World PetroCoal Congress-2015 DECLARATION

The 5th World PetroCoal Congress-2015 (5th WPCC-2015) was held at the Convention Centre-NDCC, New Delhi, India, from February 15 to 17, 2015, with participation from national and international delegates. The theme of the Congress, "Petroleum-Coal-Gas: Enhancing Production and Productivity", provided an appropriate platform for taking stock of recent fossil fuel, related developments, enhancing inter sectoral synergy, energy security and adopting cleaner technologies for protection of the environment, alongside ensuring social justice and equitable development.

WPCC-2015 deliberated upon the following recommendations in the context of developing countries:

- Allocation of oil and gas exploration blocks through open acreage systems be adopted. Shale gas and oil exploration controls be encouraged wherever feasible.
- International markets for natural gas be encouraged. Where price controls for social justice become necessary, gas prices could be linked to oil, instead of unconnected markets, with appropriate moderation related to extraction cost and end use viability.
- With the increasing emphasis on new renewable sources of energy, the integration of gas based power as balancing power or peaking power, be noted for grid management.
- Natural gas domestic pipeline network be developed for enhancing cleaner cooking fuels.
- Natural gas bulk supplies be planned through a mix of pipelines and LNG terminals.
- Improved extraction technology and underground coal mining be encouraged for improving energy security, avoiding wastage of resources and protecting the environment.
- Power regulators should allow adequate compensation where ever necessary for coal washing in determination of tariff. Development of coal washeries be streamlined to locate them in immediate proximity of pit heads and rail connectivity to ensure efficient enforcement of environment notifications relating to ash content and transportation. There is need for a well defined policy for disposal of washery rejects.
- All future power plants seeking coal linkages through government intervention should be installed with super critical technology and development of Ultra Super Critical Technology should be vigorously, pursued in a mission mode to improve combustion efficiencies.

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- Extraction of Coal Bed Methane, Coal Mine Methane and in situ Coal Gasification should be expedited.
- Need for emphasis on creating a technology workforce for the energy sector from the level of workman to senior executives, particularly in the mining sector with ample opportunities for skill based mid career progression, to enhance productivity and skill related employment. Project developers in backward areas to promote accredited skill development in catchment areas as a necessary commitment.

The 5th World PetroCoal Congress-2015 extends its invitation to the energy industry, particularly the fossil fuel community world-wide to reassemble in New Delhi in February 2016 to enhance closer coordination between industry, policy makers and academia to work out pragmatic energy solutions for the world.

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