

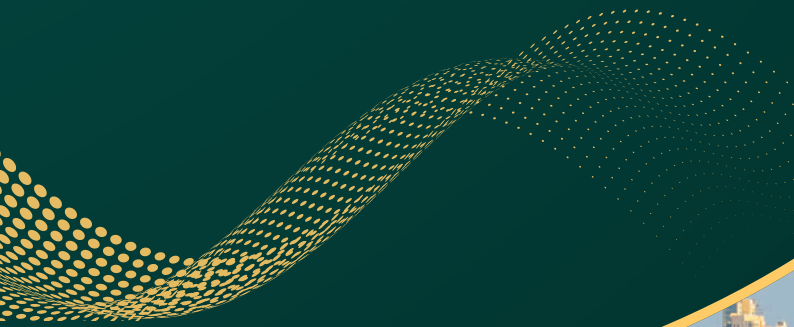


BBTC MENA

BOTTOM OF THE BARREL
TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

10-11 February 2026 · Bahrain

POST EVENT REPORT



**SHARING KNOWLEDGE,
SHAPING BUSINESS**



BBTC MENA, took place in Bahrain on 10–11 February with the presence of **Dr Jawahery, CEO, BAPCO**. Our 2026 edition successfully brought together leading refining experts, industry pioneers, and technology innovators.

Thank you for your support, dedication and valuable insights!

THANK YOU!

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INTRODUCTION

From **10–12 February 2026**, at The ART Hotel & Resort, Amwaj Islands, Kingdom of Bahrain, Euro Petroleum Consultants (EPC), in collaboration with **Bapco Energies**, hosted **BBTC MENA & ME-CAT 2026**—the region’s leading technical conferences focused on bottom-of-the-barrel technologies, catalyst innovation, and sustainable optimisation.

The events brought together refiners, licensors, technology providers, and industry leaders to explore the latest advancements in residue upgrading, catalyst management, and digital-driven optimisation.

Through expert presentations and real-world case studies, discussions highlighted how artificial intelligence, advanced data analytics, and predictive maintenance are improving efficiency, reliability, and sustainability across refining and petrochemical operations.



2026 SPONSORS

IN THE PRESENCE OF

H.E. Dr. Mohamed bin Mubarak Bin Daina
Minister of Oil and Environment
Special Envoy for Climate Affairs

Ministry of Oil and
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VALVTECHNOLOGIES

PARTICIPATING COMPANIES



المؤسسة الوطنية للنفط



Radiation Pioneers



SPEAKERS INCLUDE



Mohammed Aljalal
Process Engineer

ARAMCO



Abdulrahman Aldossary
Senior Engineer

ARAMCO



Khalaf Aldossary
Process Engineer

ARAMCO



Salman Aldossary
Senior Engineer

ARAMCO



Ankush Dehankar
Account Manager

TOPSOE



Alpesh Gurjar
Acting Manager
Hydroprocessing

BAPCO REFINING



Wafa Alalqam
Process Engineer

BAPCO REFINING



David Chaplin
Principal Technology
Advisor

BECHTEL



Roland Bonath
Business Development
Manager

ENDRESS+HAUSER



Sravan Pappu
Vice President

CRYSTAPHASE



Claudio Albanese
VP Licensing activities

ENI
ABU DHABI REFINING &
TRADING SERVICES



Markus Hartung
Vice President

EVONIK



Marcio Wagner Da Silva
Process Engineering
Manager

PETROBRAS



Mansour Aref
VP, Oil and Gas,

SIEMENS



Hassan Alhassawi
Associate Scientist

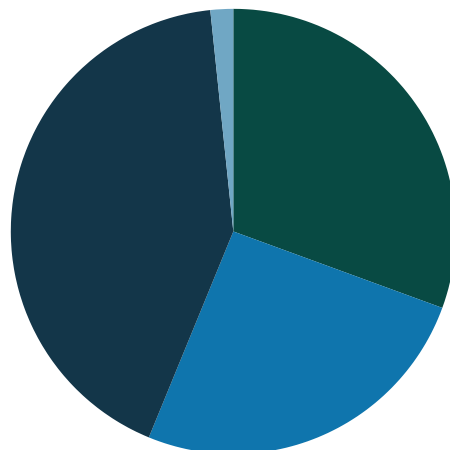
SINOPEC TECH







Patty Weeden
Senior Principal
Technologist

W. R. GRACE & CO.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



-  Global Producers
-  Local Producers
-  Service providers / suppliers
-  Other e.g. Media Partners, Associations etc.



VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS HERE

Watch the highlight video to relive the energy, insights, and innovation from BBTC MENA 2026!



EVENT PHOTOS HERE

See the Full Photo Gallery from Bahrain!



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BBTC MENA and **ME-CAT 2026**, organized by Euro Petroleum Consultants in collaboration with **BAPCO ENERGIES**, successfully took place in the Kingdom of Bahrain from 10–12 February 2026 at The ART Hotel & Resort, Amwaj Islands. The conferences were honoured by the presence **H.E Ms. Ezz Ahmed Almannai, Minister of Oil and Environment, Special Envoy for Climate Affairs** highlighting strong national support for innovation, sustainability, and collaboration within the downstream energy sector, alongside **Dr. Abdulrahman Jawahery, CEO of BAPCO ENERGIES**.

The events brought together leading refiners, technology providers, licensors, and industry experts to discuss the latest advancements in bottom-of-the-barrel conversion, residue upgrading, and catalyst technologies. Over **200 delegates** from more than **44 companies** across the GCC, Europe, the United States, and Asia participated, contributing to vibrant knowledge exchange and collaboration.

More than **30 speakers** and panellists delivered **over 13 hours of technical content**, addressing key industry priorities such as operational optimisation, feedstock flexibility, catalyst lifecycle management, and decarbonisation strategies. The discussions emphasized the transformative role of digitalisation, artificial intelligence, and advanced data analytics in enhancing refinery efficiency, enabling predictive maintenance, and supporting sustainable operations.

Technical presentations and case studies showcased practical approaches to maximising value from heavy residues, integrating refining and petrochemical operations, and implementing targeted revamps to enhance performance with minimal capital investment. **High-level panels** explored strategies for balancing profitability, operational flexibility, and environmental compliance while adapting to evolving market demands.

With strong engagement from leading regional and international companies, more than **100 pre-arranged meetings**, and dynamic networking opportunities, **BBTC MENA & ME-CAT 2026** reaffirmed their position as premier platforms for knowledge exchange, industry collaboration, and innovation in the global downstream sector.



BBTC MENA 2026

The event opened with an industry overview, highlighting market outlooks and the pivotal developments shaping the downstream sector, with a particular focus on residue upgrading, feedstock flexibility, and operational efficiency. This was followed by a keynote address from **Bapco Refining**, delivered by **Ali Abdulkarim**, Senior Vice President, Utilities & Offsite, who shared insights into regional refining priorities, strategic initiatives, and operational excellence in **Bapco Refining's Journey of Excellence**



The technical programme then began with the scene-setter session, **“Unleashing Performance: How Siemens is Redefining Efficiency in the Energy Sector”**, delivered by **Mansour Aref**, Vice President, Oil & Gas, **Siemens Limited**, which explored the global refining landscape, emerging technologies, and pathways to operational efficiency.

The technical programme featured insightful presentations on Residue Upgrading & Petrochemical Integration, with **PETROBRAS** sharing strategies for maximizing value through FCC and hydrocracking synergy, **TOPSOE** on optimising fixed-bed residue units, **BECHTEL ENERGY** on delayed coking revamps, and **SINOPEC TECH Middle East** on RHT technology applications. The Feedstock Flexibility and Optimisation session highlighted circular economy solutions and approaches for processing alternative and unconventional feedstocks, with contributions from **EVONIK** on pyrolysis oil integration, **BERTHOLD TECHNOLOGIES** on adapting to opportunity crudes, and **CRYSTAPHASE** and **ART HYDROPROCESSING** on improving reactor performance and catalyst utilization.



Afternoon sessions focused on Operational Efficiency and Optimization, featuring **SATORP**'s smart energy management tools, **SULZER CHEMTECH**'s mass transfer technologies for bottom-of-the-barrel applications, and **SHELL CATALYST & TECHNOLOGIES** on innovations in carbon rejection versus hydrogen addition. Throughout the day, discussions emphasized unlocking value from heavy residues and low-value fractions, operational excellence, and the integration of digitalization, AI, and predictive analytics to enhance process performance, reduce emissions, and support sustainable refinery operations. Real-world case studies from leading regional refineries illustrated practical approaches to boosting

throughput, improving reliability, and advancing the energy transition in the MENA region.

Day One concluded with a high-level panel discussion, "**Balancing Profitability & Sustainability – Repositioning Residue for a Dynamic Energy Future**", moderated by **Dr. Hassan Alhassawi, SINOPEC TECH Middle East**. The panel explored strategies to enhance operational efficiency, financial performance, and sustainability while advancing residue upgrading and integration with petrochemical complexes. Key topics included balancing profitability with sustainable operations, residue-to-chemicals pathways, optimizing hydroprocessing and coking technologies, maximizing conversion from opportunity crudes, co-processing of waste plastics, and practical case studies on unit revamps and upgrading strategies.

Panellists included **Ankush Dehankar (TOPSOE)**, **Vipan Goel (W.R. GRACE)**, **Gurminder Singh (SHELL CATALYST & TECHNOLOGIES)**, **Luis Alfredo Rojas Cordova (Independent Consultant)**, **Marcio Wagner Da Silva (PETROBRAS)**, and **Ali Hassan Jaffar (BAPCO REFINING)**, offering diverse perspectives on driving both operational and environmental excellence.

Day Two of **BBTC MENA 2026** focused on driving value through targeted revamps, operational optimisation, and future-proofing refinery assets. The morning session began with "Revamp & Repurpose – Small Changes with Big Impact," moderated by **Scott Kendrick, CRYSTAPHASE**, showcasing how strategic upgrades to existing infrastructure can deliver significant gains in efficiency, selectivity, and throughput without major capital expenditure. Presentations included **VELAN** on the latest valve advancements for residue upgrading, and **YASREF** on DHT stripper reboiler APH plates, followed by interactive Q&A sessions.

The programme continued with Optimisation and Operational Efficiency – Part II, moderated by **Rafic Traboulsi, SULZER**, featuring insights on minimising downtime in residue upgrading units, unlocking productivity through AI advisory systems, and enabling energy and chemical efficiency via radiometric density profiling. Speakers included **Joey Berkhout (HOOVER CS)**, **Khalaf Al Dossary (ARAMCO)**, and **Roland Bonath (ENDRESS+HAUSER)**, demonstrating practical approaches to smarter, data-driven refinery operations.

Later sessions explored Future-Proofing Refineries – Decarbonisation & Advanced Equipment, moderated by **Markus Hartung, EVONIK**, with presentations on advanced carbon materials for the EV era, synergistic residue hydrotreating and FCC strategies, and capital-efficient solutions for maximum crude-to-chemicals conversion. Speakers included **Salman Al Dossary** and **Abdulrahman Al Dossary (ARAMCO)**, **Sriharinadh Narisetty (W.R. GRACE)**, and **Subhabrata Guru (LUMMUS TECHNOLOGY)**.

Day Two concluded with a high-level panel discussion, **“Efficiency, Flexibility, and Compliance: Operational Excellence in the Bottom-of-the-Barrel Era”**, moderated by **Vipan Goel (W.R. GRACE)**. Panelists including **Vinod Ramaseshan (ARAMCO)**, **Alpesh Gurjar** and **Wafa Alalqam (BAPCO REFINING)**, **Ariel Bru (SHELL CATALYST & TECHNOLOGIES)**, **Dr. Rafic Traboulssi (SULZER CHEMTECH)**, and **Frank Zhang (SINOPEC TECH)** shared insights on optimising RFCC and hydrocracking performance, enhancing processing flexibility, meeting emissions and product specifications, and leveraging AI and digital twins for operational excellence.

BBTC MENA concluded with closing remarks, wrapping up two days of knowledge-sharing, innovation, and collaboration aimed at enhancing refinery efficiency, sustainability, and profitability across the MENA region. Networking at **BBTC MENA** wasn't just about exchanging business cards it was about building real connections.

To cap off the first day of the conference, delegates joined a vibrant networking evening, generously hosted by **SINOPEC TECH** on an island at **AMAWAJ**, where attendees shared ideas, sparked collaborations, and enjoyed engaging conversations in a relaxed and inspiring atmosphere.







NETWORKING EVENING

HOSTED BY OUR PLATINUM SPONSOR



SINOPEC

What an absolutely incredible night at the stunning **Private Island, The Art Hotel & Resort**. A huge thank you to our amazing sponsors **SINOPEC TECH Middle East** for making this unforgettable evening possible.

It was a truly vibrant, insightful, and engaging gathering filled with powerful conversations, valuable connections, inspiring ideas, and meaningful collaborations!





STAINABILITY – REPOSITIONING BY FUTURE



Ginder Singh
Director
Technology Licensing
CATALYST
TECHNOLOGIES



Luis Alfredo Rojas Cordova
Senior
Process Engineer
INDEPENDENT
CONSULTANT



Marcio Wagner Da Silva
Process Engineering
Manager
PETROBRAS



Ali Hassan Jaffar
Operations Manager
BAPOO
REFINING



PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Special thanks as well to all our panellists and moderators for the inspiring discussions and thought-provoking questions during the sessions. Your expertise, diverse perspectives, and dynamic exchanges brought each panel to life, fostering engaging dialogue and offering valuable takeaways for everyone involved. The depth of insight shared and the openness of conversation truly elevated the experience and left a lasting impact on our audience.



Panel Discussion

Balancing Profitability & Sustainability – Repositioning Residue for a Dynamic Energy Future

Panel Discussion, **Balancing Profitability & Sustainability – Repositioning Residue for a Dynamic Energy Future**, moderated by **Dr. Hassan Alhassawi**, Research Scientist at **SINOPEC TECH** Middle East, brought together senior representatives from **TOPSOE, W.R. GRACE, SHELL CATALYST & TECHNOLOGIES, PETROBRAS, BAPCO REFINING**, along with independent experts for a dynamic and insightful exchange. The discussion explored how refiners are adapting their strategies to remain competitive while meeting increasingly ambitious sustainability targets in a rapidly evolving energy landscape. Panellists highlighted that profitability and sustainability are not mutually exclusive;

Rather, through targeted investments in operational efficiency, advanced technologies, and process optimisation, refiners can improve margins while reducing emissions. A significant part of the conversation focused on the growing importance of residue-to-chemicals integration, with refineries increasingly aligning with petrochemical complexes to maximise value from heavy feedstocks and reduce low-value outputs. Advances in hydroprocessing, delayed coking, and solvent deasphalting technologies were also discussed as key enablers for higher conversion rates and greater flexibility in processing opportunity crudes. The panel further addressed the role of circular refining practices, noting that co-processing waste plastics within existing refinery units represents a practical near-term pathway to support circular economy objectives while generating additional value streams.

Operational adaptability was another central theme, with real-world examples shared by **PETROBRAS** and **BAPCO REFINING** demonstrating how unit revamps, process improvements, and smarter utilisation of existing assets can deliver both economic and environmental benefits without requiring significant capital investment. Concluding the session, the panellists emphasised that strong collaboration across technology providers, refiners, and project partners will be critical to ensure residue upgrading strategies remain economically viable while supporting the industry's longer-term decarbonisation and energy transition goals.

Panel Discussion

Efficiency, Flexibility, and Compliance: Operational Excellence in the Bottom-of-the-Barrel Era

The panel discussion “**Efficiency, Flexibility, and Compliance: Operational Excellence** in the Bottom-of-the-Barrel Era”, moderated by **Vipan Goel**, Senior Sales Director at **W. R. GRACE**.

The panel opened with high energy, reflecting both the endurance of the audience and their commitment to the final session of the day. The moderator introduced the theme: efficiency, flexibility, and compliance in the bottom-of-the-barrel era, highlighting the industry challenges of heavier crudes, tighter specs, rising hydrogen costs, and maximizing yields from challenging feedstocks. The discussion featured six distinguished experts who shared insights on deep conversion, environmental gains, digital tools, and operational strategies.



Alpesh detailed **BAPCO**'s modernization program (BMP), emphasizing its transformative impact: a 42% increase in refinery capacity, installation of residual and lube hydrocracking units, 75% increase in middle distillate production, 42% reduction in fuel oil output, sulfur reduction from 4.5% to 1.5%, and 25–30% improvement in energy intensity. **Wafa Alkam** highlighted post-BMP initiatives, including unit debottlenecking, refinery-wide optimization with external consultants, digitalization, hydrogen network optimization, and exploring petrochemical integration.

Ariel Brus shared strategies for maximizing value from existing assets with low CAPEX investments, emphasizing unit integration, operational benchmarking, and minor smart revamps to enhance bottom-of-the-barrel performance and energy efficiency.

Rafic Traboulsi from Sulzer explained the selection criteria for bottom-of-the-barrel processes, comparing RFCC for gasoline/light olefins, HCU for middle distillates, and DCU for petroleum coke, noting that process choice depends on feedstock, product slate, and operational constraints. Vinod from ARAMCO discussed processing flexibility with newer technologies like EB and slurry hydrocrackers, emphasizing crude slate management, unit pressure, catalyst handling, and conversion trade-offs.

Frank Zhang addressed the evolution of bottom-of-the-barrel technologies under carbon intensity and hydrogen efficiency constraints, focusing on selective conversion, catalyst tolerance, hydrogen integration, and maximizing residue value toward chemicals rather than fuel.

The panel concluded that operational flexibility, strategic feedstock selection, and smarter integration of existing and new units are essential to optimize yields, energy efficiency, product quality, and margins in the bottom-of-the-barrel space, while meeting tighter environmental and economic constraints.



TESTIMONIALS



Watch Now the Full Video highlights from the event and learn what our attendees had to say!

Exceptional Networking & Industry Access

“Attending BBTC MENA 2026 was an exceptional experience. The networking environment allowed direct, high-level dialogue with key decision-makers, which larger conferences simply cannot replicate.”

Well-Organized & Smooth Execution

“A very well-coordinated conference with excellent hospitality and arrangements. The event ran smoothly from start to finish, making it productive for all attendees.”

High-Quality Technical Content

“The speakers were engaging, sessions highly relevant, and the mix of structured presentations with relaxed networking was very valuable. Wonderful opportunity to learn about innovations and industry challenges.”

Community & Industry Collaboration

“EPC brings the refining community together year after year. BBTC 2026 was another fantastic event, connecting like-minded professionals, fostering discussions, and providing insights into the latest industry developments.”

#BBTCMENA IN THE MEDIA

 @EuroPetroleumConsultants

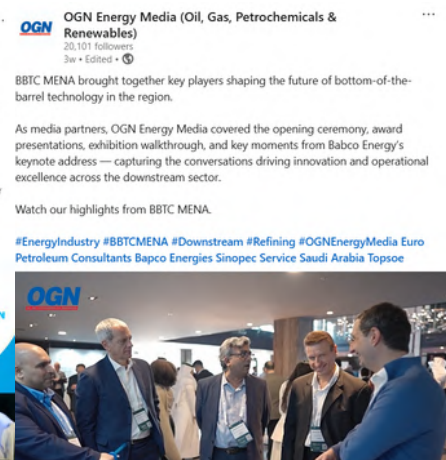
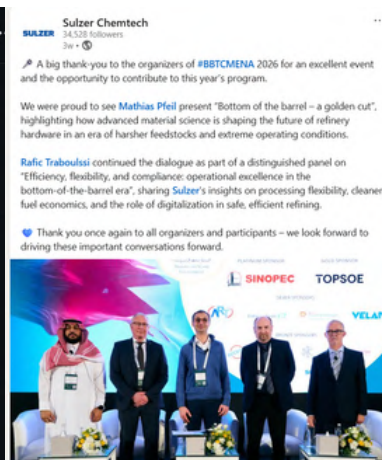
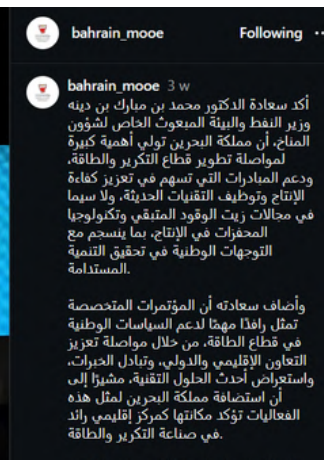
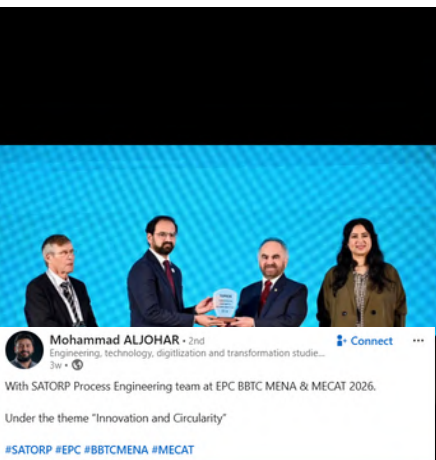
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SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

A big thank you to all our incredible speakers, sponsors, and delegates whose insights, energy, and engagement made BBTC MENA 2026 such a resounding success. Your participation sparked meaningful discussions, inspired new ideas, and strengthened connections across the industry. We look forward to continuing these conversations throughout the year and building on the momentum together.



Bahrain



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