



Quito, 4 June 2009

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to this 7th edition of the International JODI Conference on behalf of the IEF Secretariat.

I would like to start by warmly thanking His Excellency Minister Derlis Palacios Guerrero, Minister of Mines and Petroleum of Ecuador, for honouring us with his presence and accepting to open our Conference (in Spanish).

JODI is often quoted as an example of a successful and **global collaborative initiative**, with producing and consuming countries working together to achieve a common objective; stabilizing oil markets and reducing their price volatility. I am just back from the G8 Meeting of Energy Ministers in Rome (24-25 May 2009) where JODI was again highlighted by all participants, stressing its contribution to reducing oil price volatility.

I would like also to express my thanks to our sister organization OLADE, and my friend and colleague, His Excellency Carlos Arturo Flórez Piedrahita, for their assistance in organizing this Conference and to all other JODI partner organizations (APEC, Eurostat, IEA, OPEC and UN Statistics Division) for all the work done to help the initiative achieving its objectives as reiterated by Heads of the seven JODI organizations at their meeting last year on the margins of the 11th IEF Ministerial in Rome (April 2008).

JODI organizations, with the IEF acting as coordinator, are deploying **tremendous efforts** to get timely submission of oil data and improve their quality and this is paying off.

You will hear later today about JODI organizations' achievements and important progress since the last JODI Conference, notably through the now-established JODI training program and the JODI promotion efforts at the global level.

But JODI organizations are part of the JODI chain and the **role of participating countries and their administrations** in charge of oil statistics is crucial.

Another important stakeholder is the **petroleum industry**, and I am very pleased to see that many of its representatives are present in this JODI Conference today. Industry holds the unique role of being data provider (to administrations) and data user (as oil market actor). We really need the industry's feedback and suggestions for further improvement.

The 7th JODI Conference is taking place at a time when oil market stability is at the top of every energy agenda. In 2008 we have seen oil prices rise through the roof and then drop through the floor, and in 2009 rising again. Excessive oil price volatility is bad for producers and consumers alike and improving oil data transparency is one of the few tools to help limit this extreme volatility.

You will be hearing from oil data users who are present today and tomorrow on JODI's contribution to provide oil analysts with sound and accurate market data. A data-user survey conducted by the IEF provides some interesting suggestions for improvement in this regard, and we will take this very seriously indeed.

Energy Ministers have also been asking the IEF and its partner organizations to expand JODI to other sources of energy, starting with natural gas. And following the study conducted by an independent consultant on the feasibility of such extension, we are looking forward to your inputs and comments on this issue as well.

Lack of information on other core data such as capacities and development plans is also a source of market uncertainty and contributes to market anxiety with regard to the medium-term market outlook. At their ad hoc Jeddah Energy meeting (June 2008), Energy Ministers called on relevant organizations to build on the JODI experience and work on the collection of annual data on investment plans and installed capacities, both upstream and downstream. This will also be an item on this JODI Conference agenda.

Latin America will be the continent of another global Energy Ministers' gathering next year; the 12th IEF Ministerial (29-31 March 2010, Cancun, Mexico). At the IEF, we have established what we refer to as a Christmas or Eid wish: to have all participating countries showing **three smiley faces**, and we do hope that this wish materializes before the end of this year with your help! Ecuador is a good example for the Latin American region because they already have three smiley faces.

We wish you a fruitful discussion and a very productive 7th JODI conference.