

Wednesday, 28 October 2009

## **World Refining Association's Middle East division expanding its product portfolio beyond the UAE to Bahrain**

Following the success of Petchem Arabia 2009, the WRA's Middle East Director, Claire Pallen and Conference Manager, Dominica Andrews took a unique trip to Manama, Bahrain where the business unit is expanding its product portfolio.

Whilst in Manama, Claire and Dominica had the opportunity to meet with His Excellency Dr. Abdul Hussain bin Ali Mirza, Minister of Oil and Gas Affairs for the Kingdom of Bahrain, to discuss plans for the 2010 Middle East Chemical Summit, which will be held under his patronage from 10-13 October 2010 and includes the co-location of Petchem Arabia and The Middle East Fertilizer Symposium.

H.E. Dr. Ali Mirza was very receptive to the idea of having two conferences co-located under the umbrella of the Middle East Chemical Summit and further welcomed the hosting of the Energy Exchange's 2010 launch event, Iraq 2010, to also be held under his patronage.

During the trip, the Minister and his colleagues introduced Claire and Dominica to many of Bahrain's top executives, enabling them to further promote the expansion of the WRA and Energy Exchange into the region, which was most welcomed, particularly by Gulf Air who are keen to show their support and act as our official airline.

Whilst the WRA and Energy Exchange maintain strong relationships in the UAE, where their Middle East conferences have been held for the past 11 years, this expansion into the Kingdom of Bahrain is very exciting for the future development of the Middle East business unit in terms of replicating these strong relationships in other key Gulf countries. It is also a very important step as we establish our first true confex.

We look forward to sharing our progress with you over the coming months!



Dominica Andrews, Conference Manager, World Refining Association, Claire Pallen, Director, Middle East Operations, World Refining Association, H.E. Dr. Abdul Hussain bin Ali Mirza, Minister of Oil and Gas Affairs for the Kingdom of Bahrain, Abdul Hussain Monfaridy, Acting Chief Executive, Noga Holding, Ali Al-Sawad, General Manager of Strategies and Planning, National Oil and Gas Authority (NOGA).