



## EU-GCC CLEAN ENERGY NETWORK

EU GCC CO-OPERATION ON RES, ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CCS

DISCUSSION GROUPS AND SEMINARS

7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> May 2012, Doha, Qatar



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### PRESS RELEASE

Doha, 10 May 2012

Fruitful discussions have taken place among distinguished energy experts from GCC states and the EU during the 3-days meeting on “EU-GCC co-operation on RES, Energy Efficiency and CCS” which was successfully hosted in Qatar Foundation, Education City, Student Centre, Black Box Theatre, Doha, Qatar on from 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> of May.

The event, organized by the Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI) and the EU-GCC Clean Energy Network, attracted a distinguished and multidisciplinary audience of more than 80 experts from EU and GCC organizations 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 which was attended also by the Ambassador of Spain in Qatar, Mrs Carmen de la Pena, 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 during 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.

Following the prestigious opening ceremony, the working agenda of the event included

- a discussion session on the way ahead for the Network by elaborating on practical directions for a sustainable EU-GCC Clean Energy Network,
- Experts’ Discussion Groups’ Meetings on the topics of Energy Efficiency and Demand Side Management and Renewable Energy Sources,
- training seminars on Tri-generation & District Cooling and Carbon Capture and Storage,
- technical site visits to the Qatar and Technology Park, as well as to the Ras Laffan Industrial City.

Distinguished experts from both EU and GCC sides made interesting addresses and fruitful discussion followed on the potential ways to support and enhance the long term strategic EU-GCC clean energy relationship and to strengthen the ongoing dialogue on common areas of interest and collaboration in the related thematic fields.

On the topic of Energy efficiency and Demand Side Management, Dr Nawal Al Hosany, Director of Sustainability at Masdar, UAE and Dr Alexandra Papadopoulou, from ICCS-NTUA chaired a very interesting session where relevant presentations were delivered from Eng. Issa Al Mohammadi - CEO, Msheireb Properties, Dr Youssef Elgendy- Qatar



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Environment & Energy Research Institute, Prof. Ibrahim Abdel Gelil - Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain, Mr Jos Evens - Sr. Vice President of Qatar Marketing, ExxonMobil Qatar Inc. , Mr Mike Farshchi, Research Manager Chevron Qatar, Energy Technology Qatar, Science & Technology Park.

On May 8, in the discussion session on the topic of Renewables, Dr Rabia Ferroukhi, IRENA and Dr Manfred Hafner, FEEM, chaired a challenging discussion session where key presenters included: Mr Talha Mirza - GreenGulf Inc. QSTP, Mr Lafleuril Gilles - ELIA Group, Belgium, Dr Arno Behrens - CEPS - Centre for European Policy Studies, Belgium, Khalid E. Nagi & Mr Maha Al Marri, QSTP, Mr Abdulla Al Mesallam, Chief Financial Officer, Qatar Solar Technologies, Dr Narendra Agnihotra, TCE QSTP-LLC, Innovation Centre, Dr Feeda S.M. Ali - Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute, Dr Abdel Hakim Hassabou, Research Scientist, Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute, Dr Abdelmagid Hamouda, College of Engineering, Qatar University and Dr Hazim Qiblawey, Associate Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, Qatar University.

Out of the discussion meetings, it was concluded that there is a strong interest from both sides on the activities of the EU-GCC Clean Energy Network and particular on the Network's events; on the discussions of various subjects such as, policy analysis, incentives for the promotion of renewables and energy savings, labels and standards, etc; on the capacity building referred to specific clean energy issues; on development of ideas for common projects implementation.

In addition it was confirmed the strong interest for common research activities and in particular: research for customization of clean energy technologies to GCC conditions; Common Publications and research for the development of macro-economic models for depicting and analyzing energy systems.

The full document of the concluding remarks per session are analysed thereafter and will be available at the address: <http://eugcc.cleanenergy.net> in the following few days, along with the material of the presentations.

During the closing session on May 8, Dr. Rabi Mohtar, Ms Sophie Parson and Prof. John Psarras confirmed the commitment of the partnering stakeholders of the EU-GCC Clean Energy Network to continue working toward these directions in order to ensure the sustainability of the Network and the achievement of their common goals.

On May 9, experts of the EU-GCC Clean Energy Network, had also the opportunity to visit the Ras Laffan Industrial City and were presented the city vision and strategy and were guided through the port and the cogeneration plants facilities.



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### **Concluding Remarks of Discussion Session on Energy efficiency and Demand Side Management held on May 7, 2012.**

Following the fruitful workshop and a number of interesting presentations delivered by highly experienced experts, some solid conclusions can be drawn. More specifically, a number of challenges, barriers, efforts and collaboration opportunities have been identified.

Although this past decade mainly, and in certain cases even in the 90's, the GCC countries have started realizing the importance of energy efficiency and are activated in its promotion, only fragmented efforts have been realized so far. In addition, the regulatory framework is uncommon among these countries, or in some cases within the same country as in the case of UAE, where Dubai and Abu Dhabi have implemented different building codes. These two parameters combined create difficulties, since on one hand certain efforts are being replicated, and on the other hand there is a significant lack of data which affects the ongoing efforts.

Furthermore, the low energy prices and lack of awareness are important barriers. However, it is quite promising that a lot of research is being conducted and potential fertile cooperation ground among EU/GCC countries exists.

In order for ENEF applications to significantly gain ground, apart from research, solid case studies should be put on the ground in order for the people and stakeholders to realize the potential and the possibilities of these technologies.

Following this rationale, a large number of activities are being realized all over GCC. Especially for Qatar, the development of the Downtown Doha Project by Msheireb Properties, is a very ambitious initiative. This is an effort of implementing ENEF technologies across all sectors, namely commercial, residential, services etc., utilizing also district cooling.

Additional effort to deal with the problem of fragmented activities is the establishment of a national energy agency to oversee and coordinate the efforts in place, as currently being realized in Bahrain.

Based on the above, the collaboration among EU/GCC can concentrate on three directions: Policy, Research and Technology.

As far as the policy is concerned, EU is highly experienced with an integrated strategic planning and common policy framework. In this respect, potential collaboration among national energy centers and policy governmental institutions exists. And among the issues that can be discussed, experiences can be exchanged among the two regarding the energy prices' issue.

Concerning the research aspect, solid collaboration among research institutions and companies has a perspective. Research on Demand Side Management technologies, such as smart grids, is a necessity for both regions. Climate change has contributed dramatically to the increase of temperature in the southern Europe. The necessity to improve air conditioning related technology, as well as the related minimum energy performance standards is also visible.

As far as technologies are concerned, building technologies and retrofitting, as well as bioclimatic architecture, is another focus area for collaboration. Electrical appliances are also a major electricity consumer, and exchange of technology know how on labels and standards can significantly benefit both regions.



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A final aspect of potential collaboration is the adoption of modern financial mechanisms, such as Third Party Financing and the use of the Energy Service Companies (ESCO) scheme.

Concluding these remarks, it can be highlighted that the energy efficiency potential for both regions is very significant and the collaboration advantages are mutually beneficial.



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### **Concluding Remarks of Discussion Session on Renewables held on May 8, 2012.**

The RES session was very interesting and benefited from the dynamic participation of the audience.

The session showed concrete developments in the GCC region as far as REN are concerned, in particular solar technologies. Many interesting presentations were given on the GCC region in general and on the specific situation in the Qatar.

Impressive activities are being developed at the QSTP, among which a project we were lucky to visit, which is the building of a testing facility of about 35000 m<sup>2</sup> for all types of solar technologies in order to check the suitability of the technologies to local conditions, in particular dust and wind.

Generally speaking, there seems to be a shortage of expertise and capacity shortage in the GCC, but we clearly saw from the presentations, for eg Qatar Solar Tech Comp (which belongs to the QF family) that the government that the government is clearly addressing this issue. Qatar Solar will start producing 8000 t/yr of polysilicone but will also in time position itself in all segments of the value chain, thereby establishing local capacity.

The dynamism seen in Qatar and the resulting progress in launching REN initiatives is also incentivized by such major events as the World Cup 2022 where, eight new stadiums will be built with solar-powered air-conditioning.

We also had enlightening presentations from the EU, showing the benefits but also the obstacles of integrating REN in the EU power networks. Importantly, we saw that the move from centralized to more decentralized systems create new challenges, but provides opportunities as well, some of which potentially creating cooperation between the EU and the GCC, such as on smart grid.

A concrete suggestion was to possibly extend current cooperation that exists between the EU and the Mediterranean to the cooperation between the EU and the GCC with such initiatives as the EU funded project on autonomous reverse osmosis plant powered by PV in isolated areas.

It was also quite encouraging to see that cooperation between GCC countries and foreign players is already taking place in many sectors. This exactly shows why the EU-GCC network is essential. Our network promotes cooperation between the GCC and the EU with the ultimate aim of also giving momentum to a greater regional cooperation among the GCC countries in the fields of technical research, manufacturing and energy policy.



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### 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 Centre – DLR (Germany), National Renewable Energy Centre - CENER (Spain), University of Stavanger - UiS (Norway), Electricity Supply Board International - ESBI (Ireland), Centre 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



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- 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.