



Symposium Programme

وزارة الطاقة
MINISTRY OF ENERGY



THE 3RD EDITION OF THE SYMPOSIUM ON

Pathways to Reduce Carbon Emissions in the Petroleum Downstream Industries (SPRCEPDI-2026)

Riyadh Front Exhibition & Conference Centre (RFECC), Hall 10| Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia | 14–15 October 2026

DAY 1 — WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2026 — HALL 10

TIME	SPEAKER / ORGANIZATION	PRESENTATION / EVENT
09:00–10:00	Participants	Registration, Reception, and Badge Collection
10:00–11:25	Opening Ceremony	Official Opening
10:00–10:05	H.E. Eng. Khalid Al-Otaibi — Secretary General (OAPEC)	Welcome Address
10:05–10:10	H.E. Eng. Jassim Alshirawi — Secretary General, International Energy Forum (IEF)	Opening Address
10:10–10:15	H.E. Dr. Philip Mshelbila — Secretary General, Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) — Virtual	Virtual Opening Address
10:15–10:20	H.E. Eng. Mater Aldhafeeri — Secretary General, Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA)	Opening Address
10:20–10:25	Eng. Fahad Mohammed Alajlan — President, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC)	Opening Address
10:25–10:30	Dr. Ahmed Al Abri- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ASRY	Opening Address
10:30–10:35	Dr. Ashraf Abdel Aziz — Secretary General, Arab Union for Sustainable Development and Environment	Opening Address
10:35–10:40	H.E. Eng. Khalid Almuhaideb — Deputy Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change, Ministry of Energy, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Opening Address
10:40–10:50	OAPEC & GPCA	Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding
10:50–11:00	OAPEC & Global CCS Institute	Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding
11:00–11:15	Distinguished Guests and Speakers	Recognition Ceremony
11:15–11:25	Guests and Participants	Official Group Photo
11:25–11:45	Coffee Break	Networking and Refreshments

11:45–13:05	TECHNICAL SESSION I	Policies, Regional Strategies, and Decarbonization Pathways in the Petroleum Downstream Industries
Session Chair	Dr. Dmitrii Gordeev — Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF)	
11:45–12:05	Dr. Mahammad Abu Zahra — Global CCS Institute	Carbon Capture and Storage in the Middle East: Ambition, Progress and the Reality of Delivery
12:05–12:25	Eng. Anis Abounaga — ARDA	Decarbonization and Value Addition: An African Framework for Building Competitive, Sustainable and Future-Ready Refineries
12:25–12:45	Dr. Walid Matar — KAPSARC	From Roads to Pipelines? Internalizing a Social Cost of Carbon in the Distribution of Refined Oil Products in Saudi Arabia
12:45–13:05	Eng. Salem Al-Ajmi — College of Technological Studies (PAAET), Kuwait	Carbon Economy and Its Role in Accelerating Green Projects in the Oil Sector
13:05–13:30	Coffee Break	Networking and Refreshments
13:30–14:50	TECHNICAL SESSION II	Carbon Capture Technologies, Energy Efficiency, and Climate Transition in Refining and Petrochemical Industries
Session Chair	Eng. Anis Abounaga — ARDA	
13:30–13:50	Mr. Waseem Rasheed — GPCA	GCC Chemical Industry: Navigating the Climate Transition, Circularity and Competitiveness
13:50–14:10	Ms. Widad Berriche — Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF)	Electrification of Downstream Industries within Constrained Power Systems: A Comparative Assessment of GCC Countries
14:10–14:30	Mr. Anil Singla — BASF	CO ₂ Capture in Hydrogen Production Units in Refining and Petrochemical Industries: A Comparative Assessment of Pre-Combustion and Post-Combustion Approaches
14:30–14:50	Mr. Igor Kostromin — Topsoe	An Innovative Approach to Increasing Refinery Energy Efficiency and Reducing CO ₂ Footprint through Sulfur Recovery Units
14:50–15:30	Lunch Break	
15:30–16:50	TECHNICAL SESSION III	Innovation and Advanced Technologies for the Low-Carbon Transition
Session Chair	Dr. Hazem Said — Baker Hughes	
15:30–15:50	Mr. Barinder J. S. Ghai — Alleima	Decarbonizing Petrochemical Industries: Advanced Materials, Carbon Reduction Technologies, and Life Cycle Assessment
15:50–16:10	Dr. Reza Barati — NanoEnergy Solutions	Functional Polyelectrolyte Platforms for Low-Carbon Petroleum Processing: Applications in CCUS, Lithium Extraction, Catalyst Delivery, and Interfacial Process Control
16:10–16:30	Dr. Amira Labib — Faculty of Science, Mansoura University — Egypt	Catalytic Pathways for Lower-Carbon Conversion of Bitumen into Light Olefins Using Au/CaCO ₃ Nanocatalysts
16:30–16:50	Mr. Salah Mahdy — Chart Industries	The Role of Liquid Hydrogen (LH ₂) Value Chains in Decarbonizing Petroleum Downstream Industries

DAY 2 — THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2026 — HALL 10		
TIME	SPEAKER / ORGANIZATION	PRESENTATION / EVENT
09:00–10:20	TECHNICAL SESSION IV	National Decarbonization Experiences, Circular Economy, and Industrial Partnerships
Session Chair	Dr. Naser Odeh — KAPSARC	
09:00–09:20	Dr. Daad Mohamed Fouad — Cairo University	Challenges and Opportunities in Decarbonizing Refining and Petrochemical Industries: The Egyptian Experience
09:20–09:40	Ms. Moudhi AlSabah — Ministry of Oil, Kuwait	Kuwait's Path to Emissions Reduction for a Sustainable Environmental Future (Overview)
09:40–10:00	Dr. Hazem Said — Baker Hughes	Artificial Intelligence Adoption for Sustainability in Downstream Petroleum Industries: Challenges and Strategic Enablers for the Energy Transition
10:00–10:20	Dr. Mohammed bin Eid Al-Surihi — Arab Union for Sustainable Development and Environment	Collaboration among Academic Institutions, Industry, and Research Centers: Partnerships for Innovative and Sustainable Solutions
10:20–10:50	Coffee Break	Networking and Refreshments
10:50–12:30	TECHNICAL SESSION V	Emerging Energy Trends, Industrial Applications, and CO ₂ Utilization Pathways
Session Chair	Eng. Salah Mahdy — Chart Industries	
10:50–11:10	Dr. Evar Umezor — KAPSARC	Petrochemicals in the Energy Transition Era: Changing Patterns of Feedstock Use
11:10–11:30	Dr. Dmitrii Gordeev — Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF)	Powering the Digital Economy: Data Centre Growth and Natural Gas-Fired Generation
11:30–11:50	Eng. Othman Alzahrani — SABIC	SABIC's Carbon Neutrality Journey: Advancing Decarbonization in the Downstream Industry
11:50–12:10	Eng. Jassim M. Al Shammari — Sipchem	Process Revamp Strategies for Lower Emissions and Higher Efficiency in Large-Scale Methanol Production: The Sipchem IMC Experience
	Eng. Othman M Al-Ghamdi — Sipchem	
12:10–12:30	Dr. Naser Odeh — KAPSARC	Current and Future CO ₂ Utilization Pathways
12:30–13:00	Eng. Imad Makky — OAPEC	Summary of Key Outcomes, Symposium Recommendations, Acknowledgements, and Closing Remarks
13:00–14:00	Lunch Break	

**** Note:** Each 20-minute time slot includes the presentation and brief Q&A. Presenters are kindly requested to limit their presentations to 15 minutes.