

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

## **Iraq Energy Institute Announces 5<sup>th</sup> Iraq Energy Forum. Iraq's Premier Energy Forum Calls for Greater Regional Cooperation to Mobilise Private Investment, Usher in Prosperity**

For immediate release.

Baghdad: On 14<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> September 2019 we are delighted to host the Fifth Iraq Energy Forum (IEF 2019) at the Al Rasheed Hotel in Baghdad. Held in cooperation with the Government of Iraq, the conference brings together an exclusive line up of senior government officials, industry leaders, investors, experts and diplomats.

Our previous forums have seen some of the world's leading thinkers and practitioners across the spectrum of energy related fields; this year promises to build on past successes, bringing together an array of regional and international government officials and executives.

Once again, participants will have an exquisite opportunity to directly engage key stakeholders and decision makers, weighing in on the most pressing issues facing the energy sector and economic reform.

In keeping with the IEF's holistic focus on improving all aspects of Iraq's economy and human development, the theme of this year's forum will be "**Energy Cooperation for Middle East Peace & Prosperity**". As Baghdad strengthens its relations with its neighbours through diplomatic and trade ties, we will explore the impact of this strategy both within the Middle East and internationally in these politically tumultuous times. IEF 2019 will address this and other key issues, including:

- Iraq's re-emergence after the war on ISIS and its position as a regional unifier;
- Energy industry agility against global uncertainties and the role of OPEC;
- The capacity of the energy sector in spurring synergies with the rest of the economy; and
- Empowering women in the energy field and ensuring their contribution to the economy.

A key question for the Forum is how world powers outside of the region can play a greater role in making this happen, for the benefit of global energy security. Huge changes are already

underway: Gulf countries have undertaken significant investments in downstream operations in China as more Chinese investment flows into the region. These growing economic ties, which supplement strong Western investment in the region, could foster a new era of regional stability.

From opening up the private sector to engaging with China's Belt and Road, the region is finding its feet not as contested ground, but as a hub of international trade.

Navigating this transition will require stronger cooperation among producers and consumers as well as exercising energy diplomacy, another key theme at the Forum as we look to the forthcoming 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of OPEC in 2020, an organisation founded in Iraq that has remained at the forefront of global energy markets, despite times of great upheaval.

Confirming his attendance as the distinguished guest of IEF 2019, OPEC's Secretary General Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo said "it is once again a great pleasure to participate in the Iraq Energy Forum, particularly given Iraq's renaissance as a major oil producer and given the important role it has played in the historic 'Declaration of Cooperation' between 24 OPEC and non-OPEC producers."

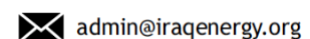
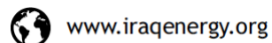
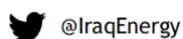
He added, "given the forum begins on September 14, the day OPEC was created at the legendary Baghdad Conference in 1960, it will also be an opportune event to recall the history of the Organization, the importance of cooperation among producers, and provide a platform for the upcoming year in the lead-up to OPEC's 60th anniversary celebrations in Baghdad in 2020."

We are pleased to confirm the participation of Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi and senior members of the Iraqi Government. Moreover, we are expecting an excellent line-up of speakers at national, regional and international levels, in addition to leading private sector executives and world class experts in energy and economy.

For anyone with an interest in business development, energy security, geopolitics and geo-economics, this is an event not to be missed.

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## About Iraq Energy Institute



# PRESS RELEASE



Established in 2008, Iraq Energy Institute (IEI) is a private, independent and non-profit organisation. Its mission is to conduct high-quality, independent research and, based on that research, to provide innovative, practical recommendations for policymakers and the public. IEI is based in London and Baghdad.

To find out more, visit: [www.iraqenergy.org](http://www.iraqenergy.org)

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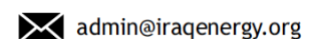
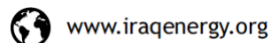
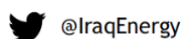
## About Iraq Energy Forum

Since its inception, the Iraq Energy Forum has allowed people connected to the industry to discuss the challenges and opportunities of Iraq's energy and economy in a cordial yet focused environment.

In addition to regularly hosting an array of c-suite executives from major international oil, gas and power sector companies and financial institutions, distinguished former speakers include OPEC Secretary General Mohammed Barkino, former Prime Minister of Iraq Haidar Al-Abadi, President of Iraq Barham Salih, current Deputy Prime Minister Thamer Al-Ghadban, current Minister of Electricity Luay Al-Khatteeb, former Minister of Oil Jabar Al-Luaibi, and various local, regional and international officials and executives amongst others.

More than a conference, this event has become an opportunity for participants to present new and innovative ideas in a space where Iraqi government officials and lawmakers are present.

To find out more, visit: [www.iraqenergy.org/ief2019](http://www.iraqenergy.org/ief2019)



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