

Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) visit to Aberdeen, 8-9 May 2018

Strengthening trade and training between Scotland and Libya

As Scotland looks to increase her exports and attract more fee-paying trainees and postgraduate students, now is the time to reinforce the natural affinity between her expertise in oil and gas and the urgent needs of producer countries to restore production and skills after conflict. The UK oil and gas industry has developed rich experience and leading edge skills as an energy provider, economic contributor, major employer and environmental steward for the UK. These skills, as well as its record of innovation and workplace safety, could all be shared with the Libyan oil industry.

NOC Chairman Mustafa Sanalla will visit Aberdeen from 8-9 May 2018, accompanied by the NOC Director of Training, the Chairmen of NOC oil & gas producing companies and NOC Board members who studied in Scotland. The visit is organised by the Libyan British Business Council (LBBC), in association with Oil and Gas UK, Scottish Enterprise and the British Embassy to Libya, led by Ambassador Frank Baker.

Oil and Gas UK will host a business conference on 8 May at which Chairman Sanalla and his team will spell out NOC priorities for the next 3 years and learn what Scotland has to offer to help achieve those aims. Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce (the biggest in Scotland) will ensure that the Scottish supply chain is well represented.

On 9 May, LBBC member Petrofac will receive the NOC at one of their training facilities in Aberdeen, before Robert Gordon University hosts a gathering of Scottish universities – including Heriot Watt, Aberdeen, Dundee and Strathclyde. The aim there is to renew old friendships initiate new ones and to showcase centres of technical and training excellence in Scotland. RGU has extensive expertise in providing strategic advice to oil producing states, with Libya a prime candidate. The outcome sought is a sustained relationship of equals, matching Libyan priorities to Scottish capabilities.

To learn more, members of the Libyan British Business Council, of Oil and Gas UK and of the Aberdeen Chamber will be invited to meet the strong Libyan visiting team in Aberdeen on 8-9 May. The team will give briefings on subjects such as doing business in Libya and new business opportunities, and will be available for small group meetings and introductions. If you wish for more information or to register your interest in attending the 8 May conference, please contact LBBC Executive Secretary Pauline Graham – email events@lbbc.org.uk.

Notes:

Libya has the largest reserves of oil and gas in Africa. Its oil production is now 1 million barrels a day, up from just 200,000 during the worst times of civil strife after the overthrow in 2011 of Colonel Gaddafi's 40-year dictatorship. NOC Chairman Mustafa Sanalla, who deserves much credit for that achievement (and was awarded Petroleum Economist's award for CEO of the year in November 2017), has pledged to increase production to 1.26 mbd this year.

The LBBC is a membership body of 75 companies – predominantly British - with extensive experience of trading with and working in Libya. It is chaired by Sir Vincent Fean, British Ambassador to Libya 2006-10. Further information is available on the website at www.lbbc.org.uk