



# Gas Exporting Countries Forum

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## H. E. Secretary General opening speech to the 15<sup>th</sup> Executive Board meeting

GECF Headquarters, Doha, Qatar

27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2013

**Distinguished Chairman of the Executive Board, Alternate Chairman and members of the Executive Board, Distinguished Observers, Ladies and gentleman,**

It is a pleasure to receive the Distinguished EB members, Observers and delegates for the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) meeting of this important Governing Body of the Organization.

I would like to welcome H.E. the Chairman of the 15<sup>th</sup> Executive Board Meeting Mr. Mohammed Nasser Al-Hajri and the Alternate Chairman Mr. S.M.A. Khatibi Tabatabaei; a special welcome to our new EB Members and distinguished representative Dr. Matar Hamad Al Neyadi, EB Member from United Arab Emirates, Mr. Majid K. Al-Hilfi, representative from Iraq and Ms. Nehad El Kordy, EB Member from Egypt. On behalf of the GECF, welcome to our office and the Host country, Doha.

This is an exciting year for the Forum, we will be celebrating our fifth anniversary and hosting the world in our 2<sup>nd</sup> second gas Summit, as we assembly to discuss administrative, governance and financial issues relevant to the Forum in 2013, we must look back to see the progress we have made and how we have grown from a start-up organization to a recognized international intergovernmental organization in the global energy landscape.

The deliberations of this distinguished body continues to contribute to its growth and shape the strategic direction and affairs of the Forum; I applaud the efforts of Your Excellencies, and assure you of the Secretariat's support to provide all necessary assistance to the Executive Board as we commence deliberations in 2013.

Our path in 2013 has already been defined, this year the world's spot light will be on GECF and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Gas Summit; we must build on our achievements in the 1<sup>st</sup> Gas Summit and reposition GECF as a global gas leader. I am confident that with your support and the commitment of the Secretariat, we will collectively work towards the realization of our objectives.

Thank you for your valuable time, I wish you fruitful and useful deliberations.