

### Liquefied Natural Gas

The Earth holds enormous quantities of natural gas – enough to last for several decades at current levels of consumption. However, much more gas is located far out at sea or in remote regions hundreds of kilometres from where the gas is needed and laying a pipeline would not be technically or economically feasible.

To transport this fuel, it can be converted into liquefied natural gas (LNG).

LNG is natural methane gas that has been chilled to  $-160^{\circ}\text{C}$ . This chilling process, known as liquefaction, takes place in specialised facilities and condenses the gas to  $\frac{1}{600}$ th of its previous volume. This makes it easier to ship safely and efficiently aboard LNG tanker vessels.



Qatargas LNG plant by night (Photo courtesy Qatar Liquefied Gas Company Ltd)



A methane tanker carrying LNG

After arriving at its destination, LNG is frequently stored securely as a liquid in specially engineered tanks. For further processing, it is warmed to  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ , which returns it to its gaseous state. It is then delivered to natural gas customers through the local gas pipeline network.

LNG is not new. It has been created and transported for more than 40 years and has an excellent safety record.

According to the BP Statistical Review, over 226 billion cubic metres of gas are now shipped as LNG every year – equivalent to around 7% of the international trade in gas. LNG (liquefaction, transport and re-gasification) is an excellent complement to pipeline supply. Its proliferation has enabled natural gas to become a global commodity.

#### About OGP

OGP represents the upstream oil & gas industry before international organisations including the International Maritime Organisation, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Regional Seas Conventions and other groups under the UN umbrella. At the regional level, OGP is the industry representative to the European Commission and Parliament and the OSPAR Commission for the North East Atlantic. Equally important is OGP's role in promulgating best practices, particularly in the areas of health, safety, the environment and social responsibility.

London office: 209-215 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NL, UK Tel: +44 (0)20 7633 0272 Fax: +44 (0)20 7633 2350  
Brussels office: 165 Bd du Souverain, B-1160 Brussels, Belgium Tel: +32 (0)2 566 9150 Fax: +32 (0)2 566 9159  
Web: [www.ogp.org.uk](http://www.ogp.org.uk) E-mail: [reception@ogp.org.uk](mailto:reception@ogp.org.uk)