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Leila Benali

Chief Economist, Head, Strategy, Energy Economics & Sustainability Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (APICORP)



Leila Benali is an international expert in energy, strategic planning, investments, finance and energy diplomacy. She has extensive experience of managing country energy masterplans, corporate strategy and roadmap development, and strategic acquisitions. She is consulted by several stakeholders, particularly in sensitive circumstances. She contributed, among others, to drafting the Iraqi hydrocarbons law, to creating a gas company in a double-diggit growing economy, to the national economic strategy in post-sanctions Libya, to the G20 response to the 2008 crisis, in addition to multiple commercial transactions and major projects.

She joined APICORP from Saudi Aramco where she was in charge of the company's energy policy and gas strategy. Previously, she was director for the Middle East and Africa at IHS, a global research and consultancy in security and energy, in addition to being professor at Sciences Po, and industrial engineer at Schlumberger. She holds a MS in Industrial Engineering from Mohammadia Engineering School and the Ecole Centrale Paris, in addition to a MS in political science and PhD Summa Cum Laude in Energy Economics from Sciences Po. As an engineer turned economist, with a background in political science, she published numerous papers and books on energy, reforms and sustainable wealth. She chairs the Arab Energy Club, and is an active member of energy associations. She was distinguished as "future leader 2016" by the Petroleum Economist, as one individual most likely to shape the future of the industry in the coming years.