PRESS RELEASE

Doha, 8 May 2012

The meeting on "EU-GCC co-operation on RES, Energy Efficiency and CCS", taking place in Qatar Foundation, Education City, concluded today its working sessions. The daily programme included the Discussion group on Renewables Energy Sources, Training Seminars on Tri-generation & District Cooling, Carbon Capture and Storage.

The event, organized by Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI) – Qatar foundation and the EU-GCC Clean Energy Network, during the two working days has engaged into fruitful discussions a distinguished and multidisciplinary audience of more than 85 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 these two working days of the meeting various interesting addresses were presented by distinguished experts from both sides and fruitful discussion followed. It came out that there is a strong interest from both sides on the activities of the 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.

During the closing session, the representatives of QEERI /QF, of the EU-GCC Clean Energy Network, the European commission and the partners confirmed their commitment and will continue working toward these directions in order to ensure the sustainability of the Network and the achievement of their common goals.

During the third day, a Technical Site Visit to the Ras Laffan Industrial City is planned.

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.