

## AGIT WORLD GAS CONFERENCE SCHOLAR'S REPORT

As part of the recent World Gas Conference (WGC2018) held in Washington DC, AGIT supported six scholarship participants to attend the comprehensive and diverse conference on natural gas.

The conference was held at Walter E Washington convention centre, which stretched across six city blocks; this was able to cater for the 12,000 participants from 100 countries and extensive exhibitions.

The six scholarship participants Sarah Donnelly, Lauren Fetherston, Nick Harley, Isaac Isakovich, Kahil Parsons, and Daniel Panella quickly formed a network at the welcome reception, where we were fan fared into union station. The reception held exhibits of everything Washington has to offer including the oval office, Georgetown, and baseball centre. This opportunity also allowed us to meet and get to know the board of AGIT.



The conference held over 600 speakers and 115 sessions over the course of the week. The opening ceremony was huge with the Harlem Globetrotters and Blue Devils Marching Band putting on a show. The ceremony set the scene with some of the common messages and themes emerging through the conference. Some of the highlights and messages that resonated with the delegates are below:

- Opening key note session with the CEO's from Chevron (Michael Worth) and ExxonMobil (Darren Wood) discussing the importance of free trade in the global gas business and that gas pricing will benefit from moving away from the oil market price. Peter Coleman, Woodside CEO was also a standout being quoted several times throughout the conference.
- The key note session on the Asia pacific markets with the chair Nobuo Tanaka asking some challenging questions including Indonesia's Minster for Energy forecast of the use of coal as a key energy source. One of Nobuo's statements that resonated throughout the conference was "I think it is important that the industry to hold itself accountable".
- China's energy profile and energy mix increasing demand for natural gas in the future, whilst trying to reduce emissions from coal. China is also investing in Shale gas extraction, and so too will be able to become in importer and producer.
- Mozambique and Israel have large reserves and looking to join the export market
- Many speakers discussed the work being done to tackle climate change and how gas can provide a greener/ cleaner energy source for the world. As stated by Bernard Looney BP COO, "... natural gas has a huge part to play in the future of energy. It is abundant, flexible and critical in the transition to a lower carbon economy. Gas produces half the greenhouse gas emissions of coal when burned for power, as well as providing ideal back-up for renewables, as it can quickly be brought online when there is less sunshine. The use of natural gas as part of the world energy mix"
- The debate around supplying natural gas to developing countries; there was a lot of emotional language from American ministers and large LNG providers around providing

developing countries access to safe, sustainable and reliable energy and that natural gas could help support this challenge. Rachael Kyle the CEO of sustainability energy for all, was able to test some of this debate by addressing the elephant in the room, that natural gas still emits emissions, and that the industry needs to address this in order to service developing countries.

- Renewable natural gas is already being injected into European (France and Germany) and Canadian distribution networks.

The convention centre was a great opportunity to view some of the latest technologies used to improve processes along the end to end supply chain including digital metering and new leak detection devices. Some of the larger companies had demonstrations on the business visions and strategies for the future of their business, some of which were very interactive. Woodside were even generous enough to fly over an Australia barista for the delegates to enjoy some Australian coffee (which was much missed whilst at the conference).

The AGIT scholars also spent some time exploring what Washington had to offer. Including visits to the mall, Lincoln memorial and the Smithsonians museums with the Air and Space and natural history museum being the popular ones. We also visited the old town of Georgetown and had a delicious Italian dinner followed by an awesome jazz show. We were also lucky enough to be invited by the Dutch to a rooftop bar overlooking the capital. It was a great night with beautiful views, dancing and performances including Barbara Jinks on vocals and violin.

It was a unique opportunity to travel to Washington DC and being part of this huge conference, and listening to some established high calibre speakers for inspiration. It was a wonderful to get to know the other scholars and learn more around the wider industry, and potential challenges for the future not only in Australia but around the world. We look forward to further sharing some of the knowledge and experiences gained through the conference as part of our detailed report where we will explore some of the below themes:

- Energy demand outlook is strong, driven by various drivers and economies
- Gas demand grows in every one of IEA's scenarios (gas is flexible)
- Gas is a natural partner (base-load + industry fuel) with renewables, which are now very cheap and getting cheaper
- Gas must continue to reduce costs to be competitive against coal as the alternate base load option
- the industry must reduce fugitive methane emissions so it is seen as a better environmental choice to coal
- the biggest threat to gas growth is policy change amongst some other technological advances (e.g. renewables and batteries)

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank AGIT and the scholar's representative employers supporting the attendance of the World Gas Conference.