

**The Joint Oil Data Initiative
Third JODI Training Workshop for Middle Eastern and North African countries
Algiers, 23-26 October 2007**

Dr Said Nacet, Representative of the Secretary General of the International Energy Forum Secretariat,

Honourable guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of HE Dr Chakib Khelil, Minister of Energy and Mines, I would like to welcome you to Algeria and to this seminar on the Joint Oil Data Initiative or JODI.

I would like to stress the particular importance given by the Minister to this event that he regrets not to be able to open, because he is abroad on official duty.

By holding this seminar in Algiers, the Ministry of Energy and Mines makes a contribution to the capacity building of the concerned institutions in the field of data collection, processing and dissemination, as well as regarding data transparency in the vital sectors of the economies of Middle East and North Africa, that are those of oil and energy.

In that sense, the relevance of the seminar is two folds, in view of:

- First, the usefulness of having better data for a right – and on time - assessment of oil market developments, in order to anticipate and mitigate any adverse effects;
- Second, the positive expected impacts from data transparency which is the necessary first step, for any ambition towards good governance.

Allow me, on this occasion, to make a brief overview on the progress achieved in this field, by the Algerian energy sector.

Indeed, the ministry of energy and mines has prepared two major laws, which are now in the phase of enactment.

The first one is the electricity and natural gas law, which has led to the set up of an independent Regulatory Commission for Electricity and Gas, and the unbundling of the various activities (production, transport, distribution);

The second is the law on hydrocarbons, which has also led to an institutional modernisation with the creation of two government agencies, in charge respectively of

licensing and regulation of activities, including the field of health safety and environment.

May I take this opportunity to inform you that regarding energy statistics, the ministry of energy and mines, publishes on a yearly basis, the national energy balance and thus, since 1977, when the ministry itself was set up.

On the international level, and as it is well known by our partners in OPEC, IEA, the IEF and others, the ministry submits regularly its oil and energy statistics, according to format specific for each organisation.

In particular regarding the JODI, Algeria contributes in an effective and sustained way to the establishment of the monthly statistics that the Secretariat of the International Energy Forum publishes. Thus, when looking at the performance criteria like timeliness, completeness and quality of data, Algeria appears in a good position.

When turning to the promotion of the JODI activities, the Ministry of Energy and Mines remains active, through its involvement in conferences and technical meetings, since its inception.

It is thus a logical step that Algeria took, by proposing to host the 3rd JODI training seminar for the MENA region, that we are confident, will give a new impulse to the development of the JODI activities.

Last but not least, beyond the technical aspects, this meeting will contribute to the promotion of dialogue between producers and consumers, in the long term interest of all actors of the international energy scene.

I wish you full success and thank you for your kind attention.

Mr. Abdelkader El-Mekki
General Director for Energy
Ministry of Energy and Mines
Algeria