Partnership to Strengthen Local Capacity for Economic, Financial, and Social Analysis of Energy Sector Initiatives

MONTHLY REPORT – MAY 2005

Prepared for:
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UH IELE\textsuperscript{1} Monthly Report – May 2005

The following are the activities of the partnership for the month of May 2005.

- Prof. Hossain and Dr. Rahman attended the Offshore Technology Conference during the week of May 2 in Houston. They visited exhibitions and attended conference sessions of interest to them. Of particular importance:
  - Prof. Hossain met with managers from the Syntroleum Corp. which has a gas-to-liquids technology and has explored Bangladesh as a potential market. Prof. Hossain is using the information in his evaluation of gas monetization options in Bangladesh, which also includes exports, CNG, and electric vehicles.
  - Dr. Rahman collected electronic and hard copy information from exhibiting companies, including videos or animation of petroleum technologies, and sample software programs. Dr. Rahman intends to use these materials in his classes at PMRE, encouraging students to pursue careers in petroleum engineering. Dr. Rahman also approached Bureau of Economic Geology at UT for video material used for teaching students of geology and petroleum engineering. While we continue to strengthen energy economics and regulation content at PMRE, these materials will help PMRE render its core competency more appealing to prospective students.

- Prof. Hossain and Dr. Rahman attended the New Era program, May 9-20. In addition to class sessions, they had a chance to visit an LNG regasification terminal in Louisiana, regulatory agencies in Austin and the Bureau of Economic Geology at UT (the program agenda is attached). Prof. Hossain’s team developed an LNG liquefaction and export project and Dr. Rahman’s team worked on a project of refinery upgrades and power plant conversions. These were two of the best projects in five history of the New Era program.

- Prof. Hossain started writing two research papers. One of the papers compares the gas export scenario with the no export scenario in terms of monetary value for the Bangladeshi economy. The other will focus on the economics of CNG and alternative domestic uses of natural gas such as GTL and electric vehicles.

\textsuperscript{1} On June 1, 2005, UH IELE becomes part of the University of Texas-Austin as the Center for Energy Economics, Bureau of Economic Geology. We are developing a transition plan that will enable completion of work on the grant, including financial close out, through the UH Office of Contracts and Grants as planned in our agreement. Details on our transition plan are forthcoming from UH OCG.
Prof. Tamim successfully completed teaching the Energy Value Chain Economics, Policy and Regulation as a graduate course offered through PMRE. This course created lot of interest among other students who requested to repeat the course in the current term. The course will be offered again in the next term.

Prof. Tamim and his two graduate students continued to work on the analysis of a natural gas pipeline project and the development of the energy value chain spreadsheet model for Bangladesh, both based on models from UH IELE’s New Era program.

Prof. Tamim was one more time invited by the National Defense College (NDC) to deliver lectures on World and Bangladesh energy scenario on May 21 and May 23. His experience and learning from last year’s visit to IELE played a key role in preparing these lectures.

Next steps
Actions expected in the next few months include:
- Continue work on research projects.
- Arrange a visit with El Paso Pipeline Company for Prof. Hossain.