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Industry looks ahead

● Gulf 'geared
up for future
technology'

By RICHARD MOORE

BAHRAIN'S industry should look ahead with confidence and optimism at the challenges it faces in the next decade.

This was the message put out by Oil and Industry Minister Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa at the opening yesterday of the second Middle East Geosciences Exhibition and Conference (GEO '96) at the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre.

He said the oil and gas industry in the Gulf was fully manned and driven by skilful and creative professionals.

"It has all the needs to sustain its record of outstanding leadership well into the next decade," Shaikh Isa said in an address to visitors at opening.

Shaikh Isa said he was confident that whatever breakthroughs occurred in the industry worldwide, they



■ OPENING ... Shaikh Isa cuts the ribbon at the opening, watched by ministers, AEM officials and businessmen

would be quickly implemented in the Gulf.

"The oil and gas industry in our region can only benefit from the abundance of such new technologies as we see in this exhibition," explained Shaikh Isa.

GEO '96, being held under the patronage of Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa bin Sulman Al Khalifa, is the largest event to date with 84 companies from 17 countries taking part.

More than 500 delegates are attending the conference.

"GEO '96 is a venue for industry leaders, as well as for

some of the latest survey and technical equipment for oil and gas exploration," said Arabian Exhibition Management visitor promotions officer Heidi Rohm.

She said 108 lectures and 54 poster reports are being presented during the conference.

The event has been endorsed by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Dhahran Geological Society, the Society of Explorationists in the Emirates, the Canadian Society for Exploration Geophysicists and Gulf Academia.

The exhibition sponsored by Bahrain's Oil and Industry Ministry is open from 9am to 6pm today and tomorrow.

The conference is co-ordinated by Bahrain National Oil Company (Banoco).

Speakers are scheduled in four segments during exhibition hours.

Exhibition admission is free to industry professionals.

The opening was attended by Cabinet Affairs and Information Minister Mohammed Al Mutawa, Commerce Minister Ali Saleh Al Saleh, Education Minister Abdulaziz Al Fadhel, Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala, AEM chairman Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa and other officials and businessmen.