PRESS RELEASE

Doha, 7 May 2012

Fruitful discussions have taken place during the 1st day of the 3-days meeting on "EU-GCC co-operation on RES, Energy Efficiency and CCS" which was successfully held today in Qatar Foundation, Education City, Student Centre, Black Box Theatre, Doha, Qatar on the 7th of May.

The event, organized by the Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI) and the EU-GCC Clean Energy Network, is attracting a distinguished and multidisciplinary audience of more than 80 experts from EU and GCC organizations, among which the Ambassador of Spain in Qatar, Mrs Carmen de la Pena and high level representatives from Masdar, ICCS-NTUA, Msheireb Properties, Gulf Research Centre Foundation, Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain, ExxonMobil Qatar Inc., Chevron Qatar, Qatar Science & Technology Park, IRENA, FEEM, GreenGulf Inc., ELIA Group, CEPS - Centre for European Policy Studies, Qatar Solar Technologies, Qatar University, Texas A&M University-Qatar, CERTH – ISFTA, etc.

During the opening ceremony, Dr. Rabi Mohtar, host of event from Qatar Foundation - Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute, warmly welcomed the delegates and confirmed QEERI strong interest for coordination and partnership - also within the EU-GCC Clean Energy Network- towards global energy and environmental sustainability, highlighting also - their importance/contribution for enhancing the sustainable development of Qatar's hydrocarbon and natural resources. The representative from the European Commission, Ms Sophie Parson, underlined the importance of this clean energy cooperation from the EU side and mentioned that fruitful discussions between the EU and the GCC have also taken place in Brussels in March, in particular: the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) and the Regional Directors Meeting. Ms Parson emphasized on the fact that this year COP18 meeting is hosted in Qatar, which is a very big breakthrough for Qatar and the GCC in general. This provides the right environment for enhancing also the EU-GCC clean energy co-operation and organising a series of relevant collaboration activities. Prof. John Psarras, from ICCS-NTUA, Network EU Consortium Leader, provided information on the Network mission, objectives and activities and stressed the importance of developing a viable mechanism for supporting the clean energy collaboration in research and policy among the two regions. Dr. Scott Kennedy, from Masdar Institute, the Network GCC Consortium representative, highlighted particular prospective activities for potential elaboration through the Network in the forthcoming period, such as regular Clean Energy Special Reports and the development of the GCC Clean Energy Roadmap, as important assets and added value of the Network.

The 1st day working agenda continued with the experts' discussion session on Energy Efficiency & Demand Side Management which included numerous interesting addresses made through the ongoing dialogue to identify common areas of interest and collaboration in the related thematic fields.

The next days' works include Experts Meeting on Renewable Energy Sources (May 8), Training Seminars on Tri-generation & District Cooling (May 8), Carbon Capture and Storage (May 8) and a Technical Site Visit to the Ras Laffan Industrial City (May 9).

About the EU-GCC Clean Energy Network

The EU-GCC Clean Energy Network (http://www.eugcc-cleanergy.net/) is an initiative created and supported by the European Commission (EC) and by relevant Gulf Co-Operation Council authorities to:

- Support and enhance the long term strategic EU – GCC energy relationship, addressing specifically clean energy issues.
- Develop concrete cooperation activities of common interest on clean energy (including policy, research and technology aspects) among various stakeholders across the EU and GCC countries.

The Network initiated its first activities in December 2009 under the EC funded service contract "Creation and Operation of the EU-GCC Clean Energy Network". In February 2011, the GCC Energy Secretariat gives the mandate to a GCC Consortium led by Masdar Institute, to establish the GCC side of the Network for ensuring its sustainability. National institutions appointed by the GCC Energy Secretariat for supporting the Network include: Qatar Foundation - Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute, Sultan Qaboos University - Renewable & Sustainable Energies Research Group (Oman), The Arabian Gulf University (Bahrain), Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research - Renewable Energy Program, King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (Saudi Arabia).

The EU Consortium is lead by the Institute of Computers Communications Systems of National Technical University Athens, ICCS – NTUA (Greece). Members of the EU Consortium include: Gulf Research Center - GRC (Switzerland), German Aerospace Center – DLR (Germany), National Renewable Energy Centre - CENER (Spain), University of Stavanger - UiS (Norway), Electricity Supply Board International - ESBI (Ireland), Center for European Policy Studies - CEPS (Belgium).

The Network's current objectives are:

- Exchange of experience and know-how;
- Coordination and promotion of joint actions between EU and GCC stakeholders;
- Facilitating joint research;
- Demonstration and development through joint projects of clean energy in GCC;
- Policy support to promote the above.

The Network's Activities target:

- Knowledge Sharing through direct collaboration and the Network's Communication- Collaboration- Dissemination Platform (NCCDP) (http://www.eugcc-cleanergy.net/)
- Training Programs: training to promote accelerated learning on clean energy technology and policy topics of popular interest to EU-GCC members.
- Research Articles: Recent Network initiative includes a Special Issue (call for papers) on the analysis of EU-GCC cooperation on clean energy from the International Journal of Energy Sector Management (Elsevier).
- Technical Visits: Network experts have the opportunity to participate at sites visits in state of the art clean energy and energy efficiency facilities; acquiring knowledge on technical design, process and tools; state of the industry updates.
- Discussion Group Meetings: active exchange of knowledge with input from high level industry officials, academia and non government organizations from the EU and GCC regions.

An essential feature of the Network is the operation of Discussion Groups (DGr) that focus on areas of common EU and GCC interest. At the moment five Discussion Groups of experts have been created to support activities in the following focus areas:

- DGr1: Renewable Energy Sources
- DGr2: Energy Demand Side Management & Energy Efficiency
- DGr3: Clean Natural Gas & related Clean Technologies
- DGr4: Electricity Interconnections & Market Integration
- DGr5: Carbon Capture and Storage

The Discussion Groups are facilitated by qualified EU and GCC experts/conveners, who co-ordinate the thematic working plan and stimulate discussions on the above key topics. A variety of stakeholders/experts from both the EU and the GCC participate in the Discussion Groups, including universities, research institutions, industrial entities, professional organisations and authorities. The Network aims to respond to the common interests of stakeholders active in the field of clean energy.

For a full list of the benefits of Network Membership (expert's individual membership and institutional membership) please refer to the Network's website.