

PRESS RELEASE

Muscat, 28 October 2017

GCC and EU experts meet in Oman to share policies and best practice on energy efficiency

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Energy efficiency policies, technologies and practices for the industrial and building sectors in the EU and in the GCC region are being discussed during a two-day executive workshop starting today in Muscat. The event organised by Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) and the EU-GCC Clean Energy Technology Network, has gathered more than 180 experts representing policy makers, authorities, industry, building energy-users, engineers and technology providers as well as academicians and researchers.

The GCC countries are now embarking on a clean energy transition pathway, which targets more sustainable, efficient and cost-effective methods for using energy. Energy efficiency measures and technologies, including smart technologies and smart cities, can play a major role in reducing energy intensity and thus emissions.

Raoul Restucci, Managing Director of PDO, said: "PDO has made considerable achievements on energy efficiency both in our hydrocarbon and non-hydrocarbon portfolios and we all must continue to engage with academics and researchers to share best practice and seize opportunities in pursuit of a greener, more diversified economy.

"Events such as this show the rising importance of energy efficiency and management as we seek to curb carbon emissions and address climate change."

Taina Sateri, Trade Counsellor in the European Union Delegation in the UAE, said: "On energy efficiency, the European Union is keen to share with Oman and the GCC region the lessons learnt and best practices on energy efficiency standards, policies and best practice technologies, and on promoting research co-operation. EU countries have implemented energy efficiency measures in all sectors, and these have contributed considerably to a decrease in EU energy consumption.

"With legislation and ambitious programmes we expect considerable benefits in the future. In June 2018 a political agreement was reached for a binding energy efficiency target for the EU for 2030 of 32.5%, with a clause for an upwards revision by 2023."

During the event high level addresses were also made by Dr. Hilal M. AlMukhaini, Director, Energy Department, GCC Secretariat General and Dr Mustapha Taoumi, Energy Technology Expert, EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network.

"This PDO-EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network executive workshop brings together policy, technology and research representatives to debate key challenges and partnership opportunities for the energy efficiency sector in the two regions" noted Dr Mustapha Taoumi, Energy Technology Expert of the EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network, during his opening address. "The EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network is a mechanism that can facilitate this interaction and exchange among the two regions" he added.

The two-day executive workshop includes high level sessions on strategies and markets for energy efficiency technologies; strategies, policies and regulations to promote energy efficiency technologies; business models and financing; energy efficiency in buildings and advanced cooling technologies; energy management within industry sector; smart cities, smart buildings and digital technologies; as well as dedicated sessions on EU-GCC cooperation opportunities and a PDO Majlis event on energy efficiency.

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Notes to Editors

- Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) is the major exploration and production company in the Sultanate. It accounts for about 70% of the country's crude-oil production and nearly all of its natural-gas supply. The Company is owned by the Government of Oman (which has a 60% interest), the Shell Group (which has a 34% interest), Total (which has a 4% interest) and Partex (which has a 2% interest). Gas fields and processing plants are operated by PDO exclusively on behalf of the Government.
- The EU– GCC Clean Energy Technology Network was established as a response to the common EU and GCC interest for strategic clean energy cooperation. The Network aims to act as catalyst and facilitate the development of clean energy partnerships including the related policy and technology aspects among various stakeholders in the EU and GCC countries. The Network is structured around collaboration in five working areas, with Climate Change as a cross-cutting topic: Renewable Energy Sources; Energy Efficiency & Demand Side Management; Clean Natural Gas & related Technologies; Electricity Interconnections & Market Integration; Carbon Capture & Storage.

The Network is funded by the European Commission. Its head office is in Abu Dhabi/ UAE. More information available at: www.eugcc-cleanenergy.net | contact@eugcc-cleanenergy.net