

**22nd WPC Opening Address
by the President of the World Petroleum Council,
Dr. Jozsef Toth**

Istanbul, 9th July 2017

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

I would like to extend to you all a warm welcome to the 22nd World Petroleum Congress.

As the World Petroleum Council we have been very honoured that the 22nd World Petroleum Congress has received such high-level attention from the Turkish government and are delighted that it will be held under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey.

Once again , the premier congress of our industry will bring together world leaders, senior executives, experts and representatives of all stakeholders to address the key issues of the petroleum sector.

We are grateful to our host, the Turkish Organizing Committee, and in particular to Minister Berat Albayrak, and Dr. Besim Sisman, the Committee Chair, and to all their staff who worked so hard to make this Congress a world-class event. Thank you to all of you!

Our theme for the 22nd WPC: “Bridges to our Energy Future” is particularly relevant at this time and in this place.

The main goal of our industry is to deliver reliable and affordable petroleum resources to promote the development of humankind. As the world population increases and economic development brings a large number of new consumers to the market, the challenge is growing.

Oil and natural gas remains the world's leading energy resource for decades to come. Meeting future demand safely and environmentally-friendly will require massive investments, leading edge technology, the highest skilled human resources and superior ethical business practices.

In this context the energy corridors play an important role to secure the safe and economically viable access to markets from hydrocarbon rich regions, especially from Central Asia and from the Middle-East. Realizing this, the Turkish Government has been taking efforts to create new corridors.

High level executives, international organisations and government leaders, experts from all areas of the industry, researchers, academia, NGO-s, students and society representatives are gathered here to collectively analyze and determine the future course for the petroleum sector. Through open debate and exchange of fresh ideas and technologies we expect - as a main result of the Congress - to formulate responses to contemporary challenges of the petroleum sector and how to address social and ecological problems.

The Congress will also strongly focus on engaging young professionals in our industry. As we all know, in many countries the number of young people joining the energy industry is declining. The World Petroleum Council has committed considerable efforts and resources to ensure that our youth – who will inherit this industry – be directly involved in crafting tomorrow's energy solutions. We are also pleased that our Congress will be able to showcase many of the excellent women working in our industry and leading our operations.

Some of the best initiatives in our industry that support social responsibility and technological innovation will be recognized in this Congress through the WPC Excellence Awards.



The World Petroleum Exhibition which is being held alongside the Congress showcases the latest technological developments in our industry and provides a great opportunity to meet representatives from many of the WPC National Committees, their IOCs and NOCs, service companies, and corporate advisers, in the Global Business Opportunity Centre (GBOC).

I sincerely hope this Congress will provide you with an enriching, educating and entertaining experience as you enjoy the presentations, join the discussions and meet both old and new friends. On top of it this will be an opportunity to enjoy the rich heritage of Istanbul and the warm hospitality of the Turkish people.

On behalf of the World Petroleum Council, I welcome you all to the 22nd World Petroleum Congress.