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USTDA WORKSHOP ACCELERATES NATURAL GAS UTILIZATION TO FUEL GROWTH IN APEC REGION

GUANGZHOU, CHINA – (August 28, 2007) Stimulating increased usage of natural gas within the economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum is the goal of a USTDA-sponsored, APEC-endorsed symposium taking place this week at the White Swan Hotel in Guangzhou. The event, which continues through August 29th, is providing a forum for APEC officials and industry representatives to discuss methods of accelerating natural gas development in the region.

The focus is on the potential for new sources of gas and increased gas trade, as well as smaller-scale projects that offer significant opportunities for meeting the region's increased energy demands. "Natural gas can play a central role as a bridge to a low emissions future for APEC member economies, as well as for much of the rest of the world," stated U.S. Department of Energy Deputy Assistant Secretary Justin Swift in remarks at the opening session yesterday.

"APEC can lead in providing energy security through the increased use of and trade in natural gas, as well as the promotion of new gas sources such as coal bed methane and gasification strategies," noted USTDA Regional Director for Asia Henry Steingass in opening remarks. "This symposium is structured to stimulate discussion, so that we can all benefit from each other's experiences."

The APEC Natural Gas Utilization Workshop includes participation from government officials and industry representatives from China, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and the United States. Special presentations and panel discussions on key aspects of natural gas resource development are highlighting risk management strategies for large-scale projects, and effective policy mechanisms and finance options for medium and smaller scale projects. On August 29th, forum participants will visit the Guangdong Dapeng Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Receiving Terminal, China's first LNG import and regasification facility, which supplies Guangdong Province and Hong Kong with 3.7 million tons/year of LNG.

(More)

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