



**UNIT PERANCANG EKONOMI  
JABATAN PERDANA MENTERI**

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **MALAYSIA IS HOSTING THE FIRST VIRTUAL IEF-IGU MINISTERIAL GAS FORUM**

Kuala Lumpur, 1 Dec 2020 - Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin will inaugurate the 7th IEF-IGU Ministerial Gas Forum Roundtable this coming 3rd of December, that will be hosted by the Government of Malaysia represented through the Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department. The Ministerial Gas Forum, under the theme "Towards Recovery and Shared Prosperity: Natural Gas Opportunities for a Sustainable World", is a biennial event jointly organised by International Energy Forum (IEF) and International Gas Union (IGU) and this 7th edition will be the first time the forum is held virtually.

YB Dato' Sri Mustapa Bin Mohamed, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) will be hosting and jointly-moderating the ministerial forum together with Professor Joe Kang, the President of International Gas Union (IGU) and Mr Joseph McMonigle, the Secretary-General of International Energy Forum (IEF).

The Ministerial Forum will be focusing on the inclusive dialogue highlighting the role of natural gas to strengthening energy security and facilitating the orderly energy transition in an increasingly carbon-constrained world. The two separate plenary sessions have been timed in such a way to encourage greater participation from 38 countries including Asia, North America, South America, Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

"Malaysia is honoured to be given the opportunity to be the host country of this biennial forum by the International Energy Forum (IEF) and the International Gas Union (IGU) . The forum will be addressing gas industry's pressing issues amidst the current global

pandemic situation and to discuss mutually-beneficial solutions,” said Dato’ Sri Mustapa.

Malaysia is in the midst of rapid economic growth and gas is expected to play an important role in the economy towards the upcoming years. Our views on the global natural gas issues are:

1. **Role of gas in energy transition:** The next energy dynamics between Gas vs renewables requires strategic plan by the policy makers. This highlights the need for stronger mitigation of gas energy transition in both areas, natural gas and the renewables.
2. **Methane emissions:** An increasing high record of gas supply resulted to methane emissions that is more potent than Co2 has raised concerned globally. Involvement of industry players is essential to developing effective policy and urgently needed to reduce climate change pollution in parallel towards a sustainable economic growth.
3. **Delaying investment:** Natural gas facilities development is driven by market supply and demand. The market challenging and a low gas price appears to be a delaying investment, that might cause shortage of gas supply after gas market recovers.
4. **Recovery priority:** Due to increasing energy consumption that resulting to environment challenges, Government’s decision should be strongly based on what might influence the environment and society today, and most importantly in the future. Thus makes an urgent calls to Government action to put extra focus on the green energy in market recovery agenda.

As the world’s fifth largest exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and a key gas player in the region, Malaysia is well positioned to play an active role in global gas advocacy and participate in charting its future direction. To strengthen its voice globally, Malaysia takes part in the International Energy Forum (IEF) to embark on strategic collaboration with other energy associations and energy-producing and consuming countries. Representing the industry, Malaysia Gas Association also plays an influential role as

the Regional Coordinator for the International Gas Union (IGU) in determining the policy direction of natural gas.

The strategic discussion that will take place during the forum is also aimed at promoting greater engagement among the government and industry players to shape the future of natural gas. “As the environment surrounding the natural gas industry is becoming more challenging, I look forward to a vibrant dialogue session among policymakers and global natural gas players in developing ideas for both short term economic recovery and long term energy transition,” added Dato’ Sri Mustapa.

**Unit Komunikasi Korporat  
Unit Perancang Ekonomi  
Jabatan Perdana Menteri**

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## **Background**

Despite the unprecedented shock of the COVID-19 pandemic, natural gas will recover in the short-term. Post-pandemic recovery strategies will highlight the role of natural gas as government's capitalise on abundant and competitive natural gas supplies to place greater emphasis on climate change, clean air requirements and inclusive energy transitions. Natural gas technologies will also accelerate fuel-switching and more competitively priced gas supplies will provide consumers with an opportunity to accelerate recovery based on clean, affordable, and more diverse natural gas supplies.

The 7th IEF-IGU Ministerial Gas Forum will also focus on relevant issues around the role of natural gas in growth markets in which Asia is the main driver of demand, and aims to advance energy policies and business strategies that support world economic recovery and growth strategies through the dynamic evolution of global gas markets including biogas and hydrogen solutions. Key dialogue outcomes of the 7th IEF-IGU Ministerial Gas Forum will be reflected in a concluding statement issued by the host country. Policy insights gained will help to inform dialogue at future Ministerial meetings including the 2021 World Gas Conference (WGC) held under the IGU Presidency of Korea in Daegu, Korea. The International Energy Forum works closely with the International Gas Union on matters of mutual interest in accordance with the IEF Charter (Riyadh, February 2011).

As a net exporter and importer of natural gas country, Malaysia is determined to play an active role in global gas advocacy and participate in charting its future direction. For this reason, Malaysia takes part in the International Energy Forum (IEF) and the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) to embark on strategic collaboration with neutral energy associations and other energy-producing and consuming countries.

MGA's role as a member of the IGU Executive Committee as well as IGU's Regional Coordinator lends a voice to Malaysia's gas industry during discourses such as this forum and further amplifies our involvement in the global natural gas arena.

