

WELCOME

by Mr. Leif Måsvær

Mayor of Stavanger

Your Royal Highness, your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the host city, it is a great pleasure and honour for me to welcome you to Stavanger.

We are very proud to be the venue for the 14th World Petroleum Congress.

The decision in Buenos Aires three years ago that Stavanger should host the next Congress crowned a long-standing desire and determined efforts on our part. Our success confirmed Norway's international position as an important energy-producing nation and reinforced Stavanger's status as the Norwegian 'oil capital'.

As many of you are probably aware, Stavanger has been the venue for the biennial Offshore Northern Seas conference and exhibition for 20 years. Through

WPC-94, we are globalising our petroleum outlook.

In this context, Stavanger took the initiative at the recent OTC event in Houston to create a global network of energy cities. WPC-94 represents a very good occasion for reinforcing this initiative. In so doing, Stavanger also wants to underscore the environmental dimension of the energy industry. The presence of the Environment Northern Seas Foundation in Stavanger will be a natural element in this network of energy cities.

I wish you a memorable and enjoyable stay in my city and its surrounding region. I hope you will find the time to experience the unique qualities of this beautiful and energy-rich part of the world.

Once again, a warm welcome to you all!

Thank you for your attention.

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