

Rio, Brazil, on the Top of the Oil

Contributed by Nielmar de Oliveira
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The Rio Oil & Gas, which is the chief Latin American fair in the petroleum and gas sector, has been held every two years since 1982 and is divided into two large, concurrent events: the Conference, which broaches the main issues related to market development and technological innovation, and the Fair, which serves as a showcase for domestic and foreign companies to display their products and services.

The main theme of this year's conference is Natural Gas: The Energy of the Twenty-First Century. This choice of theme is understandable due to the interest aroused by the discovery of huge natural gas reserves off the Brazilian coast, especially in the Santos Basin, in the littoral of São Paulo state.

Brazil, which until recently only had imported gas or gas in association with petroleum, should triple its domestic reserves.

"With the recent discoveries, we expect the participation of natural gas in the energy matrix to increase substantially beyond its present level of 7%," affirms José Luiz Orlandi, Director of Operations of the Ipiranga Group and president of the Rio Oil & Gas organizing committee.

In August, natural gas consumption in Brazil attained the mark of 38.5 million cubic meters daily, a new record. This news was released at the Rio Oil & Gas opening ceremony by the Secretary of Petroleum and Gas in the Ministry of Mines and Energy, Maria das Graças Foster.

Foster also announced that gas production in Brazil corresponded to a daily average of 46.3 million cubic meters in August. Imports of the product during the period amounted to 21.9 million cubic meters daily, most of it from Bolivia.

Agência Brasil
Translator: David Silberstein