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OUR AND PCJ TEAM UP FOR INAUGURAL NATURAL GAS CONFERENCE

KINGSTON, Jamaica - 2017 July 06: The Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) and the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ) will be hosting Jamaica's first Conference on Natural Gas under the theme "New Horizons: The Development of a Natural Gas Sector in Jamaica – Prospects and Challenges", October 4 - 6, 2017, at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston.

This three-day event will enable a wide range of stakeholders to learn about the opportunities, changes and benefits that will result from the introduction of natural gas into Jamaica's energy mix. The agenda will feature presentations and panel discussions from key players in the regional and international gas industry; as well as representatives from financial, academic, statutory and regulatory institutions. The main objective will be to explore the economic, commercial, legal and regulatory implications of the development of a local natural gas industry.

The conference will be both a public education activity and an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to the development of the policy and regulatory framework for the gas sector. Among the highly anticipated contributions will be a presentation by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on the "Regulatory Capacity for the Use of Natural Gas and Energy Diversification" focusing on the introduction of natural gas in the Jamaican public transportation sector.

In addition to the presentations and discussions, participants will also have the opportunity to tour two of Jamaica's newest and most modern energy facilities, the Jamaica Public Service Company's 120 MW Bogue Power Station and the New Fortress Energy storage and regasification site, both of which are located in Montego Bay, St. James.

While the Conference is open to all interested parties, the agenda will be of particular interest to the private sector, including existing and potential energy companies as well as high energy users such as bauxite companies. The target audience also includes Government organisations such as the Ministries of Energy, Finance, Transport, Industry and Commerce, Economic Growth and Job Creation, as well as Agencies such as Tax Administration Jamaica, Port Authority of Jamaica, and Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO).



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Other expected participants include representatives from multi-lateral agencies, financial institutions, the legal fraternity, academia, and other relevant sectors and professional groupings.

Director General of the OUR, Ansord Hewitt, remarked that, “The introduction of natural gas into Jamaica provides another medium to achieve energy security, diversity and choice, efficiency and lower energy charges all of which are critical focuses of the OUR’s mandate. It is also anticipated that the conference will help to lay the policy and regulatory framework for this emerging industry.”

Similarly, the PCJ’s Group General Manager, Winston Watson, noted, “The emergence of a natural gas industry in Jamaica will present numerous commercial and other prospects for several related sectors, and the conference aims to foster greater understanding of how Jamaican commercial entities, government institutions and even individual professionals can best exploit the opportunities.”

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