



Congress Centre of the Grand Hotel Adriatic in a beautiful seaside resort Opatija hosted a traditional

**26<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC & EXPERT MEETING OF GAS PROFESSIONALS, Opatija 2011**, organized by Croatian Gas Centre Ltd. and Croatian Gas Association, which has once again proved its international character and brought together around 500 participants, of which 100 from abroad, all renowned gas and energy experts from 16 European countries and South Korea.



"Gas exploration and production plans in the Republic of Croatia, development and construction of transmission and storage systems, construction of gas distribution systems in the Croatian coastal area, the possible construction of LNG terminals, new equipment – micro-cogeneration for flats and houses, change of legislation and the relationship between gas and other energy prices are basic guidelines named **"What is the future of Croatian gas economy?"** This year's international meeting of gas experts in Opatija will try to give answers to that question," announced **Professor Miljenko Sunic, D.Sc. president of CGA.**

On behalf of **Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts** and its president Zvonko Kusić, D.Sc. **akademician Mirko Zelić** addressed the Meeting, saying that gas, as an important energy source, will not disappear, since besides the conventional gas deposits there are new unconventional gas deposits which are becoming more and more important. Akademician Zelić emphasized the necessity to invest in new energy sources, but also to rationalize its use.



The conference was welcomed by **Mr. Denis Voloder, Director of the Division for Oil & Gas Siemens Croatia**, the main partner of the conference in Opatija 2011, and informed about the activities of Siemens in Croatia, and **Mr. Zlatko Komadina, County Prefect of Primorsko-goranska County**, warning that government policy should encourage gas consumption through the reduction or elimination of VAT, so that gas price could be more acceptable to consumers.



**Prof. Biljana Kovacevic-Zelic, D.Sc. dean of Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering in Zagreb**, also greeted the participants, as well as **Boris Maksijan, Head of Energy Systems and Restructuring, Department of Energy, Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship of Republic of Croatia**, who warned that it is important for the development of the energy industry to have educated professionals and that this year the Croatian energy legislation will be aligned with the third energy legislative package of the EU.





**CEO of INA d.d. Zoltan Aldott**, has announced that INA d.d. will invest billions of kuna in oil and gas exploration and production, refineries and petrol stations modernization, noting that in the last 10 years, INA has invested 17 billion kuna, of which 4 in the gas fields in the Adriatic, 3.6 billion in oil and gas exploration and production on land and 10 billion abroad. Aldott noted that INA d.d. remains one of the largest investors in Croatia and is therefore becoming the driving force of the Croatian industry and the entire economy.

**Director of Plinacro d.o.o. Mr. Jerko Jelic-Balta**, said that the second and third section of the large 290 km long main gas pipeline to Dalmatia, from Josipdol to Gospić and from Gospić to Benkovac, with a connecting gas pipeline to Gračac, Obrovac, Benkovac and Zadar, have recently been completed and that after 2011 the largest part of Croatia will be covered by gas pipeline system thanks to large investments, which will enable the gas connection to consumers as soon as the construction of the distribution network will be finished. **Vladimir Durovic, the Head of Department of Strategic Development and Planning in Plinacro**, announced that it is expected that by the middle of this year Croatia should get the first quantities of gas from Hungary via completed Hungarian-Croatian interconnection. Durovic also stated that the expected new gas suppliers are interested in the use of the above mentioned gas.



**Director of the PSP Podzemno skladište plina d.o.o. Ms. Dragica Krpan** said that due to the expected gradual decline of gas production in Europe and Croatia, as well as the planned increase in gas consumption in Croatia, of about 5% annually, the plan is to build a small gas storage in Grubišno Polje, to cover peak winter gas consumption, and followed by the construction of large gas storage Beničanci in Slavonia, which is of particular importance for the region because of the security of gas supply.

It was emphasized at the Meeting that gas prices for the industry are among the highest, while the gas prices for the households are among the lowest in Europe. Although it would be reasonable, one can hardly expect any change in the election year.



**Srečko Ezgeta, Director of Elektrometal-Distribucija plina d.o.o. Bjelovar** and representative of distributors and suppliers at the Croatian Chamber of Economy said that because of the existing gas prices gas distributors are constantly operating on the edge of existence, because 80% of the retail price is spent on INA d.d. supply price and VAT. Since supplier and distributor margins are very small, all this hinders business. Therefore they hope when Croatian legislation aligns with European third energy legislative package that real operating conditions will be introduced, and also expect favorable conditions from new gas suppliers.

**Head of Weather Analysis and Forecasts of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Institute Zoran Vakula** has shown how today's weather forecasts can be used in the energy sector and some examples of possible consequences of climate change which are related to energy. **Mario Raguz, M.Sc., HRT – Croatian National Television** has emphasized the importance of regular placement of information and of creating a positive public opinion, precisely in the gas and energy industry which can be a competitive advantage of companies or sectors. **Marija Ščulac Domac, M.Sc. from Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund** gave a brief overview of recent results and future activities of the Fund in the field of energy efficiency and promotion of the use of natural gas and LPG.





**Round table "Development of new tools for efficient use of gas and remote reading of gas meters"** presented the efficient use of Vaillant gas appliances, HAST-AKKU innovative technical concept - BUDERUS ideas for the future! Company Viessmann presented the impact of energy generation in future to heating technology and the company Elster GmbH trends in the world related to the remote reading of gas meters for households. Five more round tables were held, and on behalf of the **main partner of the event Siemens Croatia Mr. Reinhold Guthier, Siemens AG, Energy Sector, Germany**, talked about the aspect of CAPEX project and presented some of the world's newest solution for risk-free projects and operations.

**Swedish expert from Chalmers University in Göteborg, Jan Kjärstad**, announced that the global agreement, acknowledged in a UN document, that global warming must be kept to less than two degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels, requires a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 80 to 95 percent in the developed economies until year 2050, in relation to the 1990 emission levels. Kjärstad considers that the replacement of half the energy production of coal in the EU and the U.S. with generation in natural-gas fired combined cycles will reduce annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by a total of about 1000 Mt, and the annual natural gas consumption will increase by about 225 billion cubic meters. The author predicts that the abundance of natural gas, that occurred due to low consumption, and development of shale gas in the U.S., will keep natural gas on the global markets in the next few years, because the search for unconventional gas resources will intensify in this period.



Short video film: **"The Construction of Gas Distribution Systems in Zadar"** was shown in the opening ceremony. **Mag. Evelyn Panis, a member of the Management Board of EVN Croatia Plin d.o.o.** gave a brief overview of challenges and experiences which EVN faced since concession agreement for construction and operation of gas grid with Zadar County and with Split County was signed in 2009, and with Sibenik County in 2010. Mag. Panis has announced that in the coming period, EVN Croatia Plin will invest approximately 800 million kuna and connect up to 130 000 consumers in Dalmatia, thus providing Dalmatia great comfort and reliability with one of the most environmentally friendly sources of energy and also create new jobs.



During three days of the international conference of gas experts, the program included the following topics:

- 1. Design, Construction and Maintenance of Gas Systems**
- 2. Exploration, Production and Gas Supply**
- 3. New Energy Routes and Gas in Oil Companies**
- 4. Efficient Use of Gas and Renewable Energy Sources**
- 5. Problems and Possible Solutions for the Supply and Distribution Systems**
- 6. Technical Regulations, Legislation and Safety of Gas Usage**



- Paper Presentations: 42 ( 14 from abroad)**
- Round tables: 6**
- Gas Equipment Exhibitors: 34 (6 from abroad)**
- Papers on Poster Section: 5 (2 from abroad)**

This year's Meeting gathered over 500 participants, of which 100 from abroad, mostly experts in gas and energy, and managers of leading European and international energy companies, researchers from prestigious European universities, representatives of gas transporters, gas suppliers, gas manufacturers and distributors of natural gas from different countries and 20 students of the Technical Faculty in Rijeka.



**Annual Gas Equipment Exhibition** was also held during the three-day conference on which 34 companies, 6 from abroad presented their offer. These were mainly gas equipment retailers and manufacturers, which presented their equipment, brochures and posters on indoor and outdoor exhibition units. Most of these companies are long-time exhibitors at the Gas Experts Meetings in Opatija but every year new companies appear. So this year Opatija conference welcomed guests from South Korea - KOGAS - Korean Gas Corporation and SK Energy.

Based on multiple visits of exhibition units and review of various criteria like number and quality of exhibits, genuine interest in technology and business visitors Professional Committee for the selection of the most successful exhibitor at this year's Meeting awarded company **Dräger Safety d.o.o. from Zagreb as a best, exhibitor.** Dräger Safety has since 1991 continuously participated as an exhibitor at the Gas Experts Meetings in Opatija, and therefore contributed to the success of this traditional meetings and the development of gas industry in Croatia.

The award was presented by Professor Miljenko Sunic, president of CGA. On behalf of Dräger Safety, the award was received by Mr. Marijan Gorse.



At the end of the conference, Prof. Miljenko Sunic thanked all the participants, sponsors and exhibitors which contributed to the success of this meeting and announced

**27<sup>th</sup> International scientific & Expert Meeting of Gas Professionals, Opatija 2012** which will be held in Opatija at beginning of May next year.

