Montréal, May 17, 2000 - The First World Forum on Energy Regulation, to be held at the Palais des Congrès de Montréal from May 21 to 24, 2000, will attract over 900 delegates from the five continents.

The Forum will give delegates an opportunity to discuss issues related to the economic regulation of energy, to compare notes about current initiatives, and to identify the most appropriate approaches. Topics such as the regulation of natural monopolies, deregulation, unbundling, benefits for consumers, mergers and acquisitions will be on the table. Over 110 speakers will take the floor and exchange views with delegates during the four-day event.

The workshops and plenary sessions will cover 25 topics, including incentive regulation based on distributor performance, regulatory streamlining and better satisfaction of consumer needs.

The event will feature an array of high-profile speakers, including:

- Jacques Brassard, Minister of Natural Resources, Québec;
- Dr. Alfred Kahn, the guru of deregulation and economic advisor to president Clinton;
- Dr. Arthur Laffer, the “father of supply-side economics” and economic advisor to president Reagan and president Bush;
- Hector Olea, Chairman of the Commission Reguladora de Energia, Mexico;
- Other speakers will include the presidents of some of the world’s largest natural gas and electricity companies — Tractebel, EDF International, Hydro-Québec, Bonneville Power, Enron, Scottish Power.

Representatives from major international organisations such as the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the International Energy Agency and the World Energy Council, spokespersons from Canadian, American and British consumers associations and academics from the five Continents will expose their views.
Over 300 regulators from the energy sector among which the presidents of Public utilities commissions or Energy boards from the 10 Canadian provinces, 35 American states and the heads of the commissions of India, the United Kingdom, Russia, Senegal, Ukraine, Argentina, Australia, South Africa, and numerous other countries join this group of prestigious speakers.

The World Forum on Energy Regulation is an initiative of the Régie de l’énergie du Québec, the Canadian Association of Members of Public Utility Tribunals, and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners from the United States. The main sponsors are the Ministère des Ressources naturelles du Québec, the Department of Natural Resources of Canada, Hydro-Québec, Ontario Power Generation, Manitoba Hydro, American Gas Association, Edison Electric Institute and the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association. The Forum is supported by the Canadian International Development Agency, the World Bank, the World Energy Council, the Institut de l’énergie et de l’environnement de la Francophonie, the U.S. Department of Energy and the United Nations Development Program.

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