



**International
Downstream Conference
& Exhibition**

**14 - 16 February 2023
Kingdom of Bahrain**

Under the patronage of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain

GDA INTERNATIONAL DOWNSTREAM CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

Theme: Downstream Turning Points - Capitalising on Transformation

EVENT PROGRAMME

**14-16 February 2023
Kingdom of Bahrain**

www.gdaconference.org

Day 1 - Monday, 13 Feb 2023

07:30 - 09:30 **Registration Opens**

09:30 - 10:00 **Welcome by GDA Founding Companies**

10:00 - 11:00 **Panel Discussion: Downstream Growth Challenges and Opportunities**

The panel will discuss the future growth of downstream. Members of the panel will share their points of view on the key enablers for a robust growth in this sector. Changes in the demand side will be discussed with special emphasis on how downstream can turn demand changes into opportunities. Supply side will also be covered where panelists will elaborate on the changes in Upstream and how they can be potentially leveraged to make downstream more profitable. Panelists will shed light on the challenges facing downstream growth. In addition to the general theme, the session will zoom into downstream growth in GCC and deliberate the growth potential along with the challenge.

11:00 - 11:15 **Break**

11:15 - 12:30 **Technical Sessions (Parallel Sessions)**

Resilience	De-carbonisation and Sustainability	Future Growth
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11:15 - 12:30 **Expert Workshop**

12:30 - 13:45 **Lunch**

13:45 - 15:00 **Technical Sessions (Parallel Sessions)**

Disruptors	Digitalisation in Downstream Sector	Human Capital and Talent Management
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13:45 - 15:00 **Expert Workshop**

15:00 - 15:15 **Break**

15:15 - 16:15 **Panel Discussion: Business Transformation**

This panel will discuss novel ways of transforming the downstream business. This includes the application of new business strategies and business models, doing things in a new way, establishing new joint-ventures or business agreements, and adopting new approaches to achieve business goals. Shifting business focus, such as shifting from a volume driven business to a margin driven business, as well as dealing with an increasingly competitive environment are key elements of the discussion. The integration and utilization of existing assets in the transformative journey. What kind of approach should different levels within a downstream organization adopt to achieve this transformation? Has the current pandemic triggered a need for accelerated business transformation, or a time to consolidate? Success stories and case studies will be shared, especially of a case where a failing business has been transformed into a successful one using novel business strategies and approach.

16:15 - 17:00 **Official Exhibition Opening Followed by VIP Tour**

17:00 - 18:00 **Conference Opening Ceremony including Ministerial Keynotes**

18:00 - 18:15 **Break**

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18:15 - 20:30 **Gala Dinner and Award Ceremony**

Day 2 - Tuesday, 14 Feb 2023

08:00 - 10:00 **Registration Opens**

10:00 - 11:00 **Panel Discussion: De-carbonisation & Sustainability**

The road to decarbonization necessitate that a holistic approach must be adopted to address the urgent need to limit global warming, there is no one single policy, fuel, or technology that will solve the carbon emission issue. But rather a mixture of progressive policies, fuels and technologies will enable the world to limit global warming. More importantly a collaborative and inclusive collaboration among policy makers, the industry, financiers, and other stakeholders is needed to achieve the desired decarbonization goals.

In the GCC region, we are committed to maintain our leadership position in the energy market by addressing our stakeholders and customers energy needs by providing the world with low carbon fuels that will support economic for decades to come. Backed by political commitment towards carbon naturalty, companies in the region are well-positioned to de-carbonize their operations and set example for others to follow.

This panel will address the following key aspects:

- What are the available de-carbonization pathways ?
- What are the opportunities and challenges ?
- The role of financial institutions in supporting the decarbonization of the industry
- Carbon pricing and circularity
- How to effectively communicate the industry decarbonization effort to stakeholders ?

11:00 - 11:15 **Break**

11:15 - 12:15 **Technical Sessions (Parallel Sessions)**

Resilience

De-carbonisation and Sustainability

11:15 - 12:15 **Special Session - Market Analysis and Industry trends**

Downstream industry is currently passing through many uncertainties and fluctuations, such as: feedstock availability, market demands, regulatory / environmental constraints, competitive energy systems, technology disruptions and geo-politics. It is vital for refiners and technology/service providers to understand these trends and prepare proactively.

This special session will discuss several questions such as:

- How to make sense out of diverse trends and market analyses from different sources?
- What refiners and technology/service providers should focus on?
- When is the oil/product demand most likely to peak?
- Is fuel demand threatened by the EV/FCEV growth, shared mobility, autonomous vehicles, regulatory framework or policies? When and how they may cause real disruption to gasoline demand?

11:15 - 12:15 **Expert Workshop**

12:15 - 13:30 **Lunch**

13:30 - 14:30 **Technical Sessions (Parallel Sessions)**

Future Growth

Disruptors

13:30 - 14:30 Special Session - Technology Transformation

Downstream industry is agile and dynamic. Process technologies are continuously evolving, to improve performance, increase margin, stay competitive and/or to keep meeting the ever-changing customer requirements and environmental regulations which is becoming more stringent.

This session will focus on the challenges the downstream industry is facing, including enforcement of more stringent changes in customer requirements and environmental regulations, involvement of new market competitors, higher operating cost and minimal refinery margin. What is the impact of these challenges on the downstream industry? What strategies oil refiners are taking to overcome these challenges, and how transforming to innovative process technologies can help refiners to stay in business and be competitive.

13:30 - 14:30 Expert Workshop**14:30 - 14:45 Break****14:45 - 15:45 Panel Discussion: Energy Transition**

Zero-carbon energy sources, including hydrogen, nuclear, biofuel and renewable energy sources like wind, solar, as well as lithium-ion batteries, coexist with the fossil-based sources e.g. oil, natural gas and coal. However, transformation of global energy from fossil-based to zero-carbon energy sources is currently going on at a fast pace and will be enforced in many countries before the second half of this century, creating a new challenging environment to the downstream industry.

This panel discussion will focus on the energy transition from fossil-based to zero-carbon energy, and the challenges for the downstream industry. What are the roles of government policies in enforcing this transition? How environmentalists, business analysts, refiners and automakers are predicting the future as electric vehicles grow in popularity? What is the impact on fossil fuel demand? How refiners will keep growing in the energy business while reducing cost and improving CO2 intensity performance? Where will be the downstream industry in the future?

15:45 - 16:00 Coffee Break and Networking**16:00 - 17:00 Technical Sessions (Parallel Sessions)**

Digitalisation in Downstream Sector

Human Capital? and Talent Management

16:00 - 17:00 Special Session - Downstream World-Class Projects Delivery

For downstream refiners to become highly competitive and flexible to meet future challenges and capture growth opportunities, panelists would share their latest success-story in projects execution, best practices and lessons learned. This will enable GCC refiners to achieve the highest capital efficiency and achieve flawless commissioning and startups as well as safe operations. Panelists are expected to discuss current challenges and issues faced by refiners during the project's life cycle, especially in GCC. Such topics include Project Definition, Engineering Duration and costs as well as construction delays and costs overruns. Discussions will also include How and What Refiners, PMCs' and EPCs' can do to execute projects efficiently while minimizing potential risks. This panel discussion will aim to identify current gaps in project delivery in GCC and/or downstream refineries and how can project stakeholders bridge these gaps.

16:00 - 17:00 Expert Workshop

Day 3 - Wednesday, 15 Feb 2023

08:00 - 09:00 **Registration Opens**

09:00 - 10:00 **Technical Sessions (Parallel Sessions)**

Resilience

De-carbonisation and Sustainability

09:00 - 10:00 **Expert Workshop**

10:00 - 11:00 **Panel Discussion: Digital Transformation in Downstream**

Digital transformation is inevitable for the downstream industry to survive and thrive. It helps to increase plant efficiencies, increase productivity and reduce operating cost by leveraging a plethora of IR4.0 technologies such as AI, Augmented Intelligence, AIoT, ML, VR/MR, Big Data Analytics, and Cloud computing. These technologies could become the corner stone in achieving Autonomous Plants (self-learning, self-optimizing and self-sustaining).

Panelists will share their experience and address the following key-questions facing the downstream industry in their digital transformation journey:

- How the new-age technologies be applied in the downstream industries?
- What are the business verticals within the downstream industries that can benefit the most?
- What are the key challenges, risks and obstacles? How to manage them?
- What will be the role of human workforce in such autonomous plants?
- What are the best practices for achieving a successful digital transformation?

11:00 - 11:15 **Break**

11:15 - 12:15 **Technical Sessions (Parallel Sessions)**

Disruptors

Digitalisation in Downstream Sector

Human Capital and Talent Management

11:15 - 12:15 **Expert Workshop**

12:15 - 13:30 **Lunch**

13:30 - 14:30 **Panel Discussion: Human Capital and Diversity**

Downstream industry is faced with unprecedented demands on its human capital due to high percentage of ageing workforce, low in-take of fresh workforce, technology disruptions, cultural & skill diversity, multiple roles, multi-tasking, aggressive deadlines and handling uncertainties. It is vital to maintain a happy state of mind to ensure maximum productivity with minimal health impacts.

This panel will address the following key-questions facing the downstream industry now and going forward:

- What can we do to achieve effective knowledge transfer from retiring experts to young workforce at fast pace (2-3 years)?
- How can we attract young engineers to join downstream industry?
- How can we develop programs to ensure skill-diversity together with re-skilling and upskilling the workforce?
- What needs to be done to build high-performance resilience at work?
- What power skills are needed to embrace future work environments where humans will have to co-exist with Robots, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning?
- How can the multi-cultural workforce be integrated with local society/culture in order to work as a homogeneous team delivering high performance?

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- What are the long-term human resource consequences of Covid-19, and what needs to be done now to avoid issues in the medium and long term, as its impact may permanently reshape the current young minds who would later enter the work-force

14:30 - 14:45

Break

14:45 - 15:30

GDA Conference Outcome and Closing Remarks by Conference Chairman

16:00 -

Exhibition Closing

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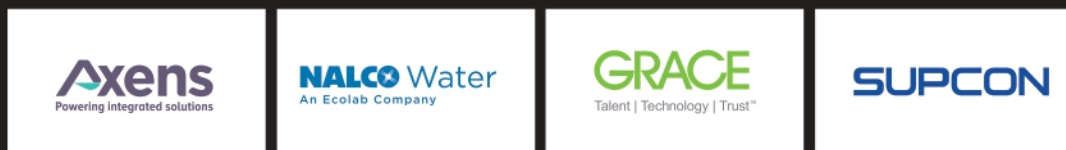
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