

3RD Gas Data Transparency Conference

4-5 June 2013, Bali, Indonesia

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

The 3rd Gas Data Transparency Conference was held in Bali, Indonesia from 4-5 June 2013. The Conference was generously hosted by the Government of Indonesia and organised by the International Energy Forum in cooperation with the (JODI Partner) organisations: Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). The Conference benefitted from the active participation of approximately 80 delegates representing more than 30 countries/economies, as well as market analysts and experts from international organisations and industry.

The Conference built upon the experience from the 1st Gas Data Transparency Conference (Moscow, 2010) and the 2nd Gas Transparency Conference (Doha, 2012). A concrete outcome of the 2nd Conference was an agreement among the JODI Partners to seek from their respective organisations the commitment to transform JODI-Gas from an exercise into a permanent reporting initiative.¹ In 2012, all JODI Partners confirmed their commitment to JODI-Gas as a permanent reporting initiative, and that step was a key factor in boosting participation in the JODI-Gas to its current level of nearly 70 countries and economies, representing around 80% of global gas supply and demand. The 3rd Conference was organised to meet the objective of defining the remaining steps necessary prior to launching the JODI-Gas database to the public.

This 3rd Gas Data Transparency Conference consisted of five interactive sessions held over a day and a half. Various experts set the stage for a discussion on gas by reviewing the dynamic gas landscapes in different regions, and by highlighting the need for and value of monthly gas data. Representatives from the JODI Partners discussed recent developments in data reporting for their respective regions and from their member countries and economies, and shared feedback from selected national statisticians who have been participating in the beta launch of the JODI-Gas database (which was initiated on 16 January 2013).

Representatives from various countries that have been reporting gas data presented case studies on their experiences with JODI-Gas, commenting on challenges they faced and methods employed to overcome obstacles such as confidentiality concerns and managing a multiplicity of data sources. Participants also reviewed the progress made to date on the final draft of the JODI-Gas Manual, which is being prepared by the UNSD in coordination with the JODI Partners. The Conference closed with a discussion of the remaining tasks that must be accomplished prior to the public launch of the JODI-Gas database.

¹ JODI partner organisations have been conducting a gas data collection exercise to assess member countries' abilities to report the natural gas data (production, imports and exports both liquefied and gaseous, stocks and demand) on a monthly basis since 2009.

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Based on the progress made so far on numerous fronts (rising country participation, a near final JODI-Gas Manual, plans for regional JODI-Oil and JODI-Gas training sessions in 2013 and beyond, and plans to define an internal data quality assessment methodology), the Conference participants recommended that JODI partner organisations set out to accomplish the remaining tasks and thereafter launch the JODI-Gas database as soon as feasible—with the understanding the database will be “work-in-progress” and that feedback from users and enhanced and sustained data reporting will be needed to improve it over time.

The Conference was held amidst on-going calls from a broad cross-section of Energy Ministers, Statistics offices, data-users, and high-level bodies that for some time have been calling for the application of the JODI model to cover natural gas.

The IEF and the JODI Partners thank the Government of Indonesia for their generous support and tireless efforts to ensure that the Conference was a huge success.