

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the World Petroleum Congress?

Every three years, the World Petroleum Council organizes the World Petroleum Congress as the principal meeting place for a global discussion of oil and gas issues. Following a twelve-month campaign period, one of the candidate countries is selected by its fellow Council members to host the next World Petroleum Congress. The State of Qatar is the host of the 20th World Petroleum Congress in 2011.

The triennial Congress is also known as the "Olympics" of the petroleum industry because it attracts the participation of the largest number of countries from all over the world. The Congress covers all aspects of the industry -- from technological advances in upstream and downstream operations to the role of natural gas and renewables, management of the industry and its social, economic and environmental impact. In addition, outside stakeholders such as governments, other industry sectors, NGOs and international institutions also join in the dialogue.

What is the World Petroleum Council?

The World Petroleum Council is the world's premier global oil and gas forum and is the only international organization representing all aspects of the petroleum sector. The WPC was established in 1933 to promote the management of the world's petroleum resources. The WPC's prime function is to catalyse and facilitate dialogue among stakeholders -- both internal and external to the petroleum industry -- on key technical, social, environmental and management issues in order to contribute towards seeking solutions to those issues.

The WPC does not have a formal position on issues but does act as a forum to bring together in dialogue the various sectors of society that have views on specific issues. The WPC is a non-advocacy, non-political organisation and has accreditation as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) from the UN. It is dedicated to the application of scientific advances in the oil and gas industries, to technology transfer, and to the use of the world's petroleum resources for the benefit of all.

Headquartered in London, the World Petroleum Council includes over 60 member countries from around the world, representing over 95% of global oil and gas production and consumption. WPC membership is unique as it includes both OPEC and non-OPEC countries with representation from National Oil Companies (NOCs) as well as Independent Oil Companies (IOCs). Each country has a national committee made up from representatives of the oil and gas industry, academia and research institutions and government departments. The governing body of the Council consists of representation from the national committee of each member country.

Beyond the triennial Congress, the World Petroleum Council is regularly involved with a number of other meetings such as the WPC Youth Forum, the WPC-UN Global Compact Best Practice Forum and joint WPC / OPEC workshops on CO2 sequestration, reduction of methane flaring, opportunities for enhanced oil recovery, dispute resolution, calculating reserves and resources, regional integration and the oil, gas and infrastructure developments in Africa.

Who are the sponsors and partners of the 20th WPC?

The 20th World Petroleum Congress in 2011 has confirmed the support of over 50 companies, including some of the world's biggest brands, as partners and sponsors of the event. They include international oil companies and the national oil companies of several countries, as well as multinational leaders in analytics, law, marketing and communication. For the full updated list, please visit www.20wpc.com.

Who are among the leading figures attending the event?

The Plenary Sessions of the 20th WPC will bring together some of the most prestigious and influential industry leaders from around the world. Following the Opening Plenary with six oil and gas ministers from the Middle East, ExxonMobil's CEO Rex Tillerson and Shell's CEO Peter Voser will be joining Qatar's Minister of Energy and Industry, His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Saleh Al-Sada, in a high-level presentation of Qatar's role in the future energy landscape.

Cooperation, Innovation and Investment are the key themes that will be addressed by decision makers, including Robert Dudley from BP, Russia's Energy Minister Sergei Schmatko, Christophe de Margerie

from Total, José Sergio Gabrielli from Brazil's Petrobras, and Nobel Peace Prize recipient FW de Klerk from South Africa. To view the complete conference agenda, visit www.20wpc.com.

How big will the exhibition be at the 20th WPC?

The exhibition accompanying the 20th WPC is expected to cover 35,000 square metres, surpassing the previous WPC event in Madrid in 2008 by 20% and making it the largest in WPC exhibition history. In June 2008, over 4,000 delegates were registered at the 19th WPC in Madrid, where initiatives such as Ministerial Sessions, the electronic Poster Plaza and Special Sessions on youth in the industry, were all successfully implemented. These will also be incorporated into the Doha Congress, with even more delegates expected to attend.

What is the Sustainable Stand Award?

The Sustainable Stand Award will recognise companies for their efforts in reducing their environmental footprint during the event. The award will acknowledge exhibitors that the judges believe make the best use of the 3 R's (Reuse, Reduce, Recycle) and, in doing so, have made the best effort to have a sustainable presence at the exhibition. This could include, for example, innovative ways to build the stand, reduce general waste, an innovative delegate gift, or the innovative use of energy-efficient lighting. There will be one award for stands below 200 sq m and another award for stands above 200 sq m. The judging panel will consist of members from Qatar's Ministry of Environment and local non-government organizations.

What will be the focus of the technical papers presented during the Congress?

A wide-ranging Technical Programme for the 5-day congress will recognize the scientific, technological and professional achievements of the oil and gas sector. Topics for the sessions will reflect the 20th WPC's official theme: "Energy Solutions for All: Promoting Cooperation, Innovation and Investment".

Almost 2,000 high-quality papers have been submitted for the 24 technical forum sessions, which are distributed into five blocks: Natural Gas, New Exploration and Production Frontiers and Technologies, Innovations in the Downstream, Complementary Energy Sources, and Industry Commitment to Sustainability. This is an unprecedented level of submissions, both in terms of quality and quantity, and about 100 of these papers will be selected.

The technical programme also includes a broad variety of posters, roundtable discussions, special sessions, best practice keynotes, and plenary sessions with the confirmed participation of high-ranking industry and government authorities.

How can delegates and the media register for the Congress?

With the Congress Programme addressing all the key issues and topics in the industry and with the highest level of speakers contributing into the programme, early registration is encouraged to confirm a place at the 20th WPC. Delegates have the convenience of registering online and paying with their credit card, and they will also be able to manage all their communication with the organisers online. Online arrangements are also available for bulk registration to assist worldwide group delegations. For more information, visit www.20wpc.com.

How is Qatar as a destination for visitors?

The State of Qatar has a dynamic environment and is a country whose importance in the global oil and gas industry is growing every day. The country celebrated in 2010 its milestone achievement of 77 million tonnes per annum of LNG production capacity, further boosting its status as the world's largest producer of LNG. In addition, it is one of the world's fastest-growing countries, equipped with modern urban tourism facilities that are among the best in the region.

Qatar provides visitors from Europe, Africa and most of Asia with flight times ranging from short hour-long hops to just a few hours. The national carrier, Qatar Airways, flies from Doha to over a hundred destinations around the world and is supported by modern tourism infrastructure in the country, including some of the world's top hospitality brands.

What is the WPC Youth Programme?

The Youth Programme is an integral feature of the 20th WPC and is inspired by the World Petroleum Council's ongoing youth programmes and forums. The core message the organising committee wants to convey is that the youth of today can contribute in shaping a sustainable future.

The world is evolving and it has had many breakthroughs brought on by a deeper understanding of the times we live in. Each new generation has always set the standard higher and, as a result, we presently see true innovation in the world around us.

Dialogue between young participants from around the world has already commenced on www.WPCyouthconnect.com which is a dedicated forum to discuss topics of significance to our industry. There will also be a dedicated youth session at the Congress.

The World Petroleum Council, recognizing the importance of young people to the energy industry, will also be rewarding the best young authors at the 20th World Petroleum Congress in Qatar this December. The objective of the WPC Youth Awards is to encourage young professionals to participate in the most prestigious triennial event in the oil and gas industry.

The 20th WPC Organizing Committee has pledged more than US\$10,000 in prize money to be awarded to the best youth presenters. The winner will receive US\$5,000, while the second and third place winners will get US\$3,000 each. An independent jury will select the winners from the best abstracts received for papers and posters submitted by young people below 35 years of age during the WPC Call for Papers.

What are the features of the Qatar National Convention Centre, the venue of the 20th WPC?

The Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) clearly highlights the vision of Qatar Foundation to create an unparalleled facility that sets the standard in green building technology, cutting-edge design and venue technology.

The QNCC is the first venue of its kind that has been built to the gold certification of the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED). It is uniquely positioned to be a venue of choice for regional and international events. The QNCC is located alongside elite universities, research and technology institutions in Education City and the Qatar Science and Technology Park, which also allows it to serve this hub of ideas and innovation.

The WPC will require the full hosting capacity of the QNCC. Over five days during the 20th WPC, the organisers expect to welcome around 5,000 delegates, including 500 speakers, over 50 top chief executives and hundreds of global media representatives, in addition to staff and contractors.

What is the expected social and economic impact of an event such as the WPC on Qatar?

The 20th WPC brings together the world's broadest array of industry stakeholders for the first time in three years. The expectation, therefore, is that this theme will inspire a positive legacy for the energy sector in general, as well as for the State of Qatar as the host nation.

The State of Qatar, as host of the 20th WPC in December, makes history the first Middle Eastern country to do so. It is proof of the great strides the country has made in the energy sector and its growing role in delivering value to the global energy mix.

For the State of Qatar, which has already won the hosting of the FIFA World Cup in 2022, the benefits of the WPC are many, particularly in the growing MICE (Meetings Incentives Conferences & Events) sector, where organisers are always looking for unique destinations.

A successful WPC will significantly elevate Qatar's profile in business tourism, in addition to reinforcing the State's credentials as an efficient and reliable partner to its counterparts who are members of the World Petroleum Council.

Qatar has for many years worked to develop strong ties with its counterparts and the 20th WPC will also be an opportunity to thank them for their strong support and for voting to give Qatar the rights to host the Congress in 2011.

What are the advantages offered by Qatar as a high-quality conference and exhibition destination?

- Easily accessible global crossroad, strategically located close to the new economic powerhouses of the East and the consumer markets of the West;
- Progressive, modern Arab state where English is widely spoken;
- One of the safest countries in the world consistently ranking high in the Global Peace Index, attracting a host of high-profile conferences, exhibitions, and events such as the 15th Doha Asian Games;
- Highly eco-aware country, with trailblazing research and technology projects geared towards achieving a sustainable, green and clean future;
- Distinct focus on high-end tourism with infrastructure investments intended for the meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions market, supported by a full range of event support services;
- Thriving hotel industry with a full range of accommodation options and room capacity rising to 26,000 by 2012;
- A place that welcomes visitors as honoured guests and dear friends, blending traditional hospitality with international service standards;
- Rich and carefully protected heritage providing a unique visitor experience.

How will carbon offset be realized at the 20th WPC?

The Organizing Committee of the 20th WPC together with International law firm Baker & McKenzie has acquired sufficient carbon credits to offset all the anticipated scope 1 and 2 emissions associated with this major event..

The credits will be progressively retired to cover all the verified emissions from the 20th WPC shortly after it concludes. The 20th WPC Organising Committee insisted upon strict criteria for any offsetting projects. Working with the specialist carbon consultancy, Perenia, a suitable carbon offset project was

identified in an Indian power project that has switched from naphtha to cleaner natural gas. This has reduced emissions and generated internationally verified, monitored and registered credits, while keeping with the strict requirements set by the Organising Committee.

The project has the following important features:

- It is registered with and certified under the Voluntary Carbon Standard;
- It is externally audited as compliant with the above standards;
- It demonstrates a contribution to human development through the donations made by the project to the Lanco Institute of General Humanitarian Trust;
- It is taking place in a member country (India) of the World Petroleum Council; and
- It is not where permanence of emission reductions is at risk.

What are the biodiversity policies of the State of Qatar?

The State of Qatar recognizes that through our operations, we are in continuous interaction with the environment and that the protection of biodiversity is critical. Biodiversity is one of the many environmental elements included in the corporate citizenship policy of all Qatari energy companies.

To protect wildlife and their habitats, Qatar adopts international best practices when planning and implementing projects and in the management of our normal operations. This includes conducting studies on wildlife species (including endangered species) e as part of our assessments for environmental and other regulatory and financial approvals.

Qatar also conducts environmental, health and social impact assessment studies to augment conservation regulations for new projects. These studies include surveys and assessments of plant and animal populations, ecosystem structures and other biodiversity issues such as preservation and habitat effects management.

Through Qatargas, the country is a member of the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) and its Biodiversity Working Group. Qatar maintains consistent dialogue with this working group to ensure that we are using best practice in this area at all times.

Qatar has put in place a wide variety of programmes to protect wildlife, rehabilitate and enhance natural habitats, support environmental education, fund wildlife and vegetation surveys, and conserve native species in Qatar. These include a range of biodiversity impact mitigation projects, such as coral relocation surrounding offshore projects.

What is being done for the diversification of Qatar's economy?

Qatar is a founding member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and it has the third largest natural gas reserves in the world. In recent years, this energy-based income has increasingly been matched by commerce and trade, led by the country's growing profile in the Arab Gulf region and the world at large.

Qatar has been prominent in areas such as education, sports, real estate and financial services. In the last decade, it has also revitalised its trade and investment climate in line with WTO obligations, and it has built strong relationships with external markets through bilateral trade and investment, particularly through its sovereign wealth fund the Qatar Investment Authority and associated investment arms, which are active in global private equity and real estate.

A major recognition of the country's growing role in the region has been winning the rights to host the FIFA World Cup in 2022, becoming the first country in the Middle East region to do so, while also underlining the growing importance of the region in the global economic marketplace.

What are the grades assigned to Qatar by rating agencies?

The State of Qatar is among the highest rated countries in the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), with the rating agencies Standard & Poor's, Capital Intelligence and Moody's assigning grades AA, AA- and Aa2, respectively, to the country. The other major global rating agency, Fitch Ratings, assigns the country internal ratings, which are not officially published; however, these still serve as a major guide upon which these agencies assign a rating to a financial institution.

These ratings are assigned based on a range of fundamental indicators such as economic performance, fiscal policy, overall gross domestic product, national budget indicators and other factors which generally identify the future direction of the country.

Qatar's very high economic strength according to opinions published by the agencies is based on its exceptionally high GDP per capita, extensive hydrocarbon reserves, and net external creditor position. Its High Institutional Strength reflects the country's strong ranking on various governance surveys. A very high score for Government Financial Strength is supported by surging hydrocarbon receipts, a long-held fiscal surplus, and the government's prudent approach to economic management.

Standard & Poor's

FOREIGN CURRENCY		LOCAL CURRENCY		OUTLOOK
LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	
AA	A1+	AA	A1+	Stable

Capital Intelligence

FOREIGN CURRENCY		LOCAL CURRENCY		OUTLOOK
LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	
AA-	A1+	AA-	A1+	Stable

Moody's

GOVERNMENT BONDS		FOREIGN CURRENCY				OUTLOOK
Foreign Currency	DOMESTIC CURRENCY	BONDS AND NOTES		BANK DEPOSITS		
		LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	
Aa2	Aa2	Aa2	P1	Aa2	P1	Stable

