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The 13<sup>th</sup> International Oil and Gas Conference & Exhibition “Petrotech-2019”, a global event hosted by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, in NCR during 10-12 February 2019, will cover the entire gamut of the oil and gas industry and related sectors including alternative energy, engineering and technology. “Petrotech-2019” will be a dynamic platform for national and international experts and investors across the energy value chain to exchange views and share knowledge, expertise and experience.

India is one of the main drivers of the world’s growing energy demand. Various major programmes such as “Make in India”, “Start-Up India”, “Digital India”, “Skill India” and “Smart Cities” are transforming India. Ambitious and forward-looking reforms in the energy sector since 2014 are propelling India into an attractive destination for global investors. With high economic growth, growing population and its standing as the world’s third-largest energy consumer, the world is taking note of the India’s growth story.

The theme chosen for 13<sup>th</sup> edition of Petrotech - ‘*Shaping the new energy world through Innovation & Collaboration*’ is very relevant. The deliberations during “Petrotech-2019” will address the larger issues of universal access to energy, the challenges in discovering and producing oil and gas from difficult areas, opportunities in unconventional hydrocarbons, increasing the share of renewables in the energy mix and boosting the gains from energy efficiency.

With an anticipated participation of over 7,000 industry leaders and around 700 Exhibitors, “Petrotech-2019” is a must attend event. The biennial event distinguishes itself with the sustained increase in number of delegates and exhibitors over the years since its beginning in 1995, demonstrating the ever-growing importance of the show. This time it is slated to draw a premium audience of ministerial delegations, senior policy makers, CEOs, industry captains and energy experts. Further, the buyers-sellers meet will provide a unique opportunity for oil and gas companies, technology providers, project managers and engineering consultants, EPC contractors and equipment/systems manufacturers to showcase their latest products & services and explore potential business opportunities.

I invite participants, delegates, speakers, exhibitors and energy industrialists from various countries to the 13<sup>th</sup> Petrotech Conference and Exhibition with the sincere hope that the deliberations will address micro as well as macro issues and find sustainable solutions for universal energy access.

[Dr M M Kutty]