

Welcome Address – 14th Foundation Day- Petronet LNG Limited

Respected Chief Guest, Bharat Ratna Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Former President of India, Shri S.Sundareshan, Chairman, Petronet LNG Limited and Secretary(P&NG),Govt. of India,

Excellency Mr. Peter Verghese, High Commissioner of Australia,

Excellency Mr. Eisa Al-Kuwari, Charge de Affaires, Qatar,

Additional Secretary, Shri Sudhir Bhargava

CMDs of the companies, Shri Hazarika, Shri Tripathi, Shri R. K. Singh, Shri N. M. Borah, Shri Purwaha, Shri. Arup Roy Choudhury.

Former Chairmen of Petronet, Shri Prabir Sengupta, Shri S. C. Tripathi,

Former MD & CEO of Petronet, Shri Suresh Mathur

Leaders from the Industry, Officials from Government of India, distinguished guests, friends from media and my dear colleagues from the Petronet family.

Good Afternoon & Welcome to Foundation Day celebrations of Petronet.

It is indeed a rare honour to have a luminary of the stature of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam deliver the First Petronet Foundation Day lecture. We are grateful to you, Sir, for agreeing to our request and taking out your valuable time for us.

Distinguished guests, today we are celebrating the 14th Foundation Day of Petronet LNG.

PLL was incorporated in 1998 under a unique Public Private partnership model to import LNG and set up LNG terminals in the country. We have the benefit to build our growth on the strength of our promoters, ONGC, IOC, GAIL (India) and BPCL. From the time of receiving the first cargo of LNG in January 2004 amidst strong apprehensions in the industry whether LNG could be sold in the country to today, PLL supplies about 10 MMTPA of Regasified LNG to

different Offtakers in the country and volumes are growing with cargoes arriving every 2nd or 3rd day (682). We are aware of our important role in meeting the increasing energy requirements of our Country. Over these years, PLL has gained valuable experience, confidence and maturity in dealing with all stakeholders and operating with ease in the volatile LNG/natural gas business in the world. PLL has been able to carve-out a professional, credible image in the world of LNG market.

Now, Petronet LNG Ltd. is perhaps entering a new phase of more challenging times. It is therefore extremely important for us to remain focussed on the changing business dynamics so as to keep the leadership position.

On the 14th Foundation Day of Petronet, it is our great privilege that Hon'ble Dr.Kalam has agreed to deliver the First ever Foundation Day Lecture on this occasion.

Sir, Your illustrious contributions to the nation and humanity have made you a role model who has inspired vast multitudes of our present day generation.

You made India an exclusive member of Space Club when SLV-III ejected the Rohini satellite in the near earth orbit in July 1980, you led the development of indigenous guided missiles Agni and Prithvi, and also the Pokhran-II nuclear tests in collaboration with Department of Atomic Energy, which made India a nuclear weapon State. Your foresight to put technology to multiple use is exemplified when you used the light weight carbon composite material designed for Agni missile to make calipers for the polio affected.

But beyond all these great contributions, it is your love for India and for your countrymen, especially the children and youth and your single minded devotion to make your countrymen believe in hope, that India can become a truly prosperous, self-reliant and a developed nation that has endeared you in the hearts of millions of Indians, like no public figure has done, in the history of independent India. Your thinking beyond conventional wisdom as reflected in your writings and addresses has always been inspirational. I can't help but refer to PURA Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas , a remarkable mission conceived by you, consisting of four connectivities: physical, electronic, knowledge and thereby leading to economic connectivity to enhance the prosperity of clusters of villages in the rural areas. The PURA has all the dimensions to become a business enterprise, which has global dimensions but

operating in every nook and corner of our country. You have envisioned that The PURA entrepreneur has to have the skill for evolving a business plan with banks and also create infrastructural support such as educational institutions, health centres and small scale industries, transportation services, tele-education, tele-medicine, e-governance services in the region integrating with the governmental rural development schemes such as road, communication and transport and also with national and global markets to sell the products and services

Sir, I have had the privilege of hosting you on two very special occasions in my previous Company, ONGC, once during the ONGC Golden Jubilee Celebrations in 2005 and in 2009, during the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of ONGC Academy.

I vividly remember your passionate exhortations on each of these two occasions. Especially, during the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of ONGC in August 2005 as the President of India, you had set out a new vision for ONGC and I quote:-

Quote:

“I would suggest ONGC to give world leadership in management of energy source, exploration of energy sources, diversification of energy sources, technology in underground Coal Gasification and above all finding new ways of tapping energy wherever it is, to meet the ever growing demand of the country.

My best wishes to the ONGC in their mission of making the nation energy independent before 2030.”

Unquote

I am sure Petronet team would be blessed by similar guidance today.

May I have the privilege of quoting from your speech to the nation as President of India on 59th Independence Day, August 2005, in which you have put “Energy Independence” as the top-most priority for the nation:-

Quote

“Energy Security, which means ensuring that our country can supply lifeline energy to all its citizens, at affordable costs at all times, is thus a very important and significant need and is an

essential step forward. But it must be considered as a transition strategy, to enable us to achieve our real goal that is - Energy Independence or an economy which will function well with total freedom from oil, gas or coal imports. Is it possible? Hence, Energy Independence has to be our nation's first and highest priority. We must be determined to achieve this within the next 25 years i.e by the year 2030. This one major, 25-year national mission must be formulated, funds guaranteed, and the leadership entrusted without delay as public-private partnerships to our younger generation, now in their 30's, as their lifetime mission in a renewed drive for nation-building". **Unquote**

Your thinking beyond conventional wisdom as reflected in your writings and addresses has always been inspirational. Your advice to look at alternate sources of energy, during your address to the International Space Development Conference (ISDC) in 2010 where you talked about the possibilities of harvesting energy from space through space based solar power reflect a level of ideation beyond the extraordinary.

Your autobiography 'Wings of Fire' actually aims at motivating Indian youth. In your poem "Soaring Dream" you have said :
*"when we are united in action and addicted to deeds
sky can be limit for my nation in action !"*

In your song "My National Prayer" You have prayed:
*Oh Almighty, bless all my people to work and transform
Our country from a developing to developed nation."*

Sir, Petronet is a Company that embodies the aspirations of India's future-the young.

Today, the entire Petronet Team looks forward to your address for similar guidance, which will strengthen our resolve to move forward more resolutely in achieving our mission.

On behalf of Petronet, I once again extend a hearty welcome to you Sir and to all distinguished guests.

Thank You

Jai Hind