

Gastech Energy Club

LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLES

Maximising Egypt's gas resources
through value-add



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GASTECH LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE | WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2025

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Roundtable abstract

With demand for natural gas across different sectors increasing by 14% in 2025, securing Egypt's long-term energy future through proactive stewardship to maximise return on investment of its gas resources remains a critical goal of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources. This Roundtable provided open discussion on the opportunities and challenges in unlocking value-add across Egypt's gas supply chain.

HOST



H.E. Eng. Karim Badawi
Minister of Petroleum &
Mineral Resources
Arab Republic of Egypt

MODERATOR



Malcolm Forbes-Cable
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CHAIR

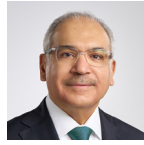


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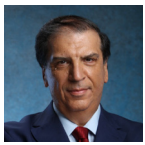
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“

We are committed to unlocking the full potential of our gas reserves. As a regional hub, Egypt is leveraging its infrastructure to serve as an export gateway for gas and LNG, strengthening regional energy security while also using gas as feedstock to create value-added derivatives that drive long-term growth. Collaboration and partnership will be key to achieving this ambition.”

H.E. Eng. Karim Badawi, Minister of Petroleum & Mineral Resources, Arab Republic of Egypt

Roundtable outcomes

No comments are attributed to any one participant.

Key findings

A strong consensus emerged that while Egypt's strategic vision is clear, unlocking significant new investment hinges on decisively resolving payment arrears and accelerating the pace of governmental decision-making. Cross-border collaboration also emerged as the primary pathway to realising the East Mediterranean's full potential, requiring a shift from bespoke deals to standardised frameworks for infrastructure access, underpinned by robust government-to-government agreements. While near-term domestic energy needs have been successfully met, fuelling long-term industrial growth is fundamentally linked to the availability of competitively priced domestic gas.

A shared strategic vision

His Excellency Eng. Karim Badawi, Minister of Petroleum & Mineral Resources, framed the discussion by outlining the Ministry's six strategic pillars. These pillars provided a comprehensive vision focused on: meeting Egypt's domestic energy needs, maximising value through downstream infrastructure, growing the GDP contribution from mining, delivering a sustainable energy mix, creating an attractive investment environment, and enhancing regional collaboration.

Resolving arrears and bureaucracy is critical to unlocking new E&P investment

The discussion highlighted a dynamic interplay between the government's commitment to flexibility and the industry's call for greater certainty and pace. It was noted that the Ministry has shown a strong willingness to adapt fiscal terms and gas pricing on a case-by-case basis to make projects economical and unlock new investment. However, for supply chains and investors to commit the necessary long-term capital, several above-surface issues remain critical. Participants agreed that the prompt and permanent resolution of payment arrears is a fundamental requirement to restore and maintain investor confidence. Furthermore, the pace of governmental decision-making was identified as a key factor, as projects in Egypt face internal competition for capital against opportunities in other countries where operators face less bureaucracy.

Cross-border piped gas, supported by government-to-government agreements, is the preferred path to realising the East Mediterranean Hub

There was strong consensus on the immense strategic value of cross-border collaboration in establishing Egypt as the indispensable energy hub for the Eastern Mediterranean. The strategic partnership with Cyprus was highlighted as a key success story, demonstrating a tangible path to unlocking the region's subsurface potential. While FSRUs are viewed as an effective short-term solution for Egypt's domestic needs, piped gas imports are seen as the more reliable and desirable long-term supply solution for the region. To facilitate this, it is crucial for Egypt to establish a clear and transparent framework for third-party access to its LNG plants and pipeline network, underpinned by robust government-to-government (G2G) collaboration.

Market confidence in Egypt's LNG strategy depends on greater clarity and operational efficiency

The dialogue underscored the strong existing collaboration between the LNG industry and the Egyptian government, and the strategic importance of the Damietta and Idku liquefaction plants as tools to aggregate and export regional gas. However, the discussion also raised key challenges that must be addressed. For Egypt's near-term role as an LNG importer, a lack of operational efficiency in the procurement process can create significant value loss and risk. Looking forward, the market requires greater clarity on Egypt's long-term LNG strategy. A clearer articulation of planned import and export volumes and the future role of FSRUs versus permanent infrastructure would send the right signals to the market, improving predictability and confidence for all stakeholders.

Future downstream growth is directly linked to the availability of competitively priced domestic gas

The session concluded by highlighting the government's recent success in meeting domestic gas demand, with participants noting that there were no power outages in 2025 through innovative thinking and strong private sector partnership. It was acknowledged that at times of great market tightness industry supply could be constrained but that improved communication between the government and industry on timing and likely duration would enable companies to mitigate the impact.

A key takeaway from the discussion was the fundamental linkage between energy policy and industrial growth. Participants agreed that a lower and competitive cost of domestic gas is vital for the flourishing of Egypt's downstream industry, particularly value-add sectors like petrochemicals and fertilisers.

The path forward

The roundtable reinforced a spirit of partnership and a shared belief in the vast potential of Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean. Egypt's strengths lie in its solid technical foundation and strategic infrastructure; the remaining challenges are primarily commercial. Egypt is ensuring timely financial settlements, and adopting clear frameworks for partnerships, Egypt is well-positioned to solidify its role as a secure, stable, and prosperous regional and global energy hub.



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