



Abu Dhabi Sustainability week, January 16, 2025

Masdar's Dr Al Jaber's opening analysis



Opening the Abu Dhabi sustainability week today, Sultan Dr Al Jaber delivered a powerful message he crystallised in the phrase the “nexus of next”- a pivotal moment holding the opportunity to turbocharge socioeconomic progress which is being underpinned by key global trends.



He elaborated that we stand at the gateway as to the world ‘as is and the world ‘as it could be’ and identified three key drivers. They are, emerging markets, the transformation of which encompasses a plethora of new industries and in turn augmented by the increasing use of Artificial Intelligence which can be utilised to drive the world forwards. Indeed, the associated power demand for AI ranges from 9,000GW to over 15,000GW by 2035 and could reach 35,000GW by 2050.

To make the world as it could be happen will require a significant and concerted effort and he called on all stakeholders, industries and governments to unite around a single path to unlock growth, drive sustainable economic progress and unleash unprecedented economic opportunity.

His speech built upon the November 2024, announcement of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) launch of XRG, a groundbreaking international lower-carbon energy and chemicals investment company, with an enterprise value of over US\$80 billion. XRG aims to more than double its asset value over the next decade.

Chairman, Dr Al Jaber today stressed that Abu Dhabi stands ready to support this proves and will help respond to emerging energy needs across the entire value chain, including gas, chemicals, low carbon fuels and energy infrastructure.

One of the challenges faced by renewable energy is filling in the gaps when the sun does not shine, nor the wind blow, and he recognised this as exemplified in Masdar's deeds. For example, partnering with EWEK on the largest of its kind megaproject combining 5.2GW of Solar PV with 19GW hours of battery storage to produce 1GW of continuous and dispatchable baseload of renewable energy.

Masdar's involvement with, and support of, such projects represent a clear and a significant step change for the renewables sector – one demonstrating that solar and BESS can be combined at scale. As Sultan Al Jaber, says, this is a tangible step towards solving the intermittency challenge.

His speech was well received by delegates from around the world and sets the tone for a week in helping the world move towards a place it could be.

