

The future is a low-carbon economy: IndianOil Chairman Ashok

What will be the role of Petrotech-2016 in developing the landscape of the oil & gas industry?

India, as the fastest-growing economy, is poised to drive global economic growth. It is already the top destination for FDI, has a productive and skilled workforce, enjoys demographic advantage, and has a large mass of upwardly mobile customers who are driving demand.

The demand for energy is booming in the country and we have to plan well ahead to cater to it. We are aiming to increase our combined national refining capacity to 334 MMTPA by 2030. We are also committed to doubling the usage of gas as a clean fuel in our energy mix from the current 6.5 per cent to at least 15 per cent.

With this background, Petrotech-2016 has been conceived and designed as a launch pad for the hydrocarbons sector to fuel the enormous growth challenge in the country. In my opinion, Petrotech-2016 is a global confluence of energy professionals, an Urja Sangam of sorts, which will help in achieving multiple benefits.

The government has given importance to blending biofuels in transportation fuels. Do we plan to discuss advances in biofuels at this Petrotech conference?
Definitely. Deliberations at the conference are not just confined to fossil fuels. It looks beyond them. In fact, one of the theme sessions during the conference is entirely dedicated to tapping the huge potential of alternative energy.

The future is a low-carbon economy, and as an energy business, we have already started including clean and eco-friendly fuels in our offerings portfolio. In biomass-rich India, biofuels have bright prospects. In fact, the Department of Biotechnology has entrusted IndianOil with the task of pursuing cutting-edge research in biofuels. The DBT-IOC Centre for Advanced Bio-Energy Research facility, located out of IndianOil's R&D campus at Faridabad, has

been able to develop viable bio-fuel technologies in second and third generation biofuels, such as ligno-cellulosic ethanol and algal fuels.

Hydrocarbons are likely to remain the most important source of energy for decades to come in India. How will Petrotech-2016's themes

'Hydrocarbons to fuel the future: Choices and Challenges' help in boosting the hydrocarbon sector?

Yes, as per projections, we have a large window of opportunity to plan for a low-carbon economy. But the momentum of the Indian economic growth needs the established certainty of the conventional hydrocarbons sector although increasingly cleaner fuels will be demanded. The theme 'Hydrocarbons to fuel the future: Choices & challenges' compels us to deliberate and ideate on issues such as maintaining ecological balance by reducing the cost of clean technologies, increasing energy efficiency and promoting renewable energy in tandem with conventional hydrocarbons.

How will this conference promote better cooperation between the participating countries?

Petrotech-2016 has been so designed as to promote interactions and networking strong partnerships across segments and geographies.

The event architecture includes crucial ministerial sessions where discussions shall centre on policy issues related to inter-country cooperation. Similarly, theme sessions will be addressed by senior Ministers and are open to all delegates participating in the conference. A buyers-sellers meet is also scheduled with the objective of providing a common platform to the oil & gas companies (both upstream and downstream), technology providers, non-conventional energy companies, project management & engineering consult-



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B ASHOK
Chairman, IndianOil

ants, EPC contractors and equipment/systems manufacturers to discuss issues of mutual interest and share the latest developments in the field. Also, a CEO conclave will be held, which will be attended by high officials of the Government and the top management of important corporates in the hydrocarbons sector.

We believe there is a special focus on women and youth at the conference.

Yes. In my opinion, two events planned during the conference are crucial for talent management and future leadership of the hydrocarbons sector: A pre-event Conference for Women Professionals and the Yuva Urja Youth Forum.

At 17 per cent, India has a lower share of women's contribution to GDP than the global average of 37 per cent, and the lowest among all regions in the world. I believe that women are one of the greatest contributors to the economic development of the nation and it is extremely important to encourage women's participation in every industry, and I am happy to share that women in the hydrocarbons sector are highly talented and have bright career prospects.