

Qatar leads in clean fuel technology

October 13, 2009

Qatar's commitment to safeguarding the global environment is clearly reflected on its developing many world scale LNG and GTL projects, HE the Deputy Premier Abdullah bin Hamad al-Attiyah has said.

Qatar today has introduced clean fuels to the world, both LNG and GTL, the Deputy Premier said.

"We are among the leaders who have implemented projects and technologies that considerably reduce emissions. We are now the world's largest producer of both LNG and GTL, which are among the cleanest fuels. This shows we care about global environment and clean air," al-Attiyah told Gulf Times at Ras Laffan yesterday.

Al-Attiyah said the Pearl GTL project is very much on schedule?.

"We are looking at a start up either towards the end of 2010 or early 2011. This facility is simply superb. I have seen many energy projects around the world. But Pearl GTL is really great. It is the realisation of the vision of HH the Emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani," he said.

Pearl GTL project is a joint venture between Qatar Petroleum and Royal Dutch Shell. It will produce cleaner-burning diesel and kerosene, base oils for top-tier lubricants, a chemical feedstock called naphtha, which is used to make plastics, and normal paraffin, which is used to produce detergents.

The project is Shell's single largest equity investment anywhere in the world and will produce about 140,000 bpd of GTL products as well as 120,000 bpd of condensate, LPG and ethane from two trains.

Royal Dutch Shell CEO Peter Voser said the clearance given for GTL kerosene to be used in commercial aircraft would further boost the industry and open a great market for QP and Shell.?

A new international specification - Aviation Turbine Fuel Containing Synthesised Hydrocarbons ASTM D7566 - approves jet fuel containing up to 50% GTL kerosene for use in civil aviation. GTL kerosene is one of five GTL products that will be produced in commercial volumes by the Pearl GTL project.

"I am happy that the first aircraft powered by GTL kerosene landed in Doha tonight. The jet fuel used in Qatar Airways flight from London Gatwick was produced in our Bintulu, Malaysia plant," he said.

By Pratap John

(Gulf Times)