% of Capital Centre plots physically handed over to developers

Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company (ADNEC) announced today, that more than 80% of Capital Centre plots have now been handed over to developers personally by senior members of the ADNEC team. Over the coming months and years, the 8 million sq ft site, adjacent to the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, will be transformed into a mixed use development of 23 towers which will provide a mix of hotel, office, retail and serviced accommodation.

Commenting on the announcement, His Excellency Ahmad Humaid Al Mazrouie, Managing Director of ADNEC, said:

"Capital Centre has been carefully designed by an international team of master-planners, architects and engineers. Our objective from day one was to create a thriving destination which will complement the success of the exhibition centre and be an icon for the peo-

ple of Abu Dhabi and for international visitors. It has been an honour to personally hand over our land to our developers and their supporting teams. It is a very special time for us."

Speaking from ITB Berlin, one of the world's leading tourism exhibitions, ADNEC Business Development Director, Sanjay Tanna commented:

"One of the things which has made this project unique has been our underlying principle of customer service. Once the

deal had been done it would have been easy for ADNEC's involvement to diminish, but that is not our way of working.

This is why each plot of land has been personally handed over by a senior member of the ADNEC team to the organisation responsible for developing that plot."

ADNEC's most recent land-handover was with the Abu Dhabi Investment Company (ADIC). ADIC was the first investment company in the UAE and is one of the leading financial firms in the region.

# RAKIA and Singapore Business Council organise seminar on investment opportunities in Ras Al Khaimah

## Singaporean companies see the UAE as a major sourcing center for important regional and global markets

Ras Al Khaimah Investment Authority (RAKIA), the government body responsible for the socioeconomic growth of the emirate, in partnership with the Singapore Business Council (SBC), today (Thursday, February 21, 2008) organised a seminar on investment opportunities in Ras Al Khaimah, at the JW Marriott Hotel in Dubai.

Senior officials from RAKIA and SBC including Ho How Wai, President of SBC; Raman Iyer, Technical Director and General Manager of RAKIA; Peter Schuster, General Manager of RAK Offshore; Dr. S.K. Chatterji, Head, Global Sales & Marketing, RAKIA; in addition to the Singapore Consul General, H.E. Dileep Naik, addressed the audience during the day-long seminar.

Delivering the keynote address on behalf of Dr. Khater Massaoud, CEO, RAKIA, Raman Iyer spoke about the long-standing trade relations between the UAE and Singapore, and highlighted the potential for investment opportunities for Singaporean companies in the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah.

"The UAE was Singapore's 18th largest trading partner in 2006 and the second largest trading partner in the Middle East. The two-way trade between the UAE and Singapore amounted to over USD 11.69 billion in 2006, with Singapore's exports to the UAE valued at USD 5.93 billion and imports from the UAE totalling USD 6.04 billion. With its dependence on imports and high levels of disposable income, the UAE remains a profitable and expanding market for Singaporean products," pointed out Iyer.

Singapore's exports to the UAE mainly comprise electronic goods and petrochemicals. Singaporean companies see the UAE as a major sourcing center for important markets such as Iran, Iraq, North and East Africa, and the CIS and Eastern European countries.

Emphasising the role of the private sector, Iyer said, "Singapore has been a role model for development for many countries around the world; they have been a prime example of

making the most of private sector contributions to achieve all-round progress. The Ras Al Khaimah Government, like the Government of Singapore, strongly encourages development through the private sector. The government, guided by the vision and support of H.H. Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qassimi, acts as an effective partner, empowering the private sector by creating the optimum environment for enterprise through the provision of enabling infrastructure, utilities and services."

Speaking at the event, Ho How Wai said, "One of the main objectives of the Singapore Business Council when it was registered in 2004 was to link Singaporean companies with organisations in the UAE dedicated to the development of trade and investment in the country, and RAKIA was high on our agenda. This seminar has given us an opportunity to fully comprehend the investment potential of Ras Al Khaimah, and we are confident that over the coming months many more Singaporean companies will look to establish their presence here."

H.E. Dileep Naik said, "I have been closely following the developments and progress of Ras Al Khaimah in recent years; I believe that the emirate's impressive growth is mainly the outcome of the visionary leadership of H.H. Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qassimi. I am glad to attend this seminar, which I reckon is an excellent opportunity for participants to gather all relevant information about investing in Ras Al Khaimah, enabling them to make an informed choice."

There are six Singaporean companies operating in RAKIA at present, including Bayona Tree, Wolmix Concrete, Sahara Express Contracting, International Legal Advocates, Al Najara Corporation and Thakral Group, representing diverse industrial segments.

Other highlights of the seminar included the welcome address by Raman Iyer; opening address by Dilip Naik; a presentation on RAK Offshore by Peter Schuster; and an overview on RAKIA provided by Dr. S.K. Chatterji.

Ras Al Khaimah is considered as one of the fastest growing emirates in the UAE, with RAKIA being able to attract over USD 1.5 billion in investment in various industrial segments, since its inception in 2005. The Authority has already leased approximately eight million square meters of land for industrial use, attracting a diverse mix of industries financed by European, Arab, South East Asian and Indian investors, from warehousing, tourism and construction, to food processing, maritime related services, and trade and commerce. More than 1,000 companies have registered with RAKIA during the previous two years alone.

Factors such as 100 per cent income and corporate tax exemptions; 100 per cent capital and profit repatriation; easy availability of labour; easy licensing procedures; excellent port facilities; and absence of foreign exchange controls, trade barriers and quotas, have attracted investors from across the globe to Ras Al Khaimah. Moreover, Ras Al Khaimah's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) currently stands at USD 2.52 billion, having grown by more than 50 per cent over the last four years. The significant growth has been attributed to the increased focus on sectors such as manufacturing, services, real estate, construction and tourism.

Further, Standard & Poor's I&S/PI Ratings Services recently designated Ras Al Khaimah an investment grade, awarding it a long-term 'A' rating and a short-term grade of 'A-1' for foreign and local currency sovereign risk. Obtaining an independent rating is a significant development for the emirate, enabling it to promote itself as an attractive investment location in its own right. S&P's stable outlook for RAK will also give a boost to companies already operating in the emirate.

## UAE ranked 'best Arab country' in World Economic Forum's newly established Travel and Tourism Competitive Index

*High marks in 'national perception of tourism' and 'security and safety' propel UAE to the top 20 list among 124 global economies*

# ADNEC takes centre stage at ITB Berlin

Joint exhibit with ADTA promotes Abu Dhabi as top event and tourism destination

Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company (ADNEC) today (Wednesday, March 05, 2008) kicked off its participation at this year's ITB Berlin, the world's leading travel trade show, by unveiling a high-profile exhibit within the Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority (ADTA) stand. The promotion is part of an extensive campaign to mark ADNEC's first anniversary celebrations and promote the emirate as a top tourism and event destination.

The ITB Berlin exhibition comes only weeks after ADNEC wrapped up other international exhibits at CONFEX 2008, the UK's leading event for organisers; AIME 2008 in Australia; and UFI Open Seminar in Asia.

"We are gearing up for a very successful participation at this year's ITB. International events such as this are extremely successful marketing platforms for both ADNEC and Capital Centre. said Simon Horgan, CEO ADNEC.

"The major real-estate and tourism developments ongoing in the emirate have stimulated a lot of international interest in Abu Dhabi as a destination; illustrated by the fact that Abu Dhabi rece-

ntly posted one of the highest growth rates in the global tourism industry. ITB Berlin, in addition to the other events that we are attending, is an excellent opportunity for us to showcase our product to the world," Horgan added.

International Tourism Bourse (ITB) Berlin is the business-to-business platform for the global tourism industry, annually attracting



Around 180,000 visitors and 10,000 exhibitors from 180 countries. The world's largest tourism convention 'Market Trends & Innovations' runs concurrently, and provides unique opportunities to benefit from the leading think tank of the global tourism industry. ADNEC will be exhibiting at the Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority (ADTA) stand during the exhibition, at Stand 212, Hall 22B.

ITB is ADNEC's final exhibit before this year's Gulf Incentive, Business Travel and Meetings (GIBTM) exhibition kicks off, with Reed Travel Exhibitions intensifying its preparations to accommodate an expected record turnout at the second edition of the event, being held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre from April 08 - 10, 2008.

"The expectations for GIBTM 2008 have been steadily increasing. We have visibly noticed a year-on-year growth in the MICE industry in Gulf, which is why we are keen to create new opportunities in this sector," said Graeme Barnett, Exhibition Director for GIBTM (Abu Dhabi) and CIBTM (Beijing), Reed Travel Exhibitions - the world's leading events organiser for the travel industry.

An estimated 1,500 visitors and more than 250 suppliers from the Gulf and abroad are expected to take part in GIBTM 2008, the Gulf's premier meetings, incentives, conferences and events (MICE) forum.

