



## Joint ICER – IGU Workshop 8<sup>th</sup> March 2011, Washington DC, USA



### Press Release

#### ***Regulatory issues of global significance for the gas industry***

Washington D.C., 8 March 2011: Where appropriate, market players and energy regulators should seek to work together to improve stability, investments, competition and sustainable growth in the world's natural gas markets. This was the message emerging from the group of high-level industry and regulatory authority representatives at a closed 100-person joint meeting<sup>1</sup> to discuss the key challenges facing the world's gas markets.

The workshop was dedicated to exploring regulatory natural gas issues of global significance. Lord Mogg, Chair of the International Confederation of Energy Regulators (ICER)<sup>2</sup> underlined that *“As the challenges facing the gas industry become increasingly global, it is essential that regulators and the gas industry discuss the solutions in a global context. The workshop which took place today was an important step in seeking a shared understanding of the way forward for the world's gas markets.”*

The President of the International Gas Union<sup>2</sup>, Datuk Abdul Rahim Hashim, shared this conviction and further added that *“The gas industry needs high quality and consistent independent regulation if it is to commit the substantial funding needed for new investments. Together, we can work to achieve a common perspective on how to ensure secure supplies of gas in both developed and developing markets.”*

Liquid and transparent markets are seen both by regulators and the gas industry as the cornerstone for achieving the energy policy goals of fair prices for consumers and to bring about a sustainable planet. The gas industry and regulators will continue to work together to ensure that there is no inhibition to gas contributing to the future low-carbon economy. Indeed, natural gas has a dual role to play - both as a partner for renewable energy and as the cleanest fossil fuel for large-scale base load power generation.

Following today's first ever joint workshop, the two organisations will work to strengthen their dialogue and collaboration on these issues, in particular

- investment in international gas infrastructure;
- global gas market developments; and
- the role of gas in a carbon constrained world.

Key personnel from ICER and the IGU will take forward these topics of mutual interest, through virtual and physical round table discussion, with a view to reporting on progress at the World Gas Conference in Kuala Lumpur in June 2012.

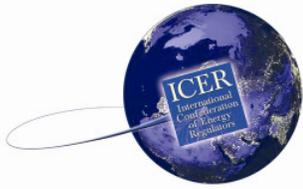
Washington D.C., 8 March 2011

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**Ends** (see Note for Editors on next page)



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### Note to the Editors

1. The joint ICER-IGU Workshop took place at the offices of Hogan Lovells on 8 March 2011. The discussions centred on 4 key issues:

- Interaction between regulators and companies active in the natural gas business
- Regulatory influences on international investment
- Regulation and gas price formation
- Environmental aspects of natural gas

Among other things, the workshop participants discussed how to learn from best practices in consultation and rulemaking procedures; future developments in the scope and approach to policy and regulation; and how to promote competition whilst meeting safety and environmental standards. Specifically, the workshop addressed issues of affordability, sustainability, competitiveness. It also explored how regulators and industry can work together to develop practical and meaningful solutions in the context of climate change, regional integration and globalisation of natural gas (including through cross-border pipeline investments and the global LNG market).

Participants included regulatory authorities from more than a dozen regulatory authorities and gas sector representatives from over fifty companies from throughout the world.

2. Established in October 2009 at the Fourth World Forum on Energy Regulation (WFER), the International Confederation of Energy Regulators (ICER) is a voluntary framework for cooperation between energy regulators from around the globe. Its aim is to improve public and policy-maker awareness and understanding of energy regulation and its role in addressing a wide spectrum of socio-economic, environmental and market issues. By establishing this voluntary confederation, with regular and structured contacts and cooperation between regulators, ICER hopes to exchange information and best practices in the regulation field and to contribute to the evolution towards a sustainable planet. Its membership includes over 200 regulatory authorities and spans 6 continents. ICER is currently chaired by Lord Mogg, President of the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER). More information on ICER is available at: [www.icer-regulators.net](http://www.icer-regulators.net)
3. The International Gas Union (IGU) was founded in 1931 as a worldwide non-profit organisation whose objective is to promote the technical and economic progress of the gas industry. President of the Malaysian Gas Association (MGA) Datuk (Dr) Abdul Rahim Hashim took over the role of IGU President for the 2009 – 2012 Triennium from Mr. Ernesto López Anadón of the Argentine Oil & Gas Institute. This is only the second time an Asian country holds the IGU leadership. The members of IGU are associations and entities of the gas industries in 74 countries. IGU's working organisation covers all domains of the gas industry from exploration and production of natural gas on- or offshore, LNG, pipeline and piped distribution systems to customers' premises and combustion of gas at the point of use. The IGU Strategy Committee (PGCB), led by Dr Colin Lyle, has responsibility for global and regional regulatory issues that can impact on gas supply, demand and international trade, as well as price formation and corporate strategy. Please visit [www.igu.org](http://www.igu.org) for further information about the International Gas Union.